



# NOMINATION OVERVIEW

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2026 OTSU ELECTIONS



## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The Ontario Tech Student Union (OTSU) is dedicated to you, and to enhancing your Student Experience! Your time on campus is brief, and we want to be a part of your story.

Through the services we offer, we are here to support Ontario Tech students as they transition from “new student” to “student leader”. The OTSU exists to advocate for students and to make sure the student experience is a memorable one!

Becoming a student leader is one of the most significant opportunities available to you as an Ontario Tech student. During this election, you will make connections and memories that will last a lifetime. The skills you learn as a student leader may help you launch your career.

You will learn valuable decision making, organizing, communication, and advocacy skills. These skills are a benefit at any job and will stick with you throughout your life.

As a student leader, you will be in the unique position to make changes that will impact the entire university community. You will have the opportunity to think big and set the direction for an institution that will last long after you leave. Will you change the lives of all Ontario Tech students for the better?

The Student Union only exists because of students like you, so consider carefully what your legacy will be.

## CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY

To run for elections, an eligible candidate MUST:

- Be at least 18 years of age;
- Be a full-time Ontario Tech University student in clear academic standing;
- Be able to attend Board of Directors and Executive training sessions as scheduled;
- Not have been declared incapable by a court in Canada or another country; or
- Not have the status of a bankrupt.

## SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN STEPS

### STEP 1 - READ THE RULES

Read the Elections Policy and Procedure and familiarize yourself with the rules governing the elections. For your convenience, the Policy and Procedure can be found at the end of this document.

- The Elections Policy and Procedure are also available online at: [otsu.ca/policy-library](https://otsu.ca/policy-library)
- Nominees can learn more by emailing questions and concerns to the CRO at [elections.otsu@ontariotechu.ca](mailto:elections.otsu@ontariotechu.ca)

### STEP 2 - DECIDE ON A POSITION

Directors and the Executive fulfill very different roles at the student union. The Board of Directors is the governing body of the student union; the Board sets the strategic vision of the student union. Individual Directors are expected to attend monthly board meetings and vote on decisions that will affect all Ontario Tech students.

The Executive branch is responsible for administering the day-to-day operations of the student union. Executives report directly to the Board of Directors and cannot vote on board resolutions. Executives oversee and implement the initiatives voted on by the board.

- **Important note** - Directors must be a member of the faculty they seek to represent. For the VP of Downtown position, candidates must belong to a Faculty residing at the Downtown Campus. This includes the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities and the Education Faculty.

### STEP 3 - COMPLETE YOUR CANDIDATE PROFILE

The Nomination Package includes an online **Candidate Profile** and **Signature Package**. The Candidate Profile is an online form available during the duration of the Nomination Period and can be found online at [otsu.ca/run](https://otsu.ca/run).

- **Important note** - Successful Nominees must complete and submit their Nomination Package by 11:59pm on January 28.

The online Candidate Profile form must be completed before candidates have access to the Signature Package. Candidates will be asked to provide a brief (750 characters) elections bio and photo that will be published on the Student Union website.

We highly encourage candidates to submit their Candidate Profile early in the Nomination Period, so they have sufficient time to start collecting signatures. Incomplete Nomination Packages will not be approved or accepted.

### STEP 4 - GET NOMINATED BY YOUR PEERS

Candidates will receive a link to the Signature Package once a completed Candidate Profile is submitted. Eligible Candidates must be nominated by their peers to run in the elections. **Director Candidates require 50 signatures** from nominators, and **Executive Candidates require 100 signatures**. Only eligible voting members currently enrolled at Ontario Tech University can nominate a Candidate.

Potential nominees are encouraged to obtain extra signatures to safeguard against errors. It is the candidates responsibility to keep track of the signatures they collect. We highly encourage candidates to plan ahead and use their time effectively so they have sufficient time to collect signatures before the deadline. Incomplete Nomination Packages will not be approved or accepted.

- **Important note** - Candidates can only solicit nominations (signatures) during the Nomination Period (January 19 to January 28).

### STEP 5 - ATTEND THE ALL-CANDIDATES MEETING

All Candidates must attend, or send a delegate to attend, the mandatory All-Candidates Meeting to be eligible to run in the Elections. The All-Candidates Meeting will take place online on Jan 29 at 5:30pm.

- **Important note** - Candidates sending a delegate, must notify the CRO 24 hours in advance by filling out the online Delegate Form found at [otsu.ca/elections](https://otsu.ca/elections).

### STEP 6 - START PLANNING YOUR CAMPAIGN

Successful candidates prepare their campaign in advance of campaigning. You should consider assembling your elections delegates, creating your graphics, and getting ready to promote your campaign.

- **Important note** - Candidates cannot campaign before the Campaign Period (Feb 5 to 20).

## ELECTION TIMELINE

### **NOMINATION PERIOD • JAN 19, 9:00AM – JAN 28, 11:59PM**

A completed Nomination Package must be submitted by 11:59pm on January 28 to be eligible to run in the elections. The Nomination Package includes an online Candidate Profile and Signature Package. You will receive a link to your Signature Package once you submit the online Candidate Profile. Candidates will be asked to upload a picture and fill out a brief candidate bio. This information will be published on the Student Union website.

### **ALL-CANDIDATES MEETING • JAN 29, 5:30PM, GOOGLE MEET**

All nominees must attend, or send a registered delegate to attend, the All-Candidates meeting. If you are sending a delegate, you must notify the CRO 24 hours in advance by filling out the Delegate Form found at [otsu.ca/elections](https://otsu.ca/elections).

### **PREPARATION PERIOD • JAN 30, 12:00AM – FEB 4, 4:00PM**

This is time for you to prepare to really push your message out!

### **CAMPAIGN PERIOD • IN PERSON & ONLINE: FEB 5, 8:00AM – FEB 13, 11:59PM**

#### **ONLINE ONLY: FEB 14, 12:00AM – FEB 20, 4:00PM**

This is the designated period to promote your election. Conduct all campaigning during this period. It is a violation to campaign outside of the Campaign Period. All candidates must submit all of their digital and print materials to the CRO by this deadline to be approved. All social media accounts must be reported to the CRO.

### **CAMPAIGN MATERIALS APPROVAL DEADLINE • FEB 4, 4:00PM**

All candidates must submit all of their digital and print materials to the CRO by this deadline to be approved. All social media accounts must be reported to the CRO.

### **CANDIDATE FORUM • FEB 10, TIME AND LOCATION TBD**

Candidates are given the opportunity to present their platform and answer questions from voters during this event.

### **VOTING PERIOD • FEB 23, 9:00AM – FEB 25, 4:00PM**

Sit back and relax. There is nothing more you can do. Voters can access their ballot through their Ontario Tech student email. Campaigning is strictly prohibited during the voting period.

### **UNOFFICIAL RESULTS ANNOUNCED • FEB 27**

Watch for the unofficial elections results to be announced on our online marketing channels. Official results will be ratified at the OTSU board meeting.

### **TEAM TAKES OFFICE • MAY 1**

Congratulations to our winning team! Your term starts now.



# POLICY & PROCEDURE

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2026 OTSU ELECTIONS

# OTSU ELECTIONS POLICY & PROCEDURE

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PROCEDURE TYPE	BOARD
APPROVING AUTHORITY	ONTARIO TECH STUDENT UNION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
POLICY OWNER	ONTARIO TECH STUDENT UNION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
APPROVAL DATE	DECEMBER 2020
REVIEW DATE	NOVEMBER 2025
LAST UPDATED	DECEMBER 2025

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## POLICIES

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Chief Returning Officer will make all interpretations of this Policy. The main purpose of the Elections Policy is as follows:

- 1.1 Fulfill the voting rights of Voting Members as established in the Bylaws according to the Act,
- 1.2 Delegate authority for the administration of Elections to the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and the Elections Committee,
- 1.3 Establish expectations for the conduct of Candidates during Elections, and
- 1.4 Outline standards and criteria for the administration of fair, transparent, and valid Elections.

### 2. POLICY STATEMENTS

#### 2.1 Fair Play

All Members taking an active role in Student Union Elections are required to conduct themselves by the rules of fair play and positive campaigning. Rules of fair play include, but are not limited to:

##### 2.1.1 Respect

Elections participants must respect the dignity and rights of others. Elections participants are expected to respect the institutional environment and shall not bring disrepute on:

- Ontario Tech University including students, faculty, staff, and the administration,
- Durham College including students, faculty, staff, and the administration, or
- OTSU

- 2.1.2 Fair Competition  
Participants in Student Union Elections are expected to earn success in Student Union elections by their own merits without cheating, spreading falsehoods, or attempting to achieve an unjust advantage, and compete on equal terms. Candidates cannot bolster their elections by relying on resources unavailable to all candidates.
- 2.2 Positive Campaigning  
All campaigning shall be positive and conducted in good faith. Candidates are required to demonstrate respect for other candidates. Candidates are not permitted to engage in campaign tactics that attack, demean, belittle, unfairly target, or threaten members of the University or College community including other candidates. Candidates shall demonstrate respect for all members of the University and College community. Candidates shall show respect for the rights of all students and staff to continue to work and study during the course of the elections.
- An emphasis on positive campaigning does not restrict candidates from challenging their fellow Candidates. Candidates are encouraged to offer constructive criticism and debate with each other, however, this must be done professionally. Personal attacks will not be tolerated.
- 2.3 Developmental Nature of Student Government  
Student government, including elections, is a substantively developmental opportunity. Student candidates will not be unduly penalized for failing to exhibit consummate expertise in their campaign. While acts of malice may contribute to the disqualification of candidate, honest and reasonable mistakes should not be sufficient cause to disqualify a candidate. If there is no room for mistakes, there is no room for learning.
- 2.4 Digital and In-person Campaigning is only permitted during the Campaign Period.
- 2.5 Eligible Voting Members can be appointed to serve as Campaign Delegates to a qualified Candidate. Delegates are considered an extension of the Candidate and must be registered with the Elections Office.
- 2.6 Endorsements, real or apparent, are strictly prohibited. Candidates cannot benefit from the resources of Student Clubs, Student Societies, or Ontario Tech Staff and Administration.
- 2.7 Candidates are not permitted to solicit Ontario Tech or Durham College services, student union, staff, or administration to campaign on their behalf or promote their elections.
- 2.8 Campaign donations are strictly prohibited. Candidates are required to track and report all expense to the Chief Returning Officer.
- 2.9 The Student Union shall provide each Eligible Voting Member with a secret electronic ballot. The ballot will list the legal names of each Candidate in alphabetical order by first name.
- 2.10 A candidate will be deemed the winner of the position if they have received the largest number of votes for the position.
- 2.11 The Student Union shall provide an official report to members after the close of the Voting Period ensuring the integrity of the electronic voting process.
- 2.12 Any Eligible Voting Member can report a violation by preparing and signing and the approved Campaign Violation Form.
- 2.13 Election results will not be released until all campaign violation forms have been settled.
- 2.14 All incidents of violence, discrimination, or harassment are taken seriously by the OTSU. As per the Student Code of Conduct, all incidents should be reported to Campus Safety and Security by the complainant to be investigated.

### **3. DEFINITIONS**

- 3.1 **General Bylaws**  
Refers to the Ontario Tech Student Union General Bylaws.
- 3.2 **OTSU or Student Union**  
Refers to the Ontario Tech Student Union.
- 3.3 **Elections Policy**  
Refers to the Policies established in this document.
- 3.4 **Elections**  
Refers to the organized process of electing executives and directors. The process of elections includes the nomination period, the campaigning period, and the voting period.
- 3.5 **By-Elections**  
Refers to any elections following the Meeting of Members to fill any vacancies.
- 3.6 **Elections Office**  
Refers to the CRO and any DROs.
- 3.7 **CRO**  
Refers to the Chief Returning Officer, as designated by the OTSU.
- 3.8 **DRO**  
Refers to any Deputy Returning Officers, as designated by the OTSU.
- 3.9 **Candidate**  
Refers to any person who is eligible to hold office, has submitted a completed Nomination Package, has received confirmation of their candidacy from the CRO, to stand in the OTSU elections.
- 3.10 **Nomination Period**  
Refers to the designated days where a hopeful candidate is permitted to collect nominations in the form of signatures to be eligible to run in the elections.
- 3.11 **Campaign Period**  
Refers to the designated days during which candidates may campaign.
- 3.12 **Voting Period**  
Refers to the designated days during which members may vote for candidates.
- 3.13 **Campaigning**  
Refers to any activity intended to influence the decision of one or more voters.
- 3.14 **Campaign Materials**  
Refers to physical promotional items intended to influence the decision of one or more votes. Campaign Materials includes posters, flyers, and other pamphlets.
- 3.15 **In-Person Campaigning**  
Refers to any activity intended to influence the decision of one or more voters with the personal presence or action of the individual specified.



3.16 **Slate**

Slate refers to a situation where two or more candidates work together or appear to work together with the aim of influencing the election outcome in their favour.

Intentional Slating refers to a group of candidates who collaborate to become elected together by such behaviours as: instances of mutual campaigning, either in-person or in a recording, pooling campaign resources, material instances of appearing together on physical or digital campaign material, or using the similar branding on campaign materials.

Unintentional slating occurs when a candidate or group of candidates appear to campaign together or support one another without deliberately intending to form a slate.

The following behaviours shall not be interpreted as slating: speaking positively about another candidate platform and/or their platform.

3.17 **Endorsement**

Refers to a demonstration of support or public recommendation of a Candidate, through either verbal or non-verbal communication by any person who represents, or could be reasonably considered to represent, any Student Club, any Student Society, the OTSU, or the Ontario Tech University (the University) Administration or staff.

## 4. RULES OF INTERPRETATION

In the Elections Policy:

- 4.1 Words importing the plural form include the singular and vice-versa,
- 4.2 Any words importing any gender include all other genders,
- 4.3 The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of the Elections Policy will not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision of the Elections Policy, and
- 4.4 All capitalized terms found herein but not defined have the meaning ascribed to them in the General Bylaws.

## 5. AUTHORITY

- 5.1 Section 128 (3) of The Act legislates that Voting Members shall elect Directors of the Corporation by Ordinary Resolution.
- 5.2 Section 13.10 of the Corporations General Bylaws grants The Board the authority to establish policies and procedures related to the nomination, elections, and appointment of Directors by Board Resolution.

## 6. ADMINISTRATION OF ELECTIONS

6.1 **The Elections Committee**

The Board is required to establish an Elections Committee to oversee the OTSU Elections before the close of the Nomination Period. The Elections Committee shall be composed of:

- Three (3) Student-At-Large Representatives (voting),
- Two (2) eligible members of the current Board of Directors as nominated by the Board (voting),
- OTSU President or their designate (voting),
- CRO and any DRO (non-voting), and
- OTSU Executive Director (non-voting).

The Executive Director will be the Chair of the Elections Committee and will only have a vote in the event of a tie.

The quorum for the Elections Committee's meetings shall be at least 50 percent of its voting members, and one non-voting member.

Any Board Director or Executive Officer who is planning to stand for elections in the General Elections or By-Elections must resign from the Elections Committee immediately.

From the start of the nomination period until the announcement of the election results, the president will be a non-voting member. The President is only allowed to vote in the event of a tie, unless there is a declared conflict of interest.

## **7. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **7.1 The Elections Committee shall:**

- 7.1.1 Reserve the right to overrule any decision or interpretation made by the CRO,
- 7.1.2 Hear any appeal of a decision made by the CRO,
- 7.1.3 Act autonomously from any Ontario Tech, Durham College or Student Union influences,
- 7.1.4 Provide a timeline for the Nomination and Elections Period to be approved by the Board,
- 7.1.5 Make recommendations to the CRO on all matters, including Bylaw amendments. The CRO shall include these recommendations in a final report,
- 7.1.6 Act impartially and in the best interest of the Student Union. The Board may remove members of the Elections Committee if they fail to act impartially,
- 7.1.7 Not demonstrate support for a Candidate,
- 7.1.8 Familiarize themselves with the Bylaws, Elections Policy and Procedure,
- 7.1.9 Conduct the elections in a fair manner,
- 7.1.10 Meet regularly during their term to plan and discuss the upcoming elections, and
- 7.1.11 Have the power to disqualify a candidate or rule any elections void.

### **7.2 The Chief Returning Officer (CRO) shall:**

- 7.2.1 Report any and all conflicts of interest to the Board. The Board may dismiss the CRO as a result of said conflicts of interest through an Ordinary Resolution,
- 7.2.2 Ensure a democratic, impartial, fair, transparent, and accountable elections process,
- 7.2.3 Organize and administer the All-Candidates Meeting,
- 7.2.4 Organize and moderate the All-Candidates Forum(s),
- 7.2.5 Enforce the Nomination and Elections Policy and the General Bylaws as they relate to Elections,
- 7.2.6 Issue official results to Candidates, Members, the media, and other relevant parties, and
- 7.2.7 Issue a final report to the Board.

### **7.3 The Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) shall:**

- 7.3.1 Ensure a democratic, impartial, fair, transparent, and accountable election process,
- 7.3.2 Help the CRO enforce the Society Election Policy and other policies as they relate to the Elections,
- 7.3.3 Review and approve all campaign materials produced by candidates,

- 7.3.4 Assist in organizing and administering the All-Candidates Meeting, and
- 7.3.5 Authorize all election notices, publicity and campaign materials.

# PROCEDURES

## 8. INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

The Ontario Tech Student Union (the “Student Union”) facilitates the General Elections in order to fill the Executive Team and Board of Director positions. The Chief Returning Officer will make all interpretations of this Procedure.

The purpose establishes a structure within which students are nominated, run in the elections, and get elected to the Student Union. These are procedures used for decisions handed down by the Chief Returning Officer (the “CRO”). The CRO reserves the right to change or amend any information stated in this procedure without prior notice, as long as it complies with the Student Union Bylaws and applicable policies.

## 9. NOMINATION

### 9.1 Qualifications of Directors

Qualifications of Directors are established in the General Bylaws Section 6.4.

### 9.2 Additional Requirements of Directors

A Person can only be nominated, elected, appointed or otherwise serve (or continue to serve) as a Director if that person is a member of the associated Faculty. The Graduate Studies Director must be a graduate student at The University.

### 9.3 Qualifications of Executive

Qualifications of Executive are established in the General Bylaws Section 11.3.

### 9.4 Nomination Rules

Nomination Rules are established in the General Bylaws Section 13.2.

### 9.5 Eligibility Requirements

For a nomination to be considered valid, an eligible nominee must:

- 9.5.1 Not have been impeached from the OTSU Board or Executive,
- 9.5.2 Not have been disqualified from an OTSU General or By-Elections in the last three years,
- 9.5.3 Not have been disqualified from an OTSU Student Society Elections in the last three years,
- 9.5.4 Attend at least one All-Candidates Meeting before being eligible to run in a given elections or send a registered delegate to attend at least one All-Candidates Meeting,
- 9.5.5 Attend all OTSU Board of Directors Training and other training as determined by the Executive Director before they commence their first term,
- 9.5.6 Provide documentation verifying that the Candidate is in Clear Academic Standing, and
- 9.5.7 Submit a criminal background check, upon request.
- 9.5.8 For the VP of Downtown position, candidates must belong to a Faculty residing downtown. This includes, but may not be limited to: The Faculty of Social Science and Humanities and the Education Faculty.

## 9.6 Knowledge Requirements

All nominees are expected to understand and abide by:

- All OTSU Bylaws and Policies,
- All OTSU Bylaws, Policies, and Residence Policies,
- OTSU Student Code of Conduct,
- The Ontario Human Rights Code, and
- All Federal, Provincial, and Municipal laws.

## 9.7 Leave of Absence

No employee or elected official of the OTSU may be a candidate or participate in the General Elections. If an employee or elected official wishes to run in the elections or work in an elections campaign, they must take a Leave of Absence beginning at the start of the campaign period until elections results are released.

9.7.1 At the discretion of the CRO, under extenuating circumstances, certain job duties of an OTSU employee, volunteer, or elected official may be approved that if otherwise not performed would have a negative impact on the organization.

With the approval of the CRO, exemptions may include, but are not limited to, participating in non-election related activities such as attending OTSU events, tabling, or collaborating on team projects.

# 10. CAMPAIGNING

## 10.1 Campaign Period

In-person Campaigning is only permitted during the designated Campaign Period as established by the Board. For this, the following activities constitute in-person campaigning:

- The distribution, posting, or publication of any Campaign Materials,
- Public appearances or speeches related to the elections,
- Posting campaign materials on digital media (digital campaign materials which have been posted during the campaign period may remain posted after the end of the campaign period, but they cannot be amended, reposted, or otherwise republished after the end of the campaign period – no changes can be made during the voting period.

Campaign Materials are strictly prohibited from being posted or published before the start of the Campaign Period. Any Campaign Materials posted during the designated Campaign Period can remain until the close of the Voting Period.

Activities related to collecting nominations during the nomination period will not be considered campaigning.

## 10.2 Campaign Locations

The following locations are considered off-limits for campaigning:

- Libraries,
- Durham College space,
- Study space,
- Faculty offices,
- Gym/CRWC,
- Third-Party Venues,
- Classrooms or lecture halls, or
- Bathrooms

### 10.3 **Classroom Talks**

Candidates are permitted to address a class of students provided they obtained permission from the professor in writing. A copy of this approval must be sent to the CRO before the Candidate addresses a class.

### 10.4 **Slates**

Slating as defined in 3.16 is not permitted.

The penalties for slating are outlined below:

10.4.1 Intentional Slating: 10 demerit points

10.4.2 Unintentional Slating: 7 demerit points

### 10.5 **Campaign Delegates**

Each qualified Candidate is permitted to formally appoint Eligible Voting Members to serve as Campaign Delegates. Delegates are considered an extension of the Candidate. All Delegates shall be registered with the Elections Office. Candidates will be held responsible for the actions of their Delegates.

Delegates are subject to the following limitations:

- Delegates can only be registered to one campaign at a time
- There is no limit to the number of delegates registered to a Candidate
- Candidates can only coordinate campaign activity with registered Delegates

If any individual who is not registered as a Campaign Delegate is found to be consistently Campaigning for a Candidate, and where said candidate ought to have reasonably known about the actions of this individual but did not exercise due diligence in cautioning them about the potential consequences, said Candidate may face penalties at the discretion of the CRO.

## 11. **CAMPAIGN MATERIAL**

### 11.1 **Campaign Material Requirements**

The CRO must approve all Campaign Materials which are to be posted on Ontario Tech University and Ontario Tech Student Union property. Campaign Materials must be approved prior to the approval deadline. Campaign Materials cannot promote unlawful behaviour.

### 11.2 **Poster Policy**

Posters **MUST** include:

- The Candidates full name, as it is to appear on the ballot,
- The full title of the position that the Candidate has been nominated for,
- The dates of the voting period, and
- The OTSU poster approval sticker.

Posters **MUST NOT** include:

- Any mark insinuating a Candidate is formally associated with Ontario Tech University or Durham College,
- Any Copyrighted material, or
- Any material that could reasonably be considered upsetting, insulting, or objectionable to some or most people.

Posters must be removed within two (2) business days after the end of the Voting Period. Candidates are responsible for the removal of posters.

### 11.3 **Displaying Campaign Materials**

Candidates can only post materials in accordance with Ontario Tech University Policy. Posters must be put up with white “sticky tack” which will be provided to Candidates. Materials cannot obstruct windows, doorways or other posted materials. Candidates can only distribute Campaign Materials in valid Campaign Locations.

Candidates will be required to pay for any expense associated with removing posters or other campaign material. For Candidates whose posters go missing or are vandalized, the CRO can grant a replacement number of posters equal to the number missing upon confirmation.

### 11.4 **Social Media Policy**

Candidates are allowed to utilize social media websites to promote their campaign. The following restrictions apply:

- 11.4.1 Candidates are permitted to create a unique public page to support their elections or utilize an existing social media account. Links to all accounts used for campaign purposes must be submitted to the CRO by email prior to being used,
- 11.4.2 Candidates are permitted to advertise through social media websites. All costs associated with social media advertising must be accounted for on the Campaign Expense Form,
- 11.4.3 Candidates cannot send unsolicited e-mails or unsolicited private messages about their campaign,
- 11.4.4 Any social media campaign posts must be made public and cannot be posted on private pages, and
- 11.4.5 Social media must not include any copyrighted material or material that could be reasonably upsetting, insulting, or objectionable to some or most people.

Candidates may utilize social media websites to promote their campaign. Social media campaigning is permitted during the campaign period.

## 12. **ENDORSEMENTS**

### 12.1 **Seeking Endorsements**

Endorsements, real or apparent, are strictly prohibited. Candidates cannot benefit from the resources of Student Clubs, Student Societies, or OTSU Staff and Administration.

Candidates are not permitted to solicit The University or College services, staff, or administration to campaign on their behalf or promote their elections.

Any consistent third-party solicitation or involvement can result in disqualification.

## 13. **CAMPAIGN FINANCING**

### 13.1 **Budget**

Candidates are permitted to spend up to:

- \$50 for Directorial Candidates
- \$150 for Vice Presidential Candidates
- \$200 for Presidential Candidates

Candidates must abide by the Elections Financial Guidelines as set out in the Campaign Package.

Candidates are required to track their campaign expenses on the Reimbursement of Funds form with original receipts. Candidates shall submit a completed Reimbursement of Funds form to the CRO by the end of the voting period. Candidates shall be reimbursed, up to the approved spending limit, after the CRO has audited the Campaign Expense Form. Candidates who fail to submit a form, or submit a form after the deadline, will not be reimbursed. Candidate expenses may become public. Candidates are not to exceed their budget and must report all expenses.

#### 13.2 **Campaign Donations**

Campaign Donations are strictly prohibited.

### 14. **VOTING**

#### 14.1 **Integrity of Electronic Voting**

The OTSU shall provide each Eligible Voting Member with a secret electronic ballot. The ballot will list the names of each Candidate in alphabetical order by first name.

The OTSU shall provide an official report to members after the close of the Voting Period ensuring the integrity of the electronic voting process.

#### 14.2 **Voting Abuse**

Candidates are required to uphold the integrity of the Electronic Voting process. The following activities constitute Electronic Voting Abuse:

- 14.2.1 Efforts by candidates or delegates to influence voters by holding parties or social events where individuals are encouraged to vote on the premises,
- 14.2.2 Offering favours or gifts in exchange for votes,
- 14.2.3 Pressuring individuals to vote in the presence of a candidate, or
- 14.2.4 Bringing the means of electronic voting to a voter.

#### 14.3 **Declaring a Winner**

A candidate will be deemed the winner of the position if they have received the largest number of votes for the position. In the event that more than one candidate receives the highest number of votes, the winner will be decided through a runoff elections for the undecided position within a reasonable time-frame. The following guidelines apply:

- 14.3.1 The run-off will only be for the two individuals who have tied,
- 14.3.2 The run-off will not last longer than two days and will consist only of a voting period,
- 14.3.3 Voting will be conducted electronically,
- 14.3.4 Should this vote also result in a tie, the Elections Committee will determine the winner, to be approved by the Board.

### 15. **NON-COMPLIANCE IMPLICATIONS**

#### 15.1 **Disqualification**

Violations of the following nature will result in the disqualification of a Candidate and/or will render the elections result void:

- 15.1.1 A candidate receiving greater than 100 percent of the allowable demerit point limit, as follows:
  - Executive Candidates: 20 Demerit Points
  - Director Candidates: 20 Demerit Points

15.1.2 Solicitation of Ontario Tech University or Durham College Administration to interfere in the Elections Process. Solicitation includes, but is not limited to, actions that encourage Ontario Tech University or Durham College Administration to apply pressure on the CRO or Elections Committee, interference in the voting or ballot counting process, withholding vital elections documents, and withholding Student Union funds.

15.1.3 Consistent third-party involvement.

## 15.2 **Nomination Void**

Violations of the following nature will result in the election results or nominations being voided:

15.2.1 Anyone improperly declared an eligible candidate,

15.2.2 Failure to attend the All-Candidates meeting without giving the CRO an adequate reason 24 hours before the scheduled All-Candidates Meeting.

In the event a winning Candidate is disqualified the results of the elections will be void and the runner-up with the highest number of votes will be declared the winner.

## 15.3 **Reporting Violations**

A complaint shall be prepared and signed by the complainant(s) using the Campaign Violation Form. All incidents of violence shall be immediately reported to Campus Security. The complaint shall summarize the details of the alleged violation, and provide relevant evidence. The information so provided will be held in confidence in so far as it can be allowed by the process.

Candidates shall avoid making frivolous or vexatious complaints. Complaints against a candidate are permitted up to 24 hours after the close of Voting Period. Election results will not be published until all campaign violation reports have been resolved and will not be published for at least 24 hours after the close of the voting period.

The election results are not, in themselves, subject to appeal.

## 15.4 **Investigation of Complaints**

Upon receipt of a complaint, the CRO will investigate the matter and effect a timely and appropriate response. As part of this review, the CRO may interview the complainant and the candidate whose conduct is being questioned as well as any witnesses to the incident. The candidate whose conduct is being questioned shall be advised of the details of the complaint and be given the opportunity to respond. They shall not be present when the CRO interviews the complainant and any witnesses.

The CRO may decide that the complaint is frivolous or vexatious on its face and therefore there is no basis to proceed further with the complaint.

On completion of an investigation, the CRO shall provide the candidate whose conduct is in question with a written summary of the complaint and the details of the investigation, along with any penalties.

## 15.5 **Resolution of Complaints**

The CRO shall evaluate the merits of a reported violation and decide within 24 hours of the end of the investigation. The CRO shall base their decision on a balance of probabilities: one party's case need only be more probable than the other. In the occurrence that the evidence is evenly balanced (or no evidence has been provided) the CRO shall rule on behalf of the candidate whose conduct is being questioned. The burden of proof is with the complainant.

Where the CRO finds there has been a violation of the Nomination and Elections Policy by a Candidate or a Campaign Delegate, the CRO may impose a penalty or instruct the candidate to comply with a course of action to resolve the complaint.

## 15.6 **Transparency Surrounding Campaign Violation Form Submissions and Decisions**

Campaign Violation Forms and the resulting Decisions on such violations shall be published on the OTSU Elections



webpage. The nature of the decision (i.e., whether or not evidence for the complaint met the standard of proof) will feature prominently wherever the campaign violation is cited. Campaign Violation Forms, supporting evidence, and/or Decisions may be redacted by the CRO before publishing to ensure confidentiality regarding people involved in the case. Names of candidates and/or their delegates, however, shall not be redacted

## 15.7 Penalties for Violations

The CRO may impose the following penalties to any Candidate who has been found to have committed a campaign violation:

15.7.1 Assign a demerit point penalty up to the maximum for a given violation,

15.7.2 Assign multiple penalties where the violation encompasses more than one offence,

SECTION	ELECTIONS VIOLATION	DEMERIT POINTS
Policy - 2.1.2	Spreading falsehoods/misrepresentation of facts	7
Policy - 2.1.2	Relying on resources unavailable to all candidates	10
Policy - 2.2	Personal attacks	10
Policy - 2.2	Campaigning in bad faith	4
Procedure - 9.6	Unlawful behaviour during elections	20
Procedure - 9.7.1	Engaging in election-related activities during work or volunteer hours at the OTSU	10
Procedure - 9.7.1	Failure to request an approval from CRO to engage in OTSU-related activities	4
Procedure - 10.1	Campaigning before campaign period	10
Procedure - 10.1	Campaigning after campaign period	7
Procedure - 10.1	Campaigning during voting period	20
Procedure - 10.2	Campaigning in an unauthorized location	4
Procedure - 10.3	Addressing a class without permission	5
Procedure - 10.4.1	Intentional Slating	10
Procedure - 10.4.2	Unintentional Slating	7
Procedure - 10.5	Failure to register campaign delegate	4 (per delegate)
Procedure - 11.1	Posting unapproved campaign material	7
Procedure - 11.3	Displaying materials in unauthorized location	2 (per location)
Procedure - 11.3	Improper distribution of campaign materials	5
Procedure - 11.4	Violating social media policy	5
Procedure - 11.4.1	Failure to report social media account	7 (per account)
Procedure - 12.1	Seeking endorsements	7
Procedure - 13.1	Failure to disclose spending	1 (per dollar not disclosed)
Procedure - 13.1	Overspending	1 (per \$10 spent over budget)
Procedure - 14.2	Abuse of Electronic Voting	10
Procedure - 14.1	Multiple frivolous or vexatious complaints	4
Procedure - 15.4	Failure to comply with the CRO's resolution	10

- 15.7.3 Disqualify a Candidate, or
- 15.7.4 Declare than the elections of a Candidate be ruled void.

15.8 **Schedule of Penalties**

Demerit points are assessed on, but not limited to, the following basis:  
(Sections can be found in the OTSU Elections Policy and OTSU Elections Procedure)

**16. APPEALS**

The decisions of the CRO may be appealed to the Elections Committee. The candidate will be given 48 hours to provide new evidence and submit a letter of appeal after the CRO has issued a decision or after the Elections Results have been announced. The decision of the Elections Committee shall be binding, and no further appeal will be accepted.

**17. RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND DIRECTIVES**

- Ontario Tech Student Union Governing Bylaws, Policies and Procedures
- Ontario Tech Student Code of Conduct
- The Not-for-profit Corporations Act
- The Ontario Human Rights Code, and
- All Federal, Provincial, and Municipal laws.