Regulations governing Senate and Board student elections

A. All-Candidates meeting

1. Prior to the start of the campaign period, candidates must attend, or send a proxy to, an All-Candidates meeting that will be held by the University Secretariat. Candidates will be informed of the date and location of the meeting at the time of nomination and the date and location will also be posted on the Secretariat’s website: www.uwo.ca/univsec. Failure to attend or send a proxy to the meeting will result in automatic disqualification.

B. Campaign rules

1. Candidates shall campaign in accordance with the rules of fair play. Breaking the rules of fair play includes, but is not limited to, libel, slander, general sabotage of the campaigns of other candidates, misrepresentation of facts, and malicious or intentional breach of the applicable regulations.

2. Candidates are responsible for their campaigns and for any and all actions undertaken by individuals or groups assisting with their campaigns.

3. The start and end dates of the campaign period are as outlined in the election schedules posted on the University Secretariat’s website. During the voting period only electronic campaigning activities are permitted.

4. All campaign activities and materials are subject to official university regulations and policies (including Codes of Conduct), as well as municipal, provincial and federal laws.

5. With respect to posters, signs, chalking, distribution of campaign materials, and canvassing, candidates are required to abide by the following:

   (a) The Board of Governor’s policy on Signage:
   http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp150.pdf

   (b) Building regulations established by the Division of Facilities Management or heads of divisions occupying buildings;

   (c) At the Affiliated University Colleges, any regulations established by the Colleges;

   (d) Within residences, any regulations established by the Division of Housing and Ancillary Services.

   It is the responsibility of candidates to familiarize themselves and their volunteers as to the various regulations in place across campus.

6. Physical campaign materials shall not be distributed to individuals without their consent.

7. Campaign materials shall not be left on vacant surfaces throughout the university (i.e. candidates may not leave campaign materials on desks in libraries, or tables in eateries etc.)

8. Campaign materials may not be distributed to any individual, residence, or apartment complex or place of business without consent expressed in writing from the building manager, business owner etc.

9. Campaign materials must be removed and disposed of within 48 hours following the close of balloting.
10. The content of campaign materials is restricted as follows:

(a) Campaign material must not contain copyrighted material or images without the consent of the copyright holder.
(b) Campaign materials must not depict images of alcohol or drug use.
(c) Campaign material must not be in contravention of the Code of Student Conduct or the Policy on Harassment/Non-Discrimination.

C. Campaign expenses

1. Candidates for Senate or Board seats will receive a maximum of $100.00 (one hundred dollars) reimbursement towards their campaign expenses upon submission of original receipts. Students running for both Senate and Board seats are eligible for a maximum $200.00 (two hundred dollars) reimbursement. Eligible expenses include printing costs, supplies (paper, pen, markers, paint etc.) to create posters, flyers or poster boards.

2. Campaign expenses in the form of original receipts, along with a reimbursement form, must be submitted to the University Secretariat’s office no later than 14 calendar days following the close of voting. The form is available from the University Secretariat.

3. Each candidate running for Board or Senate seats will have a spending limit of $200. Students running for both Senate and Board seats will have a spending limit of $400.

D. Irregularities and Violations

1. The University Secretary is the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) for Senate and Board elections.

2. If during the course of the election, it appears to any candidate or member of the student body that an irregularity has occurred, it must be reported to the CRO in writing as soon as possible, but no later than seven calendar days following the close of voting.

3. The CRO will investigate and consider any complaints that arise regarding the electoral process. All complaints will be dealt with in a timely manner.

4. The decision of the CRO in dealing with a complaint is final, unless the CRO determines that a candidate is disqualified as a result of the complaint.

5. In the event of a decision to disqualify a candidate, the candidate has a right of appeal to an ad hoc committee established as follows:

(a) For Senate elections, the ad hoc committee will consist of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Senate Operations Agenda Committee and a student Senator.
(b) For Board elections, the ad hoc committee will consist of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board’s Governance and By-laws Committee and a student Board member.

6. An appeal of the CRO’s decision to disqualify must be submitted to the University Secretary within 48 hours of the decision being communicated to the candidate.

7. The decision of the ad hoc committee hearing the appeal shall be final.

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