



# Student Union Society Election Rules

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AMENDED: December 15 2015

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AUTHORITY: Governance Committee

RATIFIED BY: Board of Directors

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## RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Elections Policy
  - Electoral Oversight Policy
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Below are the rules for candidates in Student Union Society elections. It is your responsibility to read and comply with all of the election rules. Ignorance is not an excuse for rule violations. The Chief Electoral Officer will determine rule violations and will issue sanctions to candidates that violate the rules.

Good luck with your campaign!

**Section 1:** Candidates must meet certain eligibility requirements to participate in SUS elections, including to:

- Be a current Member in Good Standing of SUS, which requires candidates to:
  - Be enrolled in at least one for credit course in the current semester
  - Have paid SUS fees for the current semester
- Intend to continue to fulfil the above requirements for the duration of the term of office
- Meet the specific eligibility criteria for any positions with a specific constituency, when applicable.
  - For example, the College of Arts Rep must be studying towards a degree/declared major within the program areas of the College as listed by UFV, or a current executive member of an association within one of those program areas.
- Maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0

Please note that candidates must continue to meet these criteria for their duration of their term of office. If, once elected, a Board Member fails to meet an eligibility criteria, they will be placed on a leave of absence or required to resign, depending on the criteria lacking.

**Section 2:** Candidates must run as individuals with their own platforms and ideas. To ensure this during the election, candidates cannot do the following:

- Officially run as a slate or party with other candidates
- Ask the University of the Fraser Valley staff or faculty for endorsement or campaign aid.
  - Examples of this include, but are not limited to, displaying or distributing campaign materials in staff dedicated areas, UFV staff verbally advocating for a candidate,



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displaying materials on UFV media accounts (including social media, TV screens, and computer desktops)

- Ask any SUS staff member or director for endorsement or campaign aid, or using SUS resources.
  - This includes both permanent and student staff (including all services), and current Board Members (voting and non-voting)
- Use promotional materials that suggest that they have sponsorship or endorsement from UFV, SUS, any club, association, and/or on-campus or off-campus organization.

**Section 3:** The SUS election takes place during regular scheduled classes. Although SUS elections are very important to our organization, we do not want to interrupt the studies of our student membership at large. To that end, candidates cannot do the following:

- Campaign during any part of the election that is not the campaign period.
- Violate UFV's Poster Policy or the SUB Operating Policies.
- Campaign during a scheduled UFV lecture or lab session for more than 5 minutes per class, or without permission from the instructor.
  - Candidates presenting during a class must state that their instructor is not endorsing them by allowing them to speak.
- Post material in designated classroom/lab/teaching space.
- Display posters that have not been approved by the Chief Electoral Officer and/or have not been stamped at the front desk of a SUS office.

**Section 4:** It is important that the SUS members can be made aware of each candidate and their platforms. Because of this, we require candidates to do the following.

- Attend at least one election info session.
- Submit a written candidate's statement for publication.
- Candidates must attend and participate in at least one All Candidates Meeting.
  - Candidates are expected to communicate with their instructors beforehand if there are time conflicts with lectures or labs. Proof of this communication will be required if a candidate has to miss required sessions due to class conflicts.

**Section 5:** To ensure fairness and validity in all SUS elections,

- A candidate must not spend more than \$125 on their campaign, or fail to submit an expense report to the Chief Electoral Officer by the end of the campaign period.
- A candidate must not campaign using any food, or liquid consumables.
- A candidate must not offer any sort of direct incentive (bribe) to any student(s).
- A candidate must not harass, threaten, or bully any student to vote for or endorse them.
- A candidate must not harass, threaten, or bully the Chief Electoral Officer, or any member of the Electoral Committee.



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- A candidate must not intentionally lie, or spread false information about the University, SUS, or other candidates.
- A candidate must not set up or have supporters set up their own mobile polling stations in order to get more votes for specific candidate(s).
- A candidate must not distribute any partisan campaign materials or campaign inside Baker House, except during a campaign event is organized by the Chief Electoral Officer.

**\*\*NOTE\*\*** If a group or individual violates the above rules in support of a candidate, then the candidate in question may still be subject to sanctions, as determined by the Chief Electoral Officer.

If you have any questions or concerns about the campaign rules, or if you have witnessed violation of the above rules, please email the Chief Electoral Officer at [elections@ufvsus.ca](mailto:elections@ufvsus.ca).