
EFFECTIVE: November 18th, 2005

AMENDED: November 29th, 2021

AUTHORITY: Board of Directors

RATIFIED BY: Board of Directors

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

Purpose: This policy exists to clearly outline the strict processes that are to be upheld by all parties partaking in a referendum ran by the Society. This policy also outlines the available processes that can be taken if the stated processes are not upheld.

Part 1: Policy

1. Referendum Initiation

- 1.1. Referendums can only be initiated in accordance to SUS's bylaws.

2. Referendum Procedures

- 2.1. Posters and a posting on the SUS website will be made public by the Proponent no less than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the commencement of polling.
- 2.2. No less than thirty (30) posters will be hung in the Abbotsford and Chilliwack campuses, and no less than ten (10) posters will be hung at the Mission campus unless contradictory to UFV's Poster Policy.
 - 2.2.1. All referendum posters must comply with UFV's Poster Policy.
- 2.3. A press release informing the membership of the referendum must be made public by the Proponent at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the commencement of polling.
- 2.4. At least three (3) question and answer periods must be held by the Proponent at least five (5) business days prior to the commencement of polling, where students will be given the opportunity to ask the Proponent and participating members of the Society questions regarding the referendum.
 - 2.4.1. The Proponent must hold at least two (2) question and answer periods at the Abbotsford UFV campus and one at the CEP Chilliwack campus. The question and answer periods must not be held on the same day.
 - 2.4.2. No question and answer period may begin sooner than 9:30am or later than 6:00pm. Question and answer periods must not take place on weekends and statutory holidays.

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2.4.3. If no students come to a question and answer period within thirty (30) minutes from when it began, then it is considered complete.

2.5. No less than seventy-two (72) hours of polling over a period of no less than four (4) business days must be available online through my.ufv.ca

2.6. At the next scheduled Board meeting, following the completion of polling, the Vice President Internal will present the results of the referendum to be verified and ratified by a majority vote.

3. Referendum Questions

3.1. The referendum question must be clear and unambiguous and must be answered by either a “YES” or “NO” vote.

3.2. The referendum question must be a part of the motion to call the referendum.

4. Polling

4.1. Each member of the Society will have the opportunity to vote through an online poll.

4.2. Voting shall occur during the Polling Period.

4.3. Campaigning for a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ vote is forbidden during the Polling Period. Members may promote the occurrence of a referendum and encourage others to participate.

4.4. All Members of the Society in accordance with Bylaw 5 are eligible to vote.

4.5. Any member may not vote more than once.

5. Validity

5.1. If the referendum is deemed invalid then it ends immediately and any results are not to be acted upon.

5.2. The results of the referendum will only be acted upon if the total number of votes cast is at least five (5) percent of the total population of members who are eligible to vote.

5.3. If the referendum is complete but declared invalid, then the referendum results are not to be acted upon regardless of the polling results.

5.3.1. A referendum is immediately invalid if The Proponent violates any of the Society’s bylaws pertaining to referendums.

5.4. The Board of the Society may decide that a referendum is invalid by a majority vote, if the procedures of this policy were not upheld by the Proponent.

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- 5.4.1. During, or within thirty (30) days of the completed referendum, the Board of the Society may, by majority vote, declare a referendum invalid if a referendum policy has been violated by The Proponent.
- 5.4.2. After thirty (30) days but before six (6) months after a referendum has been completed, the Board of the Society can, by special resolution, declare a referendum invalid if a referendum policy has been violated by the Proponent.
- 5.5. The decision on the validity of the referendum can be appealed at an AGM or EGM. 6.5.1 Any referendum cannot be appealed if it has violated bylaw or did not have enough votes in favor of the change.
- 5.6. The results of a referendum must have at least 50% majority in favor of the proposed referendum question to be valid and actionable.
- 5.7. The Proponent must be able to provide verification that this policy was followed to the SUS Board of Directors.