



POLICY 3.03

ELECTION, REFERENDUM, AND PLEBISCITE MANAGEMENT

By-Elections

POLICY INTENT

From time to time Council may have a vacancy, whether due to a small acclamation, or Councillors leaving or being removed from council. To ensure that the policies of AUSU receive proper consideration by the membership, Council will conduct by-elections when required to fill empty seats on Council, and when doing so would not jeopardize the effectiveness of Council.

POLICY RESPONSIBILITY

Council

POLICY

- 3.03.01 Whenever a seat on Council becomes vacant, Council may choose whether or not to hold a by-election as defined in this policy, provided that there are at least six members currently remaining on Council. Council is under no obligation to do so, and may delay or not hold a by-election if Council feels that this would cause unreasonable disruption to the group.
- 3.03.02 If a seat on Council becomes vacant and as a result the Executive Council of AUSU would total more than half of AUSU Council, a by-election must be called, and must fill as many seats as are necessary to ensure that the Executive Council does not consist of more than half of AUSU Council as a whole. The by-election must take place within 30 days from the next regularly scheduled Council meeting.
- 3.03.03 Notwithstanding the above, Council may not call a by-election during the course of a General Election.
- 3.03.04 By-elections are conducted by Council when the circumstances require in the following manner:
- 3.03.04.01 A call for interested nominees is to be placed on the AUSU website and in the AUSU forums which includes:
 - a) details of when the term(s) will start, which is not to be later than the next regularly scheduled Council meeting following the By-Election;
 - b) the monthly honorarium for the position;
 - c) the requirements of serving on council that the councillor will be expected to fulfill;
 - d) a request for self-nomination of interested parties detailing the requirements for nomination;
 - e) the deadline for self-nominations, which is to be no less than 7 days, and no more than

30 days from the date of the call being posted.

- 3.03.04.02 Self-nominations must be submitted to the AUSU Office and include the following:
 - a) the individual's name and student ID number;
 - b) a contact number and email address where the person can be reached;
 - c) a statement indicating their willingness to serve on Council if elected;
 - d) a curriculum vitae detailing their qualifications and the experience that they will bring to AUSU council; and
 - e) their goals for the term they will be serving if selected.
- 3.03.04.03 The AUSU Office will verify that each candidate qualifies to be an AUSU Councillor, using the same criteria used in a General Election. Self-nominations of candidates that do not qualify will be discarded.
- 3.03.04.04 Information on valid candidates will be forwarded to Council.
- 3.03.04.05 Council shall deliberate in private and may choose to seek further information from any of the candidates or any references they deem necessary.
- 3.03.04.06 Council may choose to elect as many or as few candidates as needed to ensure that the Executive Council numbers no more than half of the total number of AUSU Councillors.
- 3.03.05 Council shall inform the candidates of the results of the election process as soon as possible after the decision.
- 3.03.06 Council shall officially announce the results of its election at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting.
- 3.03.07 The elected candidate(s) become members of council at the next regularly scheduled council meeting. The Executive Council must ensure that new council members are informed of the issues currently affecting council and of their role as a councillor.

POLICY HISTORY

Originally Created: April 3, 2006

Updated:

Mandatory Review-by Date: April 3, 2008