



Dalhousie Student Union Building | 6136 University Avenue  
PO Box 15000 | Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4R2  
T 902.494.2140 F 902.494.5185 dsu.ca • @dalstudentunion

## Campaign Information and Rules

Winter 2024

DSU Winter General Elections March 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Hello!

Greetings and welcome to the All-Candidates Session! If you've found yourself here, you're likely one of the candidates for the upcoming DSU Election. I'm Abhiroop Yerramilli, serving as the Chief Returning Officer for this election. Please consider me your go-to person for any queries or worries regarding the election process. Congratulations to all candidates for taking this step toward student governance.

Student governance hinges on passionate student leaders like you, aiming to create a positive experience for everyone. As you map out your campaign, take a moment to reflect on your motivations for joining the election and how you can best carry out the responsibilities that come with these roles.

Before we embark on the campaigning period, I extend my best wishes to all of you. Given the shift back to in-person learning, this election may present some unique aspects compared to previous ones. I'm here to support you in understanding the regulations and processes during this transition.

Within this document, you'll find a concise overview of the crucial sections of DSU policy that bear significance in the upcoming election. It also includes guidance on my interpretation of the policy, including how I plan to handle matters related to social media usage and instances of harassment. Additionally, you'll find a breakdown of the election timeline and the procedure for challenging any decisions made by the CRO or Elections Committee during the election.

In my role as the CRO, I am committed to fostering an environment where students can freely exercise their democratic rights. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Open communication is key, so feel free to reach out to me for any clarifications about the process or policy. Addressing concerns upfront will facilitate a smoother process for all.

You can reach me at dsucro@dal.ca. If you'd like, we can arrange a face-to-face or virtual meeting. Just drop me an email, and we can organize a discussion to address any concerns that may require more detailed attention.

Best regards,

Abhiroop Yerramilli

DSU Chief Returning Officer

## Important Rules for the 2024 Winter General Election

DSU Elections are governed by the following documents:

- [DSU Bylaw 9 – Please scroll to Bylaw 9](#)
- [Elections Policy](#)
- [Campaign Information and Rules](#) (this document)

Candidates must thoroughly examine the aforementioned documents. Failure to read the regulations or unawareness of any policy will not serve as a valid excuse for not complying with these guidelines. Below is a summarized compilation of the most pertinent regulations for the campaigning process. **Please be aware that this list serves only as a reference, and some aspects of the policy may not be restated exactly.**

Governing Document Section	Rule
DSU Bylaw 9	
9.4 (d)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CRO shall receive, investigate, and render decisions regarding complaints during elections and referenda.</li></ul>
9.5 (g)(v)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The election committee shall decide on appeals to any decisions made by the CRO.</li></ul>
9.5 (g)(v)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The election committee has the power to void any election result in the event of an egregious breach of the Bylaw or policies</li></ul>
9.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This section of the policy is outdated, there is no “elections appeal committee” and appeals of EC decisions will be handled by the Judicial Board as per the DSU Judicial Board Policy and the Elections and Referenda Policy.</li></ul>
Referenda & Elections Policy	
Definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Campaigning: advertising by any medium designed to influence voters.</li></ul>
Section 8.1.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All members of the DSU are subject to the Dalhousie University Code of Conduct. Offences against persons and/or property as defined in the Student Code of Conduct are strictly prohibited.</li></ul>
Section 8.1.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No campaign may engage in libel, nor distribute material which could be construed as slanderous towards an opponent.</li></ul>

Section 8.1.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any new interpretation or clarification of elections rules by the Elections Committee that occurs during the Campaigning Period must be noticed to all candidates and spokespersons within twenty-four hours of being ruled on. The ruling will come into effect once all campaigns have been notified.</li> </ul>
Section 8.1.10 & 8.1.10.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accommodations for candidates and spokespersons may be made in accordance with the steps outlined in the Accommodations Policy. For the purposes of Elections and Referenda, the CRO will be considered the 'Supervisor.'</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accommodations must not provide an advantage and must not violate any substantial rules outlined by the Elections committee or DSU Policies.</li> </ul>
Section 8.2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Until the Voting Period starts, a candidate may withdraw their nomination form and have their name removed from the election. Upon submitting written declaration of withdrawal to the CRO, the candidate must meet with the CRO at the first possible opportunity to sign a declaration of withdrawal in their presence.</li> </ul>
Section 8.3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No campaigning of any medium may take place outside of the Campaigning Period.</li> <li>Please refer to the Elections Timeline. For the Winter 2024 General Election, the Campaign Period is March 4th @ 8 AM - March 13th @ 8 PM.</li> <li>Campaigning begins at 8:00 am AST for the Winter 2024 General Election.</li> </ul>
Section 8.3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Campaigns must not accept offers from societies or external organizations. Offers include but are not limited to donated goods, funds, and/or services.</li> </ul>
Sections 8.3.6 & 8.3.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There must be no campaigning of any kind at any of the University libraries, on-campus bars, or residences except where the Elections Committee is holding an official event.</li> <li>Campaigning must be restricted to Dalhousie University campuses. Public sidewalks adjoining campus buildings are considered for the purposes of this policy to be a part of the University</li> </ul>

Section 8.3.11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Candidates and spokespersons must not endorse one another, run in a slate, or campaign together except where the elections committee is holding an official event.</li> </ul>
Section 8.3.12	<p>Rules about campaign expenditures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) All candidates and spokespersons are permitted a total campaign value of two hundred dollars (\$200.00), excluding the cost of printing official posters. The specific guidelines relevant to campaign expenditures can be found in Appendix IV of this policy, to which all campaigns are subject.</li> </ul>
Section 8.4.5	<p>Should a tie occur for any position, a run-off election must be held between the tied candidates. The timeline for the run-off must be as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Nominations must not be reopened.</li> <li>b) The Campaigning period must begin no later than (2) school days after the announcement of the Election Period for the run-off election and extend no more than five (5) days.</li> <li>c) The Voting Period must be two (2) school days and follow all guidelines of a regular Voting Period as provisioned in this policy.</li> </ul>
Section 8.4.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should a candidate for any position run unopposed there will be a yes/no option after the candidate's name on the ballot</li> </ul>
Section 8.4.11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Electronic balloting provides opportunity for abuse, intended or not, by voters, candidates, campaign workers, and spokespersons. Abuse of electronic balloting includes, but is not limited to the following types of action:</li> <li>Efforts by candidates, spokespersons, or campaign workers to influence voters by holding social events at which members are encouraged to vote on the premises.</li> <li>Offering favours or gifts in exchange for votes.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pressuring members to vote in the presence of a candidate, spokesperson, campaign workers, or any other member.</li> <li>Bringing the means of electronic voting to a member.</li> </ul>

<p>Section 9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All candidates and spokespersons are solely responsible for their actions and those of their campaign workers and are liable for non-refundable fines according to Appendix IV of this policy.</li> <li>• The CRO will have the authority to enforce the provisions of this policy except in the case of an appeal.</li> <li>• The Elections Committee may lay charges of violations of its own volition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Should the Elections Committee find there has been an egregious violation it may:</li> <li>b) Declare that the election in its entirety, the election of a specific position, or the election of a specific candidate be voided.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Charges of violation against any campaign may be submitted in writing (by email) to the CRO who must contact the candidate or spokesperson which leads that campaign within twenty-four (24) hours to notify them of their right to appeal. The CRO must rule on the charge within two (2) days of receiving it.</li> <li>• a) The CRO must notify the candidate or spokesperson on the status of a charge immediately after ruling on that charge.</li> <li>• Appeals against charges of violation levied by the CRO must be made in writing to the Elections Committee within forty-eight (48) hours of the CRO's ruling on that charge. The Elections Committee must meet to discuss any appeals against charges of violation and decide no later than two (2) days after receiving an appeal on the appropriate action(s) to be taken. The Elections Committee must notify the CRO and the candidate or spokesperson who submitted the appeal immediately after ruling on the appeal.</li> <li>• Appeals against a ruling levied by the Elections Committee must be submitted in writing to the Judicial Board within two (2) days of the candidate or spokesperson being informed of the ruling. The Judicial Board will then investigate and return their findings.</li> <li>• Decisions to disqualify a campaign must not be made known to any party during the Voting Period. If a ruling to disqualify is made during the Campaigning Period, the candidate or spokesperson which leads that campaign must be notified immediately. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Should a winning candidate be disqualified after the Voting Period has ended, the position for which that candidate was running must be brought to by-election.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CRO must publish an updated list of all offenses, except those that result in disqualification, outside of the designated DSU Elections Office (given that there is no DSU Elections Office, violations will be on the DSU website)</li> <li>• A candidate or spokesperson is deemed to be informed of an Elections Committee ruling six (6) business hours after the ruling is emailed.</li> </ul>
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Section 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any member may challenge the validity of election, referendum, or recount results in a written submission to the Elections Committee no later than two (2) school days of the end of the Voting Period.</li> <li>• Written submissions appealing election, referendum, or recount results must contain the appellant's full name, student number, contact information, and signature, as well as a detailed explanation of the reason(s) for challenging the results.</li> <li>• The Elections Committee must investigate the appeal and rule on the appropriate action(s) within one (1) week of the submission.</li> <li>• Should a member challenge the ruling of an Elections Committee investigation into the validity of an election, referendum or recount result, the member may submit a petition to the Judicial Board to review the Elections Committee's findings within one (1) week of the Elections Committee's initial ruling.</li> <li>• No record of the vote for an election or referendum may be destroyed until thirty (30) days after the end of the Voting Period.</li> <li>• Should no appeals occur, the Unofficial Results of any election and/or referenda will automatically become Official Results two (2) days after the end of the Voting Period.</li> <li>• Should an appeal occur, the Unofficial Results of any election and/or referenda will automatically become Official Results two (2) days after the last ruling on the matter is made and verified by the CRO. Once the elections and/or referenda results are made official any challenges of the results must be made in accordance with the DSU Bylaws</li> </ul>
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<p>Section 13 – Appendix II.I</p>	<p><b>Poster Regulations</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It will be the responsibility of the CRO and Elections Committee to secure poster display space in as many University buildings as possible.</li> <li>2. Poster display spaces secured by the CRO, and Elections Committee must house one (1) poster per campaign. These posters must be distributed equally and when possible, grouped by position.</li> <li>3. Posters not approved and posted by the CRO, and Elections Committee must not be displayed by any campaign in any location.</li> <li>4. It will be the responsibility of the CRO and Elections Committee to obtain, approve, print, and display campaign posters, of a maximum size determined by the Elections Committee and communicated during the All-Candidates Meeting.</li> <li>5. Posters that have been vandalized or damaged will be replaced by the Elections Committee as soon as possible. Notice of damaged posters may be given to the CRO who must replace them within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving the notice.</li> <li>6. The Elections Committee will make regular rounds to inspect posters.</li> <li>7. All posters must be taken down by the Elections Committee no earlier than the end of the Voting Period.</li> <li>8. Campaigns must submit electronic copies of their posters to the CRO for approval and printing no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the</li> </ol>
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<p>Section 13 – Appendix II.II</p>	<p><b>Other Forms of Campaigning</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advertisements placed in The Dalhousie Gazette, or The Sextant are subject to limitations by those publications.</li> <li>2. Campaign displays and tabling within the DSU must be booked with the DSU Meetings and Events Manager and with the Facilities Manager of any non DSU buildings. All display and tabling approvals must be submitted to the CRO for verification.</li> <li>3. The use of any physical campaign materials including posters within classrooms is not permitted.</li> <li>4. Verbal campaigning in classrooms is permitted when express written permission is given to a campaign by the presiding faculty member. All class talks must be verified by the CRO before they occur by presenting a faculty member's note of permission to the CRO.</li> <li>5. Campaigns must distribute handbills directly to members.</li> <li>6. Campaigns must submit electronic copies of their posters to the CRO for approval no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the Nomination Period has ended.</li> <li>7. Handbills must be no larger than 4.25 inches and 5.5 inches in size.</li> <li>8. Campaigns are responsible for printing and distributing their own handbills.</li> <li>9. The use of Union or University facilities not available to all campaigns is not permitted.</li> <li>10. This includes, but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DSU branding and logos.</li> <li>• DSU television screens.</li> <li>• University branding, logos, footage, and 'tiger mascot' costume.</li> <li>• The facilities of the offices of the DSU or any society under its jurisdiction and any resources or promotional materials owned by the DSU and its societies. This includes, but is not limited to society funds, websites, email accounts, and/or distribution lists.</li> </ul> </li> <li>11. The use of stickers is not permitted.</li> <li>12. Only water-soluble chalk may be used for chalking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chalking within ten (10) feet of doors is prohibited.</li> <li>• Chalking on vertical surfaces or buildings is prohibited.</li> <li>• Chalking on any recreational or athletic field is prohibited.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
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Section 13 – Appendix II.III	<p><b>Media Regulations</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All forms of media may be used during the Campaigning Period except where explicitly prohibited by the Elections Committee and noticed during the All-Candidates Meeting.</li> <li>2. Any additional media platforms not listed below must be used in accordance with the spirit of this section of the policy.</li> <li>3. All personal accounts of candidates, spokespersons, and/or campaign workers that are used for the purposes of campaigning during the Campaigning Period must be public.</li> <li>4. Media pages and groups may remain live after the end of the Campaigning Period, but campaigns must not make further posts or accept more followers. Campaigns must not send any further messages.</li> </ol>																												
Section – Appendix III	<p>14. Appendix III: Offenses and Fines Table</p> <table> <tr> <th>Offense</th><th>Fine</th></tr> <tr> <td>Poster located outside of the Elections Committee poster display area</td><td>\$5.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Prohibited displays</td><td>\$20.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Pre/post Campaigning Period campaigning</td><td>\$20.00/incident</td></tr> <tr> <td>Email violations *1 incident refers to 100 emails</td><td>\$20.00/incident</td></tr> <tr> <td>Use of prohibited DSU or Dalhousie resources</td><td>\$50.00/incident</td></tr> <tr> <td>Additional violations according to Sections 2.3 and 9, and/or Appendix II of this policy</td><td>Up to \$50.00/incident at the discretion of the CRO</td></tr> <tr> <td>Non-attendance of the All Candidates Meeting or Anti-Oppression Training Session</td><td>Rejection of nomination at discretion of Elections Committee</td></tr> <tr> <td>Failure of a VPFO candidate to submit a completed technical questionnaire.</td><td>Rejection of nomination</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tampering with the Elections Committee poster display area</td><td>Automatic disqualification</td></tr> <tr> <td>Spending over the maximum \$200.00 campaign expenditure</td><td>Automatic disqualification</td></tr> <tr> <td>Accruing more than \$100.00 in fines</td><td>Automatic disqualification</td></tr> <tr> <td>Attempted interference with the voting process</td><td>Automatic disqualification</td></tr> <tr> <td>Slandorous statements, harassment, discriminatory behaviour, violation of the Dalhousie Student Code of Conduct, and/or violations of law.</td><td>Automatic disqualification</td></tr> </table>	Offense	Fine	Poster located outside of the Elections Committee poster display area	\$5.00	Prohibited displays	\$20.00	Pre/post Campaigning Period campaigning	\$20.00/incident	Email violations *1 incident refers to 100 emails	\$20.00/incident	Use of prohibited DSU or Dalhousie resources	\$50.00/incident	Additional violations according to Sections 2.3 and 9, and/or Appendix II of this policy	Up to \$50.00/incident at the discretion of the CRO	Non-attendance of the All Candidates Meeting or Anti-Oppression Training Session	Rejection of nomination at discretion of Elections Committee	Failure of a VPFO candidate to submit a completed technical questionnaire.	Rejection of nomination	Tampering with the Elections Committee poster display area	Automatic disqualification	Spending over the maximum \$200.00 campaign expenditure	Automatic disqualification	Accruing more than \$100.00 in fines	Automatic disqualification	Attempted interference with the voting process	Automatic disqualification	Slandorous statements, harassment, discriminatory behaviour, violation of the Dalhousie Student Code of Conduct, and/or violations of law.	Automatic disqualification
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<p>Section – 15 Appendix IV</p>	<p>Appendix IV: Campaign Expenditures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No campaign may exceed a total expenditure of two hundred dollars (\$200.00), including any fines levied by the CRO or Elections Committee.</li> <li>2. The Vice President Finance and Operations may provide each campaign an advance equal to the amount specific in their application for the purposes of facilitating their campaign. Applications for advances must be submitted in writing to the VPFO no later than one (1) week prior to the start of the Campaigning Period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should a campaign have unused funds they must return those funds to the VPFO within one (1) week of the end of the Elections Period.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. No campaign may receive discounts that are not available to all members.</li> <li>4. Any in-kind good or service given to a campaign will be assigned a 'market value' price as determined by the Elections Committee and included in the total expenditure for that campaign. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goods and/or professional skills belonging to a candidate, spokesperson, or campaign worker are exempt from this regulation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. An itemized account of all campaign expenditures must be submitted to the Vice-President Finance and Operations within twenty-four (24) hours of the</li> </ol>
	<p>close of the Elections Period. These accounts must include a written receipt or bill for each separate item, signed by a candidate or spokesperson.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. All campaigns that received more than twenty percent (20%) of the vote in an election with two (2) or less candidates or more than ten percent (10%) of the vote in an election with three (3) or more candidates may be reimbursed for campaign expenditure up to two hundred dollars (\$200.00). The itemized account provisioned above in Section 15.5 must be submitted to the Vice President Finance and Operations within the twenty-four (24) hour deadline for a candidate or spokesperson to receive their reimbursement.</li> <li>7. Any fines levied by the CRO or Elections Committee to a campaign may be deducted from that campaign's two hundred-dollar (\$200.00) expenditure total.</li> </ol> <p>Should the addition of levied fines to a campaign's expenditure total result in that campaign exceeding the expenditure total, the Elections Committee will determine if those fines must be owed to the DSU according to the</p>

	seriousness of the offenses. Any fines must be collected by the Vice-President Finance and Operations within one (1) week following the end of the Elections Period.
Additional Guidance	
Definitions	<p>Definitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coarse language includes profanity, threats, slurs, sexual references, or sexual innuendo. For greater clarity, references to issues of sexual health are not considered coarse language but making direct references to the act of the coitus when not in relation to sexual health is.</li> <li>• Harassment is guided by the Dalhousie University Student Code of Conduct and any other relevant university policy.</li> <li>• Outside parties means any organization apart from the DSU or Dalhousie University</li> <li>• The entirety of all University libraries is considered to be any university libraries listed on the Dalhousie Libraries website except for the Killam Atrium.</li> </ul>
General Rules	<p>Important rules include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slanderous statements, harassment, discriminatory behaviour, violation of the Dalhousie Student Code of Conduct, and/or violations of law is immediate grounds for disqualifications.</li> <li>• Only resources that are available to all DSU members can be used.</li> <li>• Campaigns cannot use the DSU Tiger or any Dalhousie University campaign materials or slogans in the course of their campaigning.</li> <li>• Campaigns may use “DSU” in their campaign materials (ie, Candidate X for the DSU) but not “DAL”.</li> <li>• Campaigns may not campaign inside any university library, learning commons or bar.</li> <li>• Campaigns cannot accept offers from outside parties. Offers include but are not limited to donated goods, funds or services.</li> <li>• Campaigns must provide a link to the dsu.ca/elections website in the description for any Facebook page or group.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The DSU elections account that should be tagged is just the DSU (@dsu) account for the 2023/2024 year.</li> </ul>
Posters and Handbills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please submit posters and handbills as soon as possible. The longer their submission takes the more likely a delay in posting them will result.</li> <li>• Handbills cannot be distributed in classrooms or University libraries.</li> </ul>

Social Media	<p>Generally speaking, all social media posts must be viewable by the CRO or the election committee. When social media has tagging functionality, certain tags must be used (please consult the Rules for exact tags needed). Coarse language and harassment is not permitted. All platforms (even those unlisted) are subject to the spirit of the policy and the DSU Communications Policy.</p> <p>Please tag @dsu and #dsuelxn on all content</p> <p><b><u>Please review the <a href="#">DSU Communications Policy</a> for further information and guidance regarding social media use</u></b></p>
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5. Candidates, spokespersons, and campaign workers are permitted to use their personal media pages to promote voting during the Voting Period but must not refer to their campaigns.
6. All emails and media campaign materials must include:
  - A link to the DSU elections webpage.
  - The hashtag #dsuelxn **Video**

#### **Regulations**

1. Each campaign is encouraged to create a one (1) minute video that will be used on the DSU elections webpage.
2. Campaigns are permitted to make further videos but only one video may be used on the DSU elections webpage.
3. All videos must be submitted to the CRO for approval.
4. To be used on the webpage, the video must be submitted no later than the first day of the Campaigning Period.

#### **Email Regulations**

1. Campaigns must only send emails to those members who have given them their email address for campaigning purposes.
2. Members must have the option of unsubscribing from the email list by sending an email to the campaign.

#### **Facebook Regulations**

1. Campaigns may create a new Facebook page or group to use for the duration of the Campaigning Period or they may use their personal Facebook pages.
2. Campaigns may use Facebook groups or pages created for use in past DSU elections.

#### **Twitter Regulations**

1. Each campaign may create a new Twitter account to use for the duration of the Campaigning Period or they may use their personal account.

#### **Snapchat Regulations**

1. Each campaign may create a new Snapchat account to use for the duration of the Campaigning Period or they may use their personal account.
2. All snapchats must be sent to the DSU elections snapchat account including stories.

#### **Instagram Regulations**

1. Each campaign may create a new Instagram account to use for the duration of the Campaigning Period or they may use their personal account.
  - All posts and stories must tag the official DSU elections account.

## **Additional Restrictions Enacted by the Elections Committee**

### **Reddit & Discord**

- Notify the CRO if an Ask Me Anything (“AMA”) / Q&A is happening TikTok
- Same rules as Snapchat
- Pre-send TikTok’s to the CRO Social Media Advertising
- Advertising should contain all the expected hashtags as well as #ad and tagged as being a paid advertisement from the candidate’s personal or campaign page. General
- Candidates are not to communicate with any members of the Elections Committee other than the CRO at any point during the election.
- Individuals resharing campaign materials is not considered the work of a campaign worker, or spokesperson. Additionally, it is not considered an endorsement.

### **CRO Interpretations Regarding Potential social media and Harassment Issues**

Given that elections policy cannot account for all specific situations that arise during the campaign, I wanted to provide some preliminary guidance on a few key topics. Please note that these interpretations are not binding authority but simply my plans for interpreting potential issues that come up. These interpretations include the following:

- Any bios/page descriptions of your social media pages must have the DSU elections website link in them. I am not requiring candidates to have this link on every post, but all posts must tag the official DSU account and contain the hashtag #dsuelxn if the platform supports hashtags.
- A candidate and their campaign workers must not “spam” another Candidate or their campaign worker’s social media platforms and personal communication devices. Doing so will be considered harassment and will be penalized accordingly.
- Generally speaking, anything that may be considered cyber-bullying as defined in the *Intimate Images and Cyber-protection Act*, SNS 2017, c 7 will be considered to be harassment.
- Candidates and Campaign workers may use their own personal social media accounts, post messages, or change their profile and timeline picture to support a candidate during the campaign period. For the purposes of the prohibition on no post-campaign period campaigning all posts, messages, and comments made for the purposes of campaigning can remain, but no new posts pertaining to the election can be made after the conclusion of the campaign period with the exception of sharing the generic DSU voting material.
- Given that policy specifies that no further campaigning can be done after the campaign period is over, social media accounts created during the campaign may remain active when the campaign period ends but may not add any new posts, comments, or timeline photos.

Candidates and campaigns should also consult the [Communications Policy](#).

Further, given the importance regarding preventing harassment, I want to make an additional interpretation pertaining to harassment:

- While “anti-referendum X” campaigns can be run against referendums, campaigns which are expressly “anti-candidate X” campaigns against a particular candidate are prohibited. The

reason for this is that harassment will be inevitable with such campaigns and in turn go against the rules of the election.

### Campaign Expenditures

- Elections Committee has reviewed the existing policy surrounding campaign expenditures and determined that **only campaign expenditures whose primary purpose are for campaigning will be reimbursed**. Additionally, if a piece of campaign equipment (i.e., a video camera for filming) can be rented for the duration of the campaign instead of purchased by a candidate the candidate will be expected to do so. Elections Committee will be reviewing all submitted campaign expenditures to ensure they meet these requirements.

### Restricted Resources and Poster Locations

Candidates and campaigns are reminded that they are not able to use resources that would not otherwise be accessible to other candidates or campaigns. The Communications Officer has booked poster locations and their locations will be provided before the start of the campaign period. In this election, there will be no posterage allowed outside of the posters which will be displayed by the CRO and elections committee.

### The Decision and Appeal Procedure

The following procedure outlines the decision and appellate process when a decision is made. Please see the DSU Elections & Referenda Policy for more details.

1. **First level – CRO:** When I receive a charge of violation or it comes to my attention a candidate has engaged in inappropriate behavior, I will investigate the matter. This will likely involve activities such as reviewing applicable documents and contacting the alleged offender and the person laying the charge of violation. When I make my decision, I will email all involved parties of my decision. A candidate or volunteer is deemed to have been informed of the decision six business hours after the decision is made. The candidate or volunteer can appeal this decision to the election committee within 72 hours of being informed.
2. **Second level – Election Committee:** The election committee shall meet to discuss any request for an appeal and decide on appropriate actions to take. If the election committee decides to hear the appeal, **the appellate must provide written reasons to the election committee as to why they are making the appeal**. In the event the election committee wishes to hear oral reasons, the appellate must do so in respectful manner. Decisions on appeals will be determined by a majority vote and have at least three members of the committee present. A candidate or volunteer is deemed to have been informed of the election committee's decision within six business hours after the decision has been emailed. Appeals can be made to the judicial board within five days of being informed of the results of the appeal.
3. **Third level – Judicial Board:** This is the final level of appeal. Pursuant to section 12.2 of the *Judicial Board Policy* the Judicial Board can only hear appeals which have the effect of disqualifying or otherwise imposing some sanction on a candidate for election to any position of the Union, or any decision relating to any plebiscite or referendum.

## DSU Winter General Election 2024 Timeline

Event/Deadline	Date
Elections Period schedule, nomination forms, and VPFO technical questionnaires published	January 09 (at least 2 weeks before nominations open)
Final date for referenda to be approved by Council	January (17)
Deadline for Faculty-Level Societies to opt-in to electing their representative through the general election	January 23 (1 week before nominations open)
<b>Elections Period Begins; Nominations &amp; Campaign Registration Opens</b>	January 29
<b>Nominations &amp; Campaign Registrations Close;</b> deadline to submit Nomination Forms, Campaign Information Forms, and VPFO questionnaires	February 9 @ 5 PM
All Candidates Meeting & Anti-Oppression Training	February 12
Deadline to request an advance for campaign expenditures	February 14
Deadline for Appeals of the Verification of Nomination (to Elections Committee)	February 14
Deadline for Elections Committee to Render Decisions on Appeals	February 16
Reading Week	February 19-23
Deadline for campaigns to submit Candidate Questionnaires, posters, and handbills	March 1 @ 12 PM
Deadline for 1-Minute Campaign Video Submission	March 1 @ 12 PM
<b>Campaign Period Begins</b>	March 04 @ 8 AM
Voting Details Released to All Students	March 04
Debates Held	March 06-08
<b>Campaign Period Ends;</b> Deadline for Candidate to Withdraw	March 13 @ 8 PM
<b>Voting Period</b>	March 14 & 15
Unofficial Results Announced	March 16
Deadline to appeal results of referendum or election	March 19
Appeals Ruling Deadline (if applicable)	March 26
Deadline to Submit Petition to Judicial Board Regarding the Elections Committee's Ruling	March 28
Judicial Board's Ruling (if triggered)	By April 11
Official Results Announced; <b>end of Elections Period</b>	March 28;
Deadline to Submit Itemized List of Campaign Expenses	April 1 (In lieu of Good Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March)



Deadline for the Return of Unused Candidate Fees and Deadline to Submit Payment of Fines to the VPFO	4 April
Deadline for destruction of all declarations made by candidates and nominees (Community Rep); Deadline to destroy the record of the vote	April 25

\*All times listed in Atlantic Standard Time

#### Important Dates 2024

February 02 - Munro Day (University Closed)

February 19 - Nova Scotia Heritage Day (University Closed)

February 19-23 – Winter Study Break

March 29 - Good Friday, University Closed

#### **Poster Locations**

Posters will be put up by the Elections Committee. The locations for the DSU Winter General Elections 2024 will be announced prior to the start of the campaign period.