

**Election Bylaw of the Medical
Students' Society of McGill
University—Règlement électoral de
l'Association des Étudiant(e)s en
Médecine de l'Université McGill**

Adopted March 21, 2018





Table of Contents

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| DEFINITIONS | 3 |
| OFFICERS | 4 |
| NOMINATION | 4 |
| CAMPAIGN | 5 |
| VOTING | 5 |
| BY-ELECTIONS AND EMERGENCY ELECTIONS | 6 |
| REFERENDA | 6 |
| SANCTIONS | 7 |



Election Bylaw of the Medical Students' Society—Règlement électoral de l'Association des Étudiant(e)s en Médecine de l'Université McGill

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. **ARO:** An Assistant Returning Officer.
- 1.2. **BYLAW:** This bylaw, namely the election Bylaw of the Medical Students' Society of McGill University.
- 1.3. **CAMPAIGN:** To campaign means to solicit the vote of Members by any means other than informal conversation, including but not limited to any sort of public communication, whether spoken, written or electronic.
- 1.4. **CANDIDATE:** A Candidate is any member seeking election, from the moment they begin collecting signatures for their Nomination Form or otherwise publicly announce their candidacy, to the end of the voting period.
- 1.5. **CONSTITUTION:** The Constitution of the Medical Students' Society of McGill University.
- 1.6. **CEO:** The Chief Electoral Officer
- 1.7. **CRO:** The Chief Returning Officer.
- 1.8. **MASS COMMUNICATION:** Society-wide email correspondence emanating from the Society or from the CRO.
- 1.9. **MEMBER:** A voting member of the Society in good standing as per section 3 of the Constitution.
- 1.10. **NOMINATION FORM:** A document containing a candidate's name and desired position, as well as the names, signatures and student identification numbers of a certain number of Members. Alternately, candidates may email the incumbent Executive Vice-President, with the email addresses of Members in "CC". Such a Nomination Form is considered valid provided no Members named in "CC" object in writing to the Executive Vice-President no later than 24 hours after the Nomination period has ended.



1.11. OFFICERS: The CEO, CRO and any ARO.

1.12. SOCIETY: The Medical Students' Society of McGill University.

1.13. VIOLATION: The violation of any rule or regulation set out in this Election Bylaw or the Constitution by a Candidate.

2. OFFICERS

2.1. CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER (CEO). The incumbent Executive Vice-President becomes Chief Electoral Officer *ex Officio*, provided that they are not also a Candidate. The Board of Directors of the Society may nominate any Member as CEO, provided they are not a Candidate. In the event the CEO cannot continue their duties, the Board of Directors shall nominate a new CEO among eligible Members.

2.2. CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER (CRO). The Chief Returning Officer is appointed by the CEO. Any person who is not a Candidate is eligible to be appointed as CRO. In the event the CRO cannot continue in their duties, the CEO shall assume CRO duties on an interim basis until the CEO nominates a new CRO.

2.3. ASSISTANT RETURNING OFFICER (ARO). Up to two (2) Assistant Returning Officers may be nominated by the CEO, at their discretion. Any person who is not a Candidate is eligible to be appointed as ARO.

2.4. DUTIES. The aforementioned Officers are jointly and solidarily responsible for the enforcement of the Constitution and this Bylaw. They are entitled to impose sanctions on Candidates who have committed Violations, in accordance with section 8 of this Bylaw.

3. NOMINATION

3.1. NOMINATION PERIOD. The nomination period shall begin no later than seven (7) days prior to the commencement of the campaigning period; the nomination period shall end no earlier than forty-eight (48) before the commencement of the campaigning period.

3.2. ELIGIBILITY. Members may stand for any elected position provided their candidacy is in accordance to section 8.2 of the Constitution.

3.3. NOMINATION FORM. Candidates must submit a Nomination Form during the nomination period to be eligible for election. The Nomination Form must be signed



by 20 Members in the Candidate's constituency. The Nomination Form must be submitted either in print or electronically to an Officer.

3.4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NOMINATIONS. The CEO must inform the Members twice through Mass Communication of the valid Nominations Forms received: once twenty-four (24) hours before the end of the nomination period, and once at the end of the nomination period.

4. CAMPAIGN

4.1. CAMPAIGNING PERIOD. The campaigning period cannot begin until the nomination period has ended, and must end before the voting period begins. The campaigning period must contain at least three business days.

4.2. CAMPAIGNING. Candidates may only campaign during the campaigning period, and must remove any campaign material before the voting period begins. Candidates must comply with McGill Building Regulations. The use of electronic communications is permitted for the purposes of campaigning is permitted, provided this is done in accordance with the current Bylaw.

4.3. FINANCES. Candidates may spend up to 30\$ for the purposes of their Campaign. Candidates must submit a report with receipts of their expenditures to the CRO no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the end of the campaigning period.

4.4. SPEECHES. The Officers must hold an event for speeches and questions during the campaigning period. Members must be informed by Mass Communication of the time, place, and modalities of this event. All Candidates are entitled to deliver a speech and field questions from the audience at this event, and are to be allocated as much time as other Candidates running for the same position.

4.5. OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS. Candidates may not campaign using the Society's Official Communications. Notwithstanding the previous regulation, the CRO may allow all candidates to submit a written message of limited length to be distributed to Members through the Society's Official Communications or the Society's website.



5. VOTING

- 5.1. VOTING PERIOD.** The voting period shall have a minimum duration of three (3) days. Members must be informed through Mass Communication of the commencement of the voting period as well as the voting procedure.
- 5.2. METHOD OF VOTATION.** The winning Candidate shall be determined by Single Transferable Vote. Members shall have the opportunity to vote online.
- (a) For all positions, Members must have the option to vote for no candidates, or to abstain from voting. (*Amended April 17, 2018*)
- (b) Members may rank the option to vote for no candidates in the same way votes for candidates are ranked; members who abstain may not rank any candidates, nor rank the option to vote for no candidates. (*Amended April 17, 2018*)
- 5.3. COUNT.** The Officers are responsible for the determination of the outcome of the election and the verification of the results. The Officers must announce the results via Mass Communication.
- 5.4. TIE-BREAKING.** In the event of a tie vote, the candidate with the most votes after the first round of the single transferable vote will be declared the winner. If two or more candidates remain tied, the winner shall be determined by sortition.
- 5.5. NO CANDIDATE ELECTED.** In the event that the option to vote for no candidates is the winner, the vacant position shall be replaced in accordance with article 5.18 of the Constitution. (*Amended April 17, 2018*)

6. BY-ELECTIONS AND EMERGENCY ELECTIONS

- 6.1. METHOD.** By-Elections and Emergency elections shall be conducted as per sections 3, 4, and 5, with the following modifications:
- (a) Notwithstanding section 3.1, the nomination period shall begin no later than five (5) days prior to the commencement of the campaigning period;
- (b) Notwithstanding section 4.1, the campaigning period must last at least three (3) days and include at least one (1) business day.

7. REFERENDA

- 7.1. CALLING REFERENDA.** A referendum comprising of one or more questions may be held following a majority vote of the General Council.



7.2. MEMBER RIGHTS. All members have the right to one vote. All members have the right to campaign as outlined in section 7.4. Members may not undertake any expenditures for the purpose of campaigning.

7.3. METHOD OF VOTATION. The winning referendum option shall be determined by Single Transferable Vote. Members shall have the opportunity to vote online.

7.4. REFERENDUM PROCEDURE. Referenda are to be conducted as per sections 4, and 5, with the following modifications:

(a) Notwithstanding section 4.3, Members may not undertake any expenditures for the purpose of campaigning.

(b) Notwithstanding section 4.4, any speech event or other official campaign event is to be held at the discretion of General Council.

8. SANCTIONS

8.1. WARNINGS. A candidate who has been determined by the Officers to have committed a Violation may receive a warning if the Officers determine the Violation did not benefit the candidate at fault, and was not detrimental to any other candidate. The candidate at fault must remedy the Violation within twenty-four (24) hours.

8.2. CENSURE. A candidate who has been determined by the Officers to have committed a Violation with regards to section 4 of this Bylaw with tangible or reasonably foreseeable effects shall be subject to a public censure, transmitted to all members of the Society through its official communications.

8.3. CANCELLATION. A candidate who has been determined by the Officers to have committed a Violation of any other section, exceeded or not documented the allowable expenses, or otherwise undermined the elections or brought the electoral process into disrepute, shall be subject to:

(a) Immediate censure as detailed above; and

(b) Cancellation of their election if they are indeed the candidate with the most votes.

8.4. APPEALS. Decisions by Officers are final and are not subject to appeal.

Adopted March 21, 2018.

Amended April 17, 2018.