



**UWSA**

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG  
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

# By-Election 2020 Election Rules

Approved by the Referenda and  
Election By-Law Interpretation and  
Transparent Enforcement Board

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Commissioner

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## STATE OF EMERGENCY MEASURES

In accordance with the By-law 10 – State of Emergency Measures, the 2020 UWSA By-Election will be held online with virtual campaigning and balloting to accommodate the restriction of campus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

These rules are designed to work in tandem with existing by-laws to which the UWSA can comply without compromising the safety of staff, volunteers, and candidates. Where possible, the rules make reference to the by-laws that they contradict, for the clarity of the reader. More general rules which counter many separate by-laws, such as those about postings, will not reference a particular by-law. These rules will only be in effect for the 2020 by-election and will expire at the resolution of all complaints and appeals.

## ELECTION RULES, BY-ELECTION 2020

### **Article 1. By-Election 2020**

In accordance with UWSA By-law 10 – State of Emergency Measures, the 2020 UWSA By-Election shall be held online to accommodate the restriction of campus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Article 2. Election Rules**

Notwithstanding UWSA by-law 5.11, the Election Rules for the 2020 UWSA By-Election shall be the UWSA Election By-laws and the 2020 UWSA By-Election Rules. Where contradiction is found between the 2020 UWSA By-Election Rules and the UWSA By-laws, the 2020 UWSA By-Election Rules shall take precedence.

### **Article 3. Postings, Contact, and Communication**

- i. Notwithstanding any UWSA by-law to the contrary, all postings related to the elections, including nomination information, campaign rules, deadlines, complaints, and appeals, shall be posted exclusively on the UWSA website. No physical postings shall be made on any UWinnipeg property.
- ii. Notwithstanding any UWSA by-law to the contrary, all contact and communications between potential nominees, candidates, volunteers and the CEC shall be made via email, telephone, video conference, or another appropriately distanced communication mechanism agreed upon by all parties.
- iii. Notwithstanding by-law 5.21.iv.a.16, the CEC shall hold virtual office hours where they will be available to candidates for feedback and concerns.
- iv. The CEC reserves the right to release public statements throughout the election that candidates are required to share on their election websites and pages.
- v. Candidates are required to check their email each morning of the campaign period at 9 a.m. (starting Monday, Oct 19 and ending Wednesday, Oct 28) for rulings of the CEC. Any action assigned by the CEC, including penalties assigned for rule violations, must be carried out immediately upon receipt by the candidate and no later than 10 a.m. that morning.



- vi. Notwithstanding by-law 5.15, a scrutineer shall be a volunteer assigned by a candidate to act as a campaign partner. Scrutineers may act on a candidate's behalf at meetings with the CEC and assist candidates in monitoring their inboxes and implementing actions.
- vii. Scrutineers must be declared to and approved by the CEC but, notwithstanding by-law 5.22.xii.a.10, a scrutineer may be declared at any point in the election cycle.
- viii. All deadlines prescribed by these rules and the UWSA by-laws are in respect to the Central Time Zone, Manitoba, Canada.

#### **Article 4. Nominations**

*(These rules supersede any contradictory by-laws found under 5.22.xii.a.)*

- i. Nomination forms shall be available on the UWSA Website and shall only be accepted via email to [cec@theuwsa.ca](mailto:cec@theuwsa.ca) unless an accessibility accommodation is required.
- ii. Alternative nomination forms required for accessibility shall be available upon request. Requests for an alternative nomination form must be submitted in writing or by phone to the CEC by 8 a.m. on Thursday, October 1.
- iii. Nomination forms are due at 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 8.
- iv. Candidates may speak to individual members for the purpose of collecting a secondary nominator; however, classroom presentations, mass communications, and social media posts regarding their candidacy are strictly prohibited prior to the campaign period. In person solicitation of nominations is strictly prohibited.
- v. Nominations may only be submitted on the official nomination form and must include:
  - a. The candidate's name, the position for which they are nominated, their UWinnipeg student ID number, and contact information as requested;
  - b. The name, UWinnipeg student ID number, and virtual signature of one other UWSA member nominating the candidate;
  - c. Proof that the candidate meets the election requirements of the position for which they are nominated, as per these By-Laws, including their academic transcript.

#### **Article 5. Referenda**

There shall be no petition for referenda accepted for the 2020 UWSA By-Election.

#### **Article 6. Campaigns, Materials, and Budgets**

- i. *Campaign Materials*
  - a. Notwithstanding UWSA by-laws 5.6, 5.25, and any other UWSA by-law governing campaign materials, no physical campaign material shall be approved by the CEC including, but not limited to, posters, handbills, banners, buttons/pins, or any other distributable physical object.
  - b. Physical campaign materials to be featured in campaign photos or videos may be approved at the CEC's discretion. These items must be approved by the CEC prior to their production.
  - c. For the purposes of these rules, and the UWSA by-laws, "campaign materials" shall mean any graphics, pictures, gifs, videos, physical materials as approved, and original audio/visual content shared to support a candidate(s) for election. Candidates are responsible for ensuring that all campaign materials are compliant with by-law 5.25.



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- i. For purposes of accessibility, wherever font size can be managed in the production of campaign materials, font sizes must be between 12 and 18 pt. font as recommended by the Canadian National Institute for the Blind;
      - ii. All campaign materials posted on the web or social media must be accompanied by an image description in the caption, or another area of the site compatible with screen-reading software.
    - d. For the purposes of these rules, and the UWSA by-laws, written posts, captions, comments, and likes/upvotes/reactions/etc. on web or social media content shall not be considered campaign materials; however, all posting and online interaction must comply with the guidelines for approvable campaign materials found under by-law 5.25.iv.
    - e. Notwithstanding restrictions under by-law 5.24.ii.a, candidates and slates are permitted to set up campaign websites. Campaign websites and all content therein must be approved by the CEC prior to going live.
  - ii. *Campaigning*
    - a. All campaign activity, including the production of campaign materials, must be done in compliance with provincial public health regulations regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Violation of public health orders shall be grounds for immediate disqualification.
    - b. Notwithstanding by-law 5.22.xii, The campaign period shall commence at 8 a.m. Monday, October 19 and shall cease at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28.
  - iii. *Budgets*
    - a. Campaign budgets may be adjusted to accommodate the need for more digital content. Campaign budgets shall be announced at the All Candidate's Meeting.

#### **Article 7. Voting**

- i. Notwithstanding any UWSA by-law to the contrary, there shall be no physical polls for the 2020 UWSA By-election.
- ii. Notwithstanding by-law 5.22.xii.c.3, polls shall be open online from 9 a.m. Monday, October 26 until 6 p.m. Wednesday, October 28 inclusive.
- iii. Polling shall be held online through [theuwsa.simplyvoting.com](https://theuwsa.simplyvoting.com). Account authentication emails shall be distributed to members through their secure UWinnipeg webmail.
- iv. Polling results shall be tabulated automatically through Simply Voting's secure system and, notwithstanding any by-law to the contrary, there shall be no ballot re-count procedure.

#### **Article 8. Voting Accessibility**

- i. The voting website shall be compatible with screen reading technology.
- ii. Alternative polling options shall be arranged for those without access to home Wi-Fi or with other accessibility concerns. Alternative polling options shall be announced and promoted by October 19, 2020.

#### **Article 9. Harassment**

- i. The UWSA takes harassment very seriously. Candidates are expected to abide by all University of Winnipeg and UWSA policies surrounding respectful conduct in all communications including virtual communication.



# UWSA

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG  
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- ii. Candidates found in violation of the University's Respectful Work and Learning Environment Policy, the UWSA Code of Conduct, or their Acknowledgement of Responsibility shall be subject to discipline up to and including disqualification from election.