

Updated: January 28, 2022

Bylaw 1: Elections

L'Association Étudiante du Collège Glendon

Glendon College Student Union

L'association Étudiante Collège Glendon | Glendon College Student Union LOCAL 93 - CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS 2275 BAYVIEW AVE, NORTH YORK, ON M4N 3M6 | AECGCSU.COM | 416.736.2100 EX. 88230



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1. Hiring of the Electoral Officers

I. The hiring of the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) shall be managed as stipulated under Bylaw 4, Section 1.

2. Electoral Officers

- I. The CRO and the DRO shall be an officer of the Union, responsible for administering all elections, by-elections, and referenda by the Council, and shall be responsible for enforcing this bylaw.
- II. The CRO and the DRO shall remain neutral during his/her term of office. Neutral is defined as not sponsoring or indicating a preference of any candidate.

3. Frequency of Elections

I. The frequency of elections shall be as outlined in Section 4, Part 13 of the GCSU Constitution.

4. By-Elections

I. By-elections shall be as outlined in Section 4, Part 16 of the GCSU Constitution.

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5. Elections Timeline

- I. Each GCSU election shall consist of a promotional period, a nomination period, a campaigning period, and a voting period.
- II. The nomination and advertising period shall be 5 10 business days. No campaigning shall take place during this period.
- III. The campaigning period shall be 5 10 business days.
- IV. The voting period shall be 3 5 business days at the discretion of the CRO, in consultation with the President. Campaigning is permitted during this period.
- V. The timeline is subject to the recommendation of the York University ERO.

6. Elections Committee

- I. The Elections Committee shall be responsible to facilitate all GCSU elections, by-elections and referendums by the Council, as planned and organized by the CRO and the DRO.
- II. The Elections Committee shall be chaired by the CRO, and comprise no less than three other members of Council including the DRO.
- III. The Elections Committee may comprise members of the Council deemed impartial by the CRO and the DRO who have been ratified by a vote of the Council.
- IV. Interested members of Council must submit a statement of interest to the CRO and the DRO who must present the statement(s) to Council upon the motion to ratify the Election Committee.

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- V. In the Fall semester, the Elections Committee will be selected no later than August 15.
- VI. In the Winter semester, the Elections Committee will be selected no later than February 15.

7. Positions to be Elected

I. The positions to be elected at each election and the general proceedings of elections shall be as outlined in Section 4, Part 14 of the GCSU Constitution.

8. Candidate Eligibility

- All candidates for all elections and by-elections of the GCSU must be members of the GCSU, as defined by Section 1, Part 4 of the Constitution and Bylaw 3: Membership.
- II. All candidates for all elections and by-elections of the GCSU must be opted in to all GCSU initiatives.
- III. All First Year Representative candidates must be in their first year of study.
- IV. All members of the Elections Committee are ineligible to run in the relevant election or by-election.

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9. Nominations

- I. Nomination forms, to be provided and collected by the Elections Committee, must be completed and accurately filled out in order to be accepted.
- II. Any incomplete or late forms will be considered void, per the discretion of the CRO and the DRO.
- III. All candidates for all positions are required to provide the full name, student number and consent to nominate from their primary, secondary and general nominators.
- IV. All candidates for all elections and by-elections must be duly nominated by the constituents of Glendon College, as outlined in Section 1, Part 4 of the Constitution and Bylaw 3: Membership.
- V. All members of the GCSU Council are ineligible to nominate any candidate for an election or by-election.
- VI. The number of endorsements required for nominations of the Executive positions shall be 40 not including the nominator and seconder.
- VII. The number of endorsements required for nominations of the Director positions shall be 20 not including the nominator and seconder.
- VIII. The number of endorsements required for nominations of the First Year Representative positions shall be 10 not including the nominator and seconder.
 - IX. All submitted nomination forms are to be placed in a safe and secure location, such as a locked filing cabinet in the back of the GCSU office, with access limited to the Elections Committee.

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- X. Nomination forms may only be shared with the Office of Student Affairs for the sole purpose of confirming the legitimacy of each nomination.
- XI. All nomination forms are to be destroyed by the CRO and the DRO upon ratification of the electoral report.
- XII. A candidate shall not run to be elected for two positions on the Council simultaneously.
- XIII. A candidate may withdraw his or her name, in writing to the CRO, no later than four business days prior to the first day of polling.
- XIV. If at the closing of the nomination period there are no candidates for a position, then per the discretion of the CRO and the DRO, in consultation with the Elections Committee, the nomination period for that particular position may be extended per the discretion of the Elections Committee. If at the end of the second nomination period there are no nominations, then the Elections Committee must declare that position to be vacant and the CRO and the DRO must report it as such in their electoral report.

10. All-Candidates Meeting

- I. The CRO and DRO must call and hold an all-candidates meeting on the first business day of the campaigning period to specify the rules and regulations governing the election.
- II. All candidates must attend the all-candidates meeting, or send an authorized representative to the meeting in their place.

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- III. Notice must be given to the CRO and the DRO at least one hour before the all-candidates meeting if a representative is being sent in the candidate's place and who that representative is.
- IV. During the meeting, all candidates or their authorized representatives-must sign a statement that indicates that they understand the rules and regulations governing the election, including this bylaw.
- V. All attendees of the all-candidates meeting may only represent one candidate or one micro-slate, as outlined in Section 12, Clause 3.
- VI. The CRO and the DRO shall strive to make necessary accommodations for candidates who are unable to attend the all-candidates meeting and send an authorized representative in their place. Notice for further accommodations must be requested at least one hour before the all-candidates meeting.

11. Campaigning

- I. Candidates may begin campaigning immediately upon attending and being dismissed from the all-candidates meeting and submitting their signed statement of understanding to the CRO and the DRO.
- II. Campaigning includes the distribution of any campaign materials supporting a candidate and election events planned by the CRO and the DRO (i.e. speeches and debates).
- III. The formation of pan-Council slates and ensuing cross-campaigning is not permitted, however, micro-slates and ensuing cross-campaigning may be permitted for no more than two positions in the following acceptable configurations:

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- a. President and Vice President Operations
- b. The two Vice Presidents Academic Affairs
- c. Vice President Bilingual Affairs and Bilingual Affairs Director
- d. Vice President Campaigns and Advocacy and Campaigns and Advocacy Director
- e. Vice President Social Affairs and Social Affairs Director
- IV. There is to be no campaigning in residence; in the library; in computer labs, cafeteria, dining hall, and Lunik. There is to be no campaigning in classrooms.
- V. The GCSU offices (B125, B126, B127) will remain neutral during the course of the elections. The GCSU office may not be used for campaigning purposes. There is to be no discussion pertaining to campaigning or candidates inside the office from the opening of nominations until the closing of poll stations.
- VI. The GCSU office and all supplies and/or services provided by the GCSU office may not be used for campaigning purposes unless with the permission of CRO and the DRO and supervision of a member of the Elections Committee.
- VII. All posters must be removed within forty-eight hours of the closing of the polls. Candidates are responsible for the removal of their posters.
- VIII. The use of other election paraphernalia (buttons, stickers, pamphlets, etc.) is permitted insofar as it does not infringe on other campaign rules or cause damage to University property.
 - IX. The Elections Committee will immediately remove any campaign materials which do not comply with the regulations as stated in this bylaw.

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12. Campaign Materials

- I. The poster policy shall be adjusted for postering related to elections during the campaign period with consensus from the Office of Student Affairs.
- II. All candidate posters must be bilingual or have an equivalent in French and English.
- III. The poster size shall not exceed 11' x 17' (27.94 cm x 43.18 cm).
- IV. No more than one banner is allowed and may not exceed 39.37' x 39.37' (1 m x 1 m).
- V. Campaign materials may only contain information that is relevant to the elections.
- VI. Campaign materials shall not overlap or be attached to other campaign materials or existing posters; be posted in classrooms; be posted in residence, the library, B-Wing Recruitment hallway, the Centre of Excellence, nor Lunik.
- VII. Candidates are prohibited from the use of University or GCSU communication mediums during the campaigning and voting period.

13. Campaign Spending Limits

- I. The spending limit for each election or by-election shall be \$50 per candidate.
- II. All candidates must submit a detailed account of all election spending (including receipts) to the CRO within five business days of the close of polls should it be requested by the Elections Committee.

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III. If a candidate fails to submit said account they may be disqualified.

14. Polling Station and Voting Procedure

- I. The CRO and the DRO is to liaise with the President in regards to any matters regarding elections.
- II. The CRO and the DRO must communicate with the Student Success Centre following the nomination period, to set up online voting via evote.yorku.ca.
- III. The polling station must be at a location accessible to all students publicized by the Elections Committee.
- IV. Poll Clerks will be the Elections Committee and council members not taking part in the election.
- V. There must be at least one Polling Clerk or Returning Officer at the polling station during GCSU operating hours of the voting period.
- VI. Laptops and tabling must be arranged through ITS and Student Affairs within 10 business days of the voting period.
- VII. No candidate campaign material of any kind is permitted within ten meters of the polling station.
- VIII. No proxy votes will be accepted.
 - IX. In the event of the campus closure, no polling station will be erected, but a supplementary plan will be in place with an email being sent to Glendon constituents with a link to the ballot.

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15. Acclamations

- I. Candidates that are running unopposed must receive a confirmation vote of 50% + 1 of votes in favour of them in order to be elected to the position.
- II. In the case of an act of God or *force majeure* which can reasonably be interpreted to include natural and humanitarian disasters, warfare, widespread outbreaks of illness such as epidemics or pandemics, that in combination with other structural and/or systemic factors pose a serious risk to the integrity of succeeding elections, those who were elected in an interim capacity in a previous election that has been ratified shall serve out the full term until such a time as these issues can be mitigated. This clause cannot, however, apply to those appointed in an interim capacity as that shall contravene the intent of Section 16 of the Constitution.

16. Appeals Process

- I. Any candidate may challenge the validity of the election results in a written submission containing their reasons to the Elections Committee no later than four business days after the close of the voting period.
- II. The CRO and the DRO shall investigate any appeal and make recommendations to the Elections Committee on the appropriate action.
- III. If it is reported that the rules outlined in the bylaw and at the all-candidates meeting are not being followed the matter must be referred to the elections committee and be voted upon with a consensus for individuals in violation of rules to be sanctioned. The severity of these sanctions shall be governed by

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precedence of prior elections and the discretion of the CRO, in consultation with the Elections Committee.

IV. Meetings by the Committee concerning candidate appeals require a detailed report of the minutes and proceedings of that meeting.

A. Candidate Appeal

- a. The Elections Committee can be contacted directly at <u>elections.gcsu.aecg@gmail.com</u>.
- b. All reports and supporting documents must be sent to this address to be considered during the deliberation process.
- c. Those that file a case may also request to have a meeting with the Committee.
- d. The Elections Committee must respond to an appeal and schedule a meeting if requested, within three business days.

B. Processing Appeals

- a. There must be a formal written report for an appeal—from the person(s) filing a complaint.
- b. The Committee shall deliberate on the report and contact the individual. If the Committee finds that the report is lacking in information it may request additional information, giving the appellant three business days to respond.

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- c. The Committee shall discuss the central issues regarding the case as well as the potential arguments for both allowing the appeal of supporting the prior decision made by the CRO.
- d. Only material written in the report and discussed during meetings with the appellant can be considered in the Committee's decision of the appeal.

C. Appeal Decision

- a. The Election Committee shall decide on appeals brought forward by a vote of a two-thirds majority.
- b. The decision of the Committee is considered final and shall be upheld as a precedent for future appeals.
- c. The appeal, its proceedings, and decisions must be noted at the next scheduled GCSU General Council Meeting.

17. Reports

- I. The CRO and the DRO are to collectively prepare a written report summarizing each election, by-election and referendum to Council following the submission of the official electoral results from the ERO
- II. Each electoral report must include the proceedings of the election, the electoral results and recommendations for improvement.
- III. No election results are official until the Council approves the Electoral report.

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18. Honoraria

I. The CRO and the DRO shall be eligible for their honoraria only upon the submission and presentation to Council of all relevant electoral reports.

19. Extraordinary Circumstances

I. In the case of an act of God or *force majeure* which can reasonably be interpreted to include natural and humanitarian disasters, warfare, widespread outbreaks of illness such as epidemics or pandemics, the Chief Returning Officer in consultation with the Executive Committee shall have the ability to adopt interim measures that can take into account procedures facilitated through social media processes, that may in an interim capacity replace our traditional electoral mechanisms outlined above.

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