

The following Elections Policies establish the specific requirements and timelines for administering SFSS elections and referenda.

Elections Policies

Simon Fraser Student Society

simon fraser
student society

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ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA (UNDER REVIEW)

POLICY TYPE: ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA POLICIES

POLICY TITLE: ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA

POLICY REFERENCE NUMBER: N/A

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CAMPAIGNS

1. No campaigning shall occur until the Chief Electoral Officer officially opens the campaign period.
2. No Society, faculty student union, department student union, constituency group, or club mailing list or database information shall be used to distribute campaign materials.
3. No campaign materials or activities, irrespective of where or how those campaign materials are distributed or activities held, shall attack the person of any other candidate.
4. Campaigning is not permitted during the voting period.

REFERENDA

5. The Chief Electoral Officer must approve referenda campaigns.
6. Only one 'for' campaign and one 'against' campaign will be approved.

DEBATES

7. The Independent Electoral Commission shall organize and promote at least one all-candidates debate during the campaign period at each of the Surrey and Burnaby campuses, and, if possible, at the Vancouver campus.

CAMPAIGN MATERIALS

8. All campaign materials must:
 - a. indicate their authoring candidate or campaign, and
 - b. be approved by the Independent Electoral Commission.
9. No campaign materials may be posted in the Women's Centre, Out on Campus office, Food and Beverage Spaces, or in the Society Office Spaces.
10. With the exception of referenda questions, Society resources, including the time of staff and Board members, may not be used for the purposes of campaigning.

CAMPAIGN EXPENSES

11. The campaign budgets of any candidate may not exceed \$50.
 - a. The Society will reimburse this cost following the election.
12. The budget for any referendum campaign shall be \$300 for the cost of printed materials.
 - a. The Society will reimburse this cost following the election.

CAMPAIGN INFRACTIONS AND APPEALS

13. The Independent Electoral Commission shall adjudicate all disputes regarding any breach of election, by-election, and referendum bylaws and policies by candidates or campaigns on the basis of those bylaws and policies.
14. Complaints must be communicated to the Independent Electoral Commission in writing.
15. Where an infraction is discovered by the Independent Electoral Commission or where a complaint is lodged, the Independent Electoral Commission shall:
 - a. begin the adjudication process within one business day of receiving a complaint, and
 - b. invite the candidate(s) or campaign in question to speak on their own behalf.
16. The Independent Electoral Commission shall:
 - a. determine, on the basis of the evidence provided, whether or not an infraction was committed,
 - b. determine the penalties for any infractions,
 - c. communicate its decision to the candidate(s) or campaign in writing within two business days of the hearing, and
 - d. include that written record within its election report.

APPEALS

17. A complainant may appeal a decision of the Independent Electoral Commission to the Independent Electoral Commission where:
 - a. an intention to appeal a decision is provided to the Chief Electoral Officer, in writing, within two business days of the original decision, and
 - b. new evidence is available.
18. The Independent Electoral Commission shall have the right to reject an appeal application that is deemed frivolous or invalid.

VOTING

Ballots

19. The Independent Electoral Commission shall be responsible for designing the ballots.

Online Voting

20. Links to electronic ballots must be sent to all eligible student voters by email, and posted on all Society web-based communication tools, as well as the Independent Electoral Commission website.

Tabulation of Votes

21. Online votes shall be tabulated as soon as possible.
22. The unofficial results shall be promptly announced in a public location and posted on the Independent Electoral Commission website.
23. The Independent Electoral Commission may approve a maximum of three (3) scrutineers by lottery to observe the tabulation of the vote on behalf of all candidates.

Election Reporting

24. The Chief Electoral Officer shall submit a written report of the official election results and referenda outcomes to the Board of Directors for ratification.
25. Any outstanding appeals to the Independent Elections Commission must be submitted and resolved prior to the ratification of election results.
26. The Chief Electoral Officer shall provide a written report of the official election results and referenda outcomes to the Finance Office before the start of the following semester.
27. The Chief Electoral Officer shall create and present a comprehensive election report to the incoming Board within the first month of his/her/zir taking office.
 - a. The report shall contain:
 - i. the official results of the election and referendum questions,
 - ii. a financial statement outlining the cost of the election,
 - iii. a summary of all relevant issues arising from the election,
 - iv. suggestions for improvement of future elections, and
 - v. any other relevant information deemed necessary

Approved: BOD 2009-09

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INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION (UNDER REVIEW)

POLICY TYPE: ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA POLICIES

POLICY TITLE: INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION

POLICY REFERENCE NUMBER: N/A

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1. A full Independent Electoral Commission must be established no later than two (2) weeks before nominations are called for a general election or by-election.
2. The Society shall provide an office for the Independent Electoral Commission.

APPOINTMENTS

3. Calls for candidates to all Independent Electoral Commission positions must be advertised at least on:
 - a. the Independent Electoral Commission website and include,
 - b. in the student newspaper,
 - c. as posters on SFU approved bulletin boards on all three campuses,
 - d. on all available Society web-based communications tools.
4. All advertisements for candidates to the Independent Electoral Commission must:
 - a. include the duration of the appointment,
 - b. include the nature and scope of the work, and
 - c. include the date and time of the Council meeting during which the applicants will be interviewed, and
 - d. be posted at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the first Council meeting during which interviews will be held.

CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

5. Council will make a binding recommendation to the Board of Directors to appoint a Chief Electoral Officer to a one-year term commencing on December 1st of every calendar year.
6. All applicants shall be interviewed at a Board of Directors meeting during or prior to a Board of Directors meeting at which the Chief Electoral Officer will be appointed.
7. The Board shall appoint a Chief Electoral Officer by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.
8. The Board shall appoint a replacement in the same manner in the event the Chief Electoral Officer vacates his/her/zir position prior to the end of his/her/zir term.

COMMISSIONERS

9. The Chief Electoral Officer shall make a binding recommendation to Board to appoint commissioners for a term lasting from two weeks prior to an election to the approval of the final election results by the Board.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Chief Electoral Officer

10. Coordinates the elections, by-elections, and referenda of the Society.
11. Faculty Student Unions, Department Student Unions, Clubs, and Society recognized constituency groups may request that the Chief Electoral Officer coordinate their elections.
12. The Chief Electoral Officer may do so subject to Board approval, though not while coordinating the elections, by-elections, and referenda of the Society.
13. The Chief Electoral Officer may accept an honorarium from these groups under these circumstances.
14. The Chief Electoral Officer, in consultation with the Communications Coordinator, must ensure that the Independent Electoral Commission website is kept up to date.
15. The Chief Electoral Officer will maintain and ensure the distribution of the Elections Handbook to all candidates and campaigns.

Commissioners

16. Commissioners shall support the Chief Electoral Officer in the organization and conduct of an election, by-election, or referendum of the Society.

STIPENDS AND RESOURCES

Chief Electoral Officer

17. In recognition of services rendered, the Chief Electoral Officer shall receive a stipend.
 - a. It may be for up to one hundred fifty (150) volunteer hours during any election period.
18. The Board may increase the maximum number of volunteer hours eligible for stipend allotment following a request by the Chief Electoral Officer.
19. The stipend of the Chief Electoral Officer shall be disbursed semi-monthly.
20. The stipend of the Chief Electoral Officer shall be calculated at an hourly rate equivalent to that of the executive members of the Board of Directors
21. Should the Chief Electoral Officer fail to fulfill his/her/zir duties, the commissioners may, by majority vote, recommend a deduction of the stipend of the Chief Electoral Officer to the VP Finance.
22. The Chief Electoral Officer may appeal any deduction to his/her/zir stipend to the Stipend Appeals Committee.
23. The Society shall provide the Chief Electoral Officer with a cell phone during election, by-election, and referenda periods.

Commissioners

24. In recognition of services rendered, commissioners shall receive a stipend.

- a. It may be for up to sixty (60) volunteer hours during any election period.
25. The Board may increase the maximum number of volunteer hours eligible for stipend allotment following a request by the Chief Electoral Officer.
26. Commissioner stipends shall disbursed semi-monthly
27. Commissioner stipends shall be calculated at an hourly rate equivalent to that of the faculty and at-large representatives of the Board of Directors.
28. Should any Commissioner fail to fulfill his/her/zir duties, the Chief Electoral Officer may make a binding recommendation that the VP Finance deduct a portion of that commissioner's stipend.
29. A Commissioner may appeal any such deduction to the Stipend Appeals Committee.

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