



POLICY 3.02

ELECTION, REFERENDUM, AND PLEBISCITE MANAGEMENT

Election of Executive Officers

POLICY INTENT

To ensure a fair and comprehensive election of Executive Officers to Students' Council, a specified conduct of elections is required in accordance with AUSU bylaws.

POLICY RESPONSIBILITY

Council

POLICY

Election of Executives

- 3.02.01 The Councillors-elect shall take office at the first regularly scheduled Council meeting after the changeover process is complete. At that meeting, Councillors shall elect from among themselves those Officers of the Council who shall hold offices of President, Vice-President External & Student Affairs (VPEX) and Vice-President Finance & Administration (VPFA).
- 3.02.02 Additionally, a council may choose to hold an interim election of the executives one year after the date of the initial executive election for that two year term.
- 3.02.02.01 The Executive Director shall inform council of the option to hold an interim Executive election 11 months after the initial executive election.
- 3.02.02.02 The interim election, if held, must occur within one month of the date of notification from the Executive Director.
- 3.02.03 In the case of an interim election, any executive may choose to run again for the same, or a different, executive position.
- 3.02.04 If an interim election of the executives is held, all committee appointments to AU and other External committees must be reviewed within two weeks of the election, as many committee positions are based on two-year terms and are limited to AUSU executives.

List of Nominees

- 3.02.05 Any elected Councillor may submit to the Council a self-nomination to an Executive Officer position.

- 3.02.06 Any individual may be nominated by another elected Councillor. The nomination may be declined by the individual so nominated.
- 3.02.07 Councillors and candidates are encouraged to nominate or self-nominate prior to the chosen election day in order to provide adequate preparation, though nominations may also be made from the floor on the day of the election.

Election Procedure

- 3.02.08 The executive election shall occur at the beginning of the regular Council meeting, immediately after the outgoing council has been dissolved.
- 3.02.09 The Executive Director shall assume control of the meeting immediately after the outgoing council is dissolved, and hand the chair to the new President once the election is complete and all executives have been elected.
- 3.02.10 Outgoing Councillors may not vote.
- 3.02.11 The Executive Director or other appointed meeting chair shall call the elections as follows:
- 3.02.12 Nominations for the President are to be declared and voted on first, followed by the Vice-President External & Student Affairs, then the Vice-President Finance & Administration.
- 3.02.13 If a candidate for the position of President is unsuccessful, that individual may be nominated from the floor for the position of Vice-President External & Student Affairs. If a candidate for the position of Vice-President External & Student Affairs is unsuccessful, that individual may be nominated from the floor for the position of Vice-President Finance & Administration.
- 3.02.14 The meeting chair shall open the floor to nominations for the Office of President. After all nominations have been accepted, the chair will declare nominations closed and voting will proceed for the President.
- 3.02.15 Once the new President has been elected, the chair shall open the floor to nominations for the Office of Vice-President External & Student Affairs. After all nominations have been accepted, the chair will declare nominations closed and voting will proceed.
- 3.02.16 Once the Vice-President External & Student Affairs has been elected, the chair shall will open the floor to nominations for the Office of Vice-President Finance & Administration. After all nominations have been accepted, the chair will declare nominations closed and voting will proceed.
- 3.02.17 If there is only a single candidate for any Executive Officer position, that person shall be declared elected by acclamation.
- 3.02.18 Each candidate shall be allotted a limited amount of time, not to exceed five minutes, to present an election speech. Alternatively, the candidate may forward a written statement of intent to all of the councilors-elect prior to the date of the election. After the speeches, Councillors will be able to ask questions of each candidate prior to voting.

Voting

- 3.02.19 Voting will be conducted by secret ballot as follows:
- 3.02.20 The election will be conducted by the Executive Director. Alternatively, the new Council may arrange for a third party fulfill the Executive Director's role in the election. Any third party must be agreed upon by at least one week prior to the election date.
- 3.02.22 Councillors attending the meeting via teleconference will submit their choices using the online voting system.
- 3.02.23 A provision for alternate ballots may be made available, with Councillors giving their vote either verbally or by e-mail to the AUSU Executive Director.
- 3.02.24 The AUSU Executive Director will tally the votes and announce the results to Council.
- 3.02.25 Immediately after results are announced, Council shall make a motion to have the online voting system cleared immediately by the AUSU Executive Director.
- 3.02.26 Should any vote result in a tie, each candidate for that particular position will be given another two minutes to speak, after which a second vote will be held.
- 3.02.27 Candidates are allowed to vote and no election shall be declared complete until all Councillors have had the opportunity to cast a ballot.
- 3.02.28 Once all three Executive Officer positions have been elected, the Executive Director shall declare the election closed and turn over the chair of the Council meeting to the new President.

POLICY HISTORY

- Original Approval Date: May 3, 2004
- Updated Date: April 13, 2011
- Mandatory Review by Date: April 13, 2013