

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #1

Current Chapter III, Article 2, Section 2:

S2) The CRO is expected to reply within two business days outside of the election cycle, and within 24 hours during the election cycle.

Proposed Change:

S2) The CRO is expected to reply within two business days outside of the election cycle, and within 24 hours during the election cycle.

- a) **Should a response not be received in 24 hours during the election cycle, candidates are to contact the chair of the EAC at elections@vusac.ca**

Rationale:

It is important to have somewhere for candidates to go to should the CRO be unresponsive during the election period where issues are often time sensitive. The chair of the EAC is a neutral member of VUSAC, therefore they will be familiar with the elections process should questions need to be answered, and the CRO is accountable to VUSAC.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #2

Current Chapter IV, Article 5, Section 1:

S1) The VUSAC office is to be an election neutral space.

- a) Neutral spaces shall refer to physical locations where no discussion of any elections matters, postering, or any other elections business may occur.

Proposed Amendment:

S1) The VUSAC office is to be an election neutral space **throughout the entire year.**

- a) **In this setting neutrality refers to no discussions of campaigning, as defined in Article 11, Section 1a. Discussions related to the planning of the elections is permitted.**

Rationale:

To clarify that the office is always a neutral space, not just during elections. However, the previous definition of neutrality did not allow members of VUSAC to plan elections in the office or answer the questions of the VCU when on office hours.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #3

Current Chapter VII, Article 10, Section 1a:

S1) The purpose of this article is to allow returning VCU students to run in Spring Elections even if they are unable to physically be on Victoria College campus.

a) As such, this article shall only be in effect for Spring Elections and any By-Elections which arise from Spring Elections. It shall not be in effect for Fall Elections and any By-Elections which arise from Fall Elections.

Proposed Amendment:

S1) The purpose of this article is to allow returning VCU students to run in Spring Elections even if they are unable to physically be on Victoria College campus.

a) As such, this article shall only be in effect for Spring Elections ~~and any By-Elections which arise from Spring Elections~~. It shall not be in effect for Fall Elections and any By-Elections which arise from Fall Elections.

Rationale:

There are not by-elections for Spring elections as any positions unelected are elected during the fall elections.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #4

Current Chapter VII, Article 10, Section 4:

S3) Any signature collection requirement that may be outlined in the Nominations Package shall be waived for these candidates.

Proposed Amendment:

S4) Any signature collection requirement that may be outlined in the Nominations Package shall be waived for these candidates.

Rationale:

Original document was misnumbered, had section 3 twice, and then skipped to section 5. Therefore, this section is actually section 4 of article 10.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #5:

Current Chapter VII, Article 11, Section 1:

S1) Candidates are not to engage in campaigning outside of the official period, this includes pre-campaigning.

a) Campaigning includes: hanging posters, handing out campaign literature, posting on social media, verbal promotion of yourself or another candidate, publicly announcing your candidacy, and soliciting endorsements.

Proposed Amendment:

S1) Candidates are not to engage in campaigning outside of the official period, ~~this includes pre-campaigning.~~

a) Campaigning includes, **but is not limited to:** hanging posters, handing out campaign literature, posting on social media, verbal promotion of yourself or another candidate, publicly announcing your candidacy, and soliciting endorsements.

Rationale:

Regarding section 1: the inclusion of pre-campaigning is redundant as any campaigning outside the official period is considered pre-campaigning.

Regarding section 1a: Previously but unnecessary limitations on what campaigning entailed when it is consistently shifting between elections. By not limiting candidates cannot find loopholes to rules against pre-campaigning.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #6

Current Chapter VII, Article 12, Section 2:

S2) The nominations period for Fall Elections shall be a minimum of three (3) weeks

Proposed Amendment:

S2) The nominations period for **Spring** Elections shall be a minimum of three (3) weeks.

Rationale:

Previous section was a typo, section 2 refers to spring elections, not fall.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #7

Current Chapter VIII, Article 13, Section 1:

S1) All printed materials, including banners and posters, must be initialed by either the CRO or one of the following staff from the Dean's Office: the Campus Life Coordinator (CLC), Assistant Dean International and Upper Year Students (AD), or the Residence Life Coordinator (RLC).

Proposed Amendment:

S1) All printed materials, including banners and posters, must be initialed by either the CRO or one of the following staff from the Dean's Office: the Campus Life Coordinator (CLC), Assistant Dean International and Upper Year Students (AD), or the Residence Life Coordinator (RLC).

a) Candidates may also email their posters to the CRO for an electronic signature, and expect results within 24 hours of sending their poster. Only the CRO can sign posters electronically.

Rationale:

The electronic signature has proved to be a very popular mechanism for signing posters, as such I think it is useful for it to be codified in policy so that future CRO's use it as an option.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #8:

Current Chapter VIII, Article 13, Section 2:

S2) Any posters found unsigned will be taken down. One strike will be applied for every instance of this happening, but not for every individual poster involved in said instance.

Proposed Amendment:

S2) Any posters found unsigned will be taken down **by the CRO or the ACRO(s) at the CRO's direction. No one else may take down other people's posters.** One strike will be applied for every instance of this happening, but not for every individual poster involved in said instance.

Rationale:

To clarify that should a candidate or other member of the VCU see an unsigned poster they do not have permission to take it down. Rather the CRO and ACROs are the only people who are allowed to touch a candidate's poster besides the candidate themselves.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT # 9

Current Chapter VII, Article 13, Section 3ai:

S3) A poster is defined as any campaign material attached to walls, doors, or otherwise affixed to a surface. The following restrictions apply to postering:

- a) A maximum of one poster per residence floor (for RJ, MargAd, and Annesley) or house (for Upper and Lower Burwash) is allowed.
 - i) Bowles-Gandier counts as one residence house and the wall facing the east Burwash Dining Hall entrance is considered to be a part of North House

Proposed Amendment:

S3) A poster is defined as any campaign material attached to walls, doors, or otherwise affixed to a surface. The following restrictions apply to postering:

- a) A maximum of one poster per residence floor (for RJ, MargAd, and Annesley) or house (for Upper and Lower Burwash) is allowed.
 - i) Bowles-Gandier counts as one residence house. ~~and the wall facing the east Burwash Dining Hall entrance is considered to be a part of North House~~
 - ii) **Only one poster may be placed on the wall facing the east Burwash Dining Hall.**

Rationale:

There is no reason to consider that wall to be part of North House when there is quite a bit of distance between the two walls. As well, given that VUSAC posters residences for candidates it seemed to add unnecessary confusion for candidates on where they were allowed to put up posters.

We felt that it should be limited to one poster per person or else someone could put all their posters there. But as this is such an in demand space we felt it unfair that anyone could just put all 30 posters on this one wall.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #10

Current Chapter VIII, Article 13, Section 3a:

S3) A poster is defined as any campaign material attached to walls, doors, or otherwise affixed to a surface. The following restrictions apply to postering:

- a) A maximum of one poster per residence floor (for RJ, MargAd, and Annesley) or house (for Upper and Lower Burwash) is allowed.
 - i) Bowles-Gandier counts as one residence house and the wall facing the east Burwash Dining Hall entrance is considered to be a part of North House
 - ii) There will be no postering in elevators.

Proposed Amendment:

S3) A poster is defined as any campaign material attached to walls, doors, or otherwise affixed to a surface. The following restrictions apply to postering:

- a) A maximum of one poster per residence floor (for RJ, MargAd, and Annesley) or house (for Upper and Lower Burwash) is allowed.
 - i) Bowles-Gandier counts as one residence house and the wall facing the east Burwash Dining Hall entrance is considered to be a part of North House
 - ii) There will be no postering in elevators.
 - iii) The doors of Upper and Lower Burwash are included in the one poster per house count. As such, candidates are not to place posters on the doors of Upper and Lower Burwash residences.**

Rationale:

The doors are part of the residence building, as such candidates should not be able to poster there, per the other rules on postering. Additionally, this will prevent crowding of the residences with posters. This is because of issues seen in the fall elections, presumably due, in part, to a lack of clarity.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #11

Current Chapter VIII, Article 13, Section 3e:

S3) A poster is defined as any campaign material attached to walls, doors, or otherwise affixed to a surface. The following restrictions apply to postering:

- e) Posters may not be placed in the following neutral zones:
 - i) Any libraries, including Pratt and Emmanuel College
 - ii) Any dining halls, including Burwash Dining Hall
 - iii) Any offices, including the VUSAC office, Dean's office, CRO office, and CLC/RLC offices
 - iv) Any Dons' Rooms (including doors, bulletin boards)
 - v) Levy and club offices in the Goldring Student Centre
 - vii) The Cat's Eye Student Pub and Lounge
 - viii) Classrooms
 - ix) Any locations with exclusive access (such as fraternities or sororities)

Proposed Amendment:

S3) A poster is defined as any campaign material attached to walls, doors, or otherwise affixed to a surface. The following restrictions apply to postering:

- e) Posters may not be placed in the following neutral zones:
 - i) Any libraries, including Pratt and Emmanuel College
 - ii) Any dining halls, including Burwash Dining Hall
 - iii) Any offices, including the VUSAC office, Dean's office, ~~CRO office,~~ **CRC/RLC offices, inside the Registrar's office, and President's office**
 - iv) Any Dons' Rooms (including doors, bulletin boards)
 - v) Levy and club offices in the Goldring Student Centre
 - vii) The Cat's Eye Student Pub and Lounge
 - viii) Caffeinds**
 - ix) Classrooms**
 - x) Any locations with exclusive access (such as fraternities or sororities)

Rationale:

With regards to subsection eiii: the CRO no longer has an office and has not used one for many years. The Registrar's and President's offices were added in order to be completionist as they,

similar to the Dean's office, are spaces for students to conduct business outside of their campaign.

With regards to subsection eviii: Caffiends was previously not included in the list, but as it is a levy outside of the Goldring Student Centre, and not an office in the traditional sense (similar to the Cat's Eye), it must be included specifically. It has already functioned as a neutral zone in past elections.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #12

Current Chapter VIII, Article 13, Section 4:

S4) With regards to postering within residences, the CRO, in conjunction with the CLC, will arrange that VUSAC post all campaign posters in residences. VUSAC will offer two opportunities for candidates to submit their signed posters to the CRO mailbox, one of which must be directly after the All Candidates Meeting.

Proposed Amendment:

S4) With regards to postering within residences, the CRO, in conjunction with the CLC, will arrange that **all non-candidate members of VUSAC** post all campaign posters in residences. VUSAC will offer two opportunities for candidates to submit their signed posters to the CRO mailbox. **The first of these must be within one business day of the All Candidates Meeting, and both opportunities must be during business hours. ~~one of which must be directly after the All Candidates Meeting.~~**

Rationale:

Clarifying that if a current member of VUSAC is also a candidate in the election they cannot place other candidates' posters in residence as that would be a conflict of interest.

Due to the reality that the ACM is often on a Friday night, and as such the VUSAC office is closed, it is not possible for posters to be hung in residences immediately after the ACM, as a majority of candidates did use their free printing this election. Rather it makes sense to leave this to the CRO's discretion as their are often a number of different scheduling issues to factor into decisions such as when to poster.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #13

Current Chapter VIII, Article 14, Section 1a:

S1) Facebook

a) Any Facebook campaigning is to be conducted via a public Facebook “page” (as opposed to a “profile”). The *only* exception to this rule is that candidates are permitted to change their personal “profile pictures” once to advertise their candidacy and the election.

i) All candidate’s pages will be advertised on the VUSAC website and in the VUSAC elections forum.

ii) Candidates are permitted to share their page on their profile or “invite friends” to “like” the page but they are otherwise not to campaign on their personal Facebook account.

iii) The CRO, all non-candidate members of VUSAC, and any neutral parties are to either like all pages or no pages in order to maintain neutrality.

Proposed Amendments:

S1) All candidates are permitted to submit one (1) social media page to be advertised on the VUSAC website, in the VUSAC elections forum, and on the ballot.

a) All social media pages must be made exclusively for the elections, they cannot be an existing personal or professional page.

b) Only social media platforms described in Article 14 may be used.

c) The CRO may select a deadline for submission of the social media pages at their discretion.

d) Candidates are able to create more than one social media page for campaigning but only one will be advertised by the VUSAC.

S2) Facebook

a) All Facebook posts must be tagged with #VUSACElections and cannot include any “mentions” or “tags”.

i) This is true for both candidate’s posts and any endorsements from non-candidates.

b) All candidates must add the CRO Facebook as a “friend”.

i) The CRO Facebook is to only have current candidates in the election on their friend list.

- c) Neutral parties are allowed to “like” posts, but “comments” and “shares” will be interpreted as an endorsement and may result in penalties for the candidate endorsed.
 - i) While candidates are not wholly responsible for the actions of third parties, they are expected to routinely monitor their posts and appropriately address neutral parties’ endorsements within a reasonable timeline. This includes responding to CRO requests to delete rule breaking endorsements and/or to address other misdemeanours.
- d) Only the CRO Facebook profile and the official VUSAC page are allowed to post in any Facebook “groups” to promote the elections; any candidate who does so will be issued a strike and be required to delete the post.

Rationale:

Over the fall elections, the Facebook pages proved to be both controversial and a lot of work. While the committee liked the idea of having a public platform, something that members of the VCU have mentioned liking, forcing people to make a Facebook page was not the best way of doing this. It also added work for the CRO as a lot of questions were only about how to use Facebook.

By allowing candidates to create one social media page (be it website, Facebook page, instagram, etc.) exclusively for campaigning the benefits of the Facebook page still exist (a platform made public, the ability to keep personal social media’s private).

The rules of campaigning on Facebook are simplified so that all posts must include a hashtag rather than tagging the CRO.

Additionally, the CRO Facebook will now only include current candidates so as to make the news feed a place of only election posts, as well as to not have other members of the VCU be alerted of CRO activity (that is to say if the CRO likes a Facebook page for the sake of monitoring it, it will not appear as a notification and draw unfair attention to one candidate).

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #14

Current Chapter VIII, Article 14, Section 1c:

c) Only the CRO Facebook profile and the official VUSAC page are allowed to post in any Facebook “groups” to promote the elections; any candidate who does so will be issued a strike and be required to delete the post.

Proposed Amendment:

c) Only the CRO ~~Facebook profile~~ and the official VUSAC page are allowed to post in any Facebook “groups” to promote the elections; any candidate who does so will be issued a strike and be required to delete the post.

Rationale:

Unnecessary stipulation when the CRO profile has been out of use at different periods. It exists to give the CRO a separation from their personal Facebook, as such its use need not be mandated.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #15

Current Chapter VIII, Article 16, Section 1a:

S1) All Candidates Meeting

- a) To be hosted by the CRO within 5 hours of the nomination period closing.

Proposed Amendment:

S1) All Candidates Meeting

- a) To be hosted by the CRO within **twelve (12)** hours of the nomination period closing.

Rationale:

To allow slightly more leniency. Having the tight turnaround between nominations closing and the ACM proved challenging because of such a short timeline to communicate information to candidates, as well as collecting proxies and such.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #16

Current Chapter VIII, Article 16, Section 1c:

- c) Should a candidate be unable to attend they must send a proxy.
 - i) They must also provide a brief written explanation of the absence, the name of their proxy name, and their email address to the CRO via email prior to the end of the nomination period.

Proposed Amendment:

- c) Should a candidate be unable to attend they must send a proxy.
 - i) They must also provide a brief written explanation of the absence, the name of their proxy ~~name~~, and their email address to the CRO via email prior to the end of the nomination period.

Rationale:

Fix for grammar.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #17

Current Chapter VIII, Article 16, Section 2f:

f) The CRO is to set up an anonymous question submission form at least 72 hours prior to the event so that members of the VCU may ask questions anonymously.

i) The CRO reserves the right to edit any question for reasons such as:

1. misinformation; and/or
2. irrelevance; and/or or a
3. question with tone which is harmful in nature.

Proposed Amendment:

f) The CRO is to set up an anonymous question submission form at least 72 hours prior to the event so that members of the VCU may ask questions anonymously.

i) The CRO reserves the right to edit any question for reasons such as:

1. misinformation; and/or
2. irrelevance; and/or ~~or a~~
3. **a** question with tone which is harmful in nature.

Rationale:

Fix for grammar.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #18

Current Chapter VIII, Article 17:

Article 17: Candidate Statements

S1) Candidates are to submit their statements to the CRO by the deadline determined by the CRO. The deadline for submission must be during the campaigning period.

S2) All statements are to be no longer than 100 words.

S3) The CRO has the right to edit the statement for length, however they must alert the candidates of any edits made and ideally do so with enough time for the candidate to approve said edits before the statement is posted.

S4) Statements are not to include links to websites or platforms. However, the CRO will ensure all candidate Facebook pages are included in the introductory text of the voting ballot to provide VCU members to become equally informed prior to voting.

S5) Statements submitted on time must be posted on the voting ballot, the VUSAC website, and in the elections Facebook forum.

S6) Should a candidate submit their statement late it at the discretion of the CRO whether they add the statements to the website and Facebook forum, the voting ballot cannot be edited.

S7) There shall be no penalty for failure to submit a statement.

Proposed Amendment:

Article 17: Candidate Statements

S1) Candidates are to submit their statements to the CRO by the deadline determined by the CRO. The deadline for submission must be during the campaigning period.

S2) All statements are to be no longer than 100 words.

S3) The CRO has the right to edit the statement for length, however they must alert the candidates of any edits made and ideally do so with enough time for the candidate to approve said edits before the statement is posted.

S4) Statements are not to include links to websites or platforms. However, the CRO will ensure all candidate Facebook pages are included in the introductory text of the voting ballot to provide VCU members to become equally informed prior to voting.

S5) Statements submitted on time must be posted on the voting ballot, the VUSAC website, and in the elections Facebook forum.

S6) Should a candidate submit their statement late it at the discretion of the CRO whether they add the statements to the website and Facebook forum, the voting ballot cannot be edited.

S7) There shall be no penalty for failure to submit a statement.

S8) The name that appears on the ballot shall be the candidate's preferred name.

Rationale:

To ensure the name on the ballot reflects the name candidates use, as there is often discrepancies between what is on a t-card and what a person goes by.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #19

Current Chapter XI, Article 23, Section 1:

S1) Candidates shall be contacted by the CRO with results as soon as they are available. A reasonable attempt will be made to notify each candidate via email as to the results of the election before the results are made public.

Proposed Amendment:

S1) Candidates shall be contacted by the CRO with results as soon as they are available. A reasonable attempt will be made to notify each candidate via email as to the results of the election before the results are made public. **Candidates and the CRO are to keep the results secret until they are made public by the CRO.**

Rationale:

Codify an existing rule to ensure candidates and the CRO know that results cannot be discussed during the appeals period as they are subject to change still.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #20

Current Chapter XI, Article 23, Section 3:

S3) Following the 48 hour appeals period the CRO is to arrange, with the assistance of the Communications Coordinator, that results are posted on the VUSAC website, outside the VUSAC office, and on both the VUSAC facebook page and the current elections forum Facebook group.

Proposed Amendment:

S3) Following the 48 hour appeals period the CRO is to arrange, with the assistance of the Communications Coordinator, that results are posted on the VUSAC website, outside the VUSAC office, and on both the VUSAC facebook page and the current elections forum Facebook group. **The results are to be presented in plain text, with the number of votes, what percent of the VCU voted, and the percentage of the vote that each candidate received.**

Rationale:

A visual representation of votes is often seen as overemphasizing who won and lost, particularly when there are large gaps in voting.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #21

Current Chapter XII, Article 24, Section 1:

S1) The purpose of the EAC is to provide a check on all of the CRO's decisions, this includes the approval of the Nominations Package and any appeals made by candidates.

Proposed Amendment:

S1) The purpose of the EAC is to provide a check on all of the CRO's decisions, the **EAC must approve the Nominations Package and make decisions regarding any appeals made by candidates.**

Rationale:

To tighten language so that it is clear what the EAC must be called for. Previously read that it only had to meet if it was called to do by the chair, rather than having to approve the nominations package and rule on appeals.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #22

Current Chapter XIII, Article 25:

Article 25: Defining Referenda

S1) Any student group wishing to raise their student levy, or to create a new student levy, must hold a referendum open to all members of the VCU.

S2) The VUSAC may hold a referendum in order to seek the direct advice of the VCU regarding any important issues, according to the petition guidelines outlined in Article 11 of the Constitution.

S3) Referendum results shall be considered binding by the Council for results in favour of said referendum question by a two-thirds majority of at least 10% of the VCU. Results in favour of said referendum question by a simple majority (but less than 10% of the VCU) may not necessarily be considered binding by the VUSAC, upon the discretion of the Council.

Proposed Amendment:

Article 25: Defining Referendum and Plebiscite

S1) A referendum is a question posed to the VCU at large, the results of which may be binding on the actions of the VUSAC pursuant to [article about turnout].

S2) A plebiscite is a question posed to the VCU at large in order to seek their advice, the results of which may inform the actions of the VUSAC but shall not be considered binding.

S3) Any member of the VCU may submit a referendum or plebiscite question to the VUSAC Executive for presentation to the VUSAC for ratification at a council meeting in a timely manner, and in accordance with Article 26, Section 3

S4) The VUSAC may only increase or decrease a student levy or create a new student levy at the direction of a referendum.

~~**S2) The VUSAC may hold a referendum in order to seek the direct advice of the VCU regarding any important issues.**~~

~~S3) Referendum results shall be considered binding by the Council for results in favour of said referendum question by a two-thirds majority of at least 10% of the VCU. Results in favour of said referendum question by a simple majority (but less than 10% of the VCU) may not necessarily be considered binding by the VUSAC, upon the discretion of the Council.~~

Rationale:

Section 1 defines a referendum.

Section 2 defines a plebiscite, which is never binding on VUSAC.

Section 3 clarifies that any member of the VCU, not just a VUSAC member, levy head etc. may submit a referendum question.

Section 4 places a new restriction of VUSAC's power to unilaterally change student levies, we recommend that VUSAC should not be able to decrease the funds a levy organization receives without a strong mandate provided by a referendum, considering also that reducing a levy fee to \$0 effectively dissolves a levy.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #23

Current Chapter XIII, Article 26:

Article 26: Executing Referenda

S1) Referenda may be held in conjunction with VUSAC spring or fall (by)elections. In order for a referendum question to be included on a VUSAC ballot, said question must be ratified by the VUSAC.

a) The CRO shall make every effort to keep the VCU well informed of what date they need submit a question to council by in order to have a referendum question on an elections ballot.

S2) The VUSAC shall be considered responsible for all referenda, except in the case of student groups requesting an increase in their student levy (or the creation of a student levy), in which case the group in question shall be considered responsible.

S3) In the case of referenda held independently of VUSAC elections, the following guidelines shall apply:

a) The referendum question shall be presented to the Council for ratification at least fourteen (14) days prior to the referendum voting date(s).

b) The referendum voting date(s) shall be presented to the VUSAC for approval.

c) The CRO shall be the CRO hired for the VUSAC fall and/or spring elections. No additional compensation will be awarded, as the CRO duties include any ad-hoc referenda.

d) The provisions for voting shall be the same as those used in any VUSAC elections.

S4) All referendum questions shall be worded in the form of a question and shall not include any information which can be construed as either supporting or negating the said question. All questions may not exceed 150 words in length.

S5) All referendum questions regarding student levies shall clearly state:

a) The current student levy in question (where applicable) and the proposed (or created) new amount of the levy in question.

b) Whether or not the increased (or created) levy shall affect the amount of the VUSAC student levy.

c) By how much the VUSAC student levy shall increase.

d) What the existent VUSAC student levy is.

e) A “no” and a “spoil” option.

S6) All ballot counting procedures shall be followed. The referendum 'yes' side (and any existent 'no' side) may each appoint a scrutineer to survey the counting of the ballots.

S7) All accepted referendum questions regarding student levies shall come into effect as of the beginning of the first fall term following the referendum.

S8) The Dean of Students must be notified, in writing, of all increased student levies within seven (7) days of the referendum.

S9) A referendum shall be recalled if 20% or more of the cast ballots are spoiled.

Proposed Amendment:

Article 26: Executing Referenda

S1) All referenda questions must be ratified by the VUSAC and are to meet the following standards:

- a) All referendum questions shall be worded in the form of a **yes or no** question and shall not include any information which can be construed as either supporting or negating the said question, **however, impartial context on the issue may be provided**. All questions may not exceed 150 words in length.
- b) All referendum questions regarding student levies shall clearly state:
 - i) The current student levy in question (where applicable) and the proposed (or created) new amount of the levy in question.
 - ii) Whether or not the increased (or created) levy shall affect the amount of the VUSAC student levy.
 - iii) By how much the VUSAC student levy shall increase.
 - iv) What the existent VUSAC student levy is.
 - v) A “no” and a “spoil” option.

S2) Referenda may be held in conjunction with VUSAC spring or fall (by) elections. In order for a referendum question to be included on a VUSAC ballot, said question must be ratified by the VUSAC.

a) The VUSAC is to ensure the questions meet the standards of the referenda code. They are expected to act in good faith and in accordance with VUSAC’s Mission Statement, as outlined in Chapter I of the Constitution.

b) The CRO shall make every effort to keep the VCU well informed **that they must submit their question to council two weeks prior to voting opening** in order to have a referendum question on an elections ballot.

S3) The VUSAC shall be considered responsible for all referenda, except in the case of student groups requesting an increase in their student levy (or the creation of a student levy), in which case the group in question shall be considered responsible.

a) Responsibility is here defined as: coordinating with the CRO to ensure the referenda is carried out. The VUSAC is not obligated to support the passing of the referenda.

S4) In the case of referenda held independently of VUSAC elections, the following guidelines shall apply:

- a) The referendum question shall be presented to the Council for ratification at least fourteen (14) days prior to the referendum voting date(s).
- b) The referendum voting date(s) shall be presented to the VUSAC for approval.
- c) The CRO shall be the CRO hired for the VUSAC fall and/or spring elections. No additional compensation will be awarded, as the CRO duties include any ad-hoc referenda.
- d) The provisions for voting shall be the same as those used in any VUSAC elections.

S5) All ballot counting procedures shall be followed. The referendum 'yes' side (and any existent 'no' side) may each appoint a scrutineer to **ensure the fairness of the results.**

S6) Referendum results shall be considered binding by the Council for results in favour of said referendum question by a two-thirds majority of at least 10% of the VCU. Results in favour of said referendum question by a simple majority or with less than 10% of the VCU may not necessarily be considered binding by the VUSAC, upon the discretion of the Council.

S7) All accepted referendum questions regarding student levies shall come into effect as of the beginning of the first fall term following the referendum.

S8) The Dean of Students must be notified, in writing, of all increased student levies within seven (7) days of the referendum.

S9) A referendum shall be recalled if 20% or more of the cast ballots are spoiled.

S10) This article should not be construed to require neutrality on the part of VUSAC or any other parties regarding referenda. VUSAC and other parties are permitted to campaign for their desired outcome of the referendum.

Rationale:

Section 2a is added so that it is clear that it is about the fairness and validity of the question, rather than due to a stake in the potential outcome of the referenda.

Section 2b is amended to ensure that there is a specific timeline for submitting referenda questions to council.

Section 2a is added to clarify what is meant by responsibility, and that it is not the role of VUSAC to embrace the ‘yes’ side of any referenda not put forward by a student group.

Section 3 is amended to clarify that all referenda are ‘yes or no’ questions, and that context on the issue may be provided so long as it is considered neutral by the VUSAC and is still within word limit.

Section 5 was amended as there is no longer paper ballots to count, but the role of scrutineer is still important to keeping the CRO accountable.

Section 6 was taken from Article 25 and reworded to be more clear in its intent as the language was previously hard to understand. It was moved to this article because it has more to do with the execution of referenda than their definition.

Section 10 clarifies that VUSAC as a whole, individual members of VUSAC and individual members of the VCU are afforded broad rights to campaign for any outcome of a referendum as a safeguard against an undesired outcome.

Other changes have been made to multiple sections, including S1, S4 and S5 to consolidate policy regarding the VUSAC ratification of a referendum question in a single section for clarity.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #24

Current Chapter XIII, Article 27, Section 1:

S1) All referenda shall be publicized at least ten (10) days prior to the referendum voting date(s) by the group responsible for the referendum.

- a) All advertising shall include the referendum question, the voting date(s) and the locations of all polling stations.
- b) A notice shall be published in The Strand as well as all applicable listservs.
- c) Posters shall be placed on Victoria College buildings and Sidney Smith Hall.
- d) Notice of referendum shall be advertised by the VUSAC.

Proposed Amendment:

S1) All referenda shall be publicized at least ten (10) days prior to the referendum voting date(s) by the group responsible for the referendum.

- a) All advertising shall include the referendum question **and** the voting date(s) ~~and the locations of all polling stations.~~
- ~~b) A notice shall be published in The Strand as well as all applicable listservs.~~
- ~~c) Posters shall be placed on Victoria College buildings and Sidney Smith Hall.~~
- b) Notice of referendum shall be advertised by the VUSAC **using all available channels.**

Rationale:

Polling stations are no longer used in elections. With regards to the Strand and listservs, these are used inconsistently and therefore should not be mandated. This is also true for the locations of posters.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #25

Current Chapter XIV, Article 28, Section 1:

S1) The nominations package is to be finalized, through approval by the executive, at least two weeks prior to its release.

Proposed Amendment:

S1) The nominations package, **as prepared by the CRO**, is to be finalized, through approval by the executive, at least two weeks prior to its release.

Rationale:

Codify that it is the duty of the CRO to prepare the nominations package.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #26

Current Chapter XIV, Article 28, Section 3d:

S3) The nomination package must include:

d) an exhaustive overview of the rules

i) this can be a copy of the EPC or subsections of it

Proposed Amendment:

S3) The nomination package must include:

d) an exhaustive overview of the rules

i) this can be a copy of the **ERC** or subsections of it

Rationale:

Correct from original name (Elections Procedures Code).

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #27

Current Chapter XIV, Article 29, Section 1:

S1) The nominations package can be amended by the CRO without ratification so long as it still follows the EPC and constitution, but still in accordance with the above Article 27 Section 1.

Proposed Amendment:

S1) The nominations package can be amended by the CRO without ratification so long as it still follows the **ERC** and constitution, but still in accordance with the above Article 27 Section 1.

Rationale:

Correct from original name (Elections Procedures Code).

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #28

Current Chapter XV, Article 30, Section 1:

S1) The CRO must publish a report summarizing the proceedings of an election no later than two (2) weeks after its completion.

a) This report is to be sent to every member of VUSAC, every candidate in the election, and the entire EAC.

b) Additionally, it to be published on the VUSAC and advertised as such.

c) Finally, the report must be officially accepted by the VUSAC at a regular meeting where the CRO is present to answer any questions asked.

Proposed Amendment:

S1) The CRO must publish a report summarizing the proceedings of an election no later than two (2) weeks after its completion.

a) This report is to be sent to every member of **the** VUSAC, every candidate in the election, and the entire EAC.

b) Additionally, it **is** to be published on the VUSAC **website** and advertised as such.

c) Finally, the report must be officially accepted by the VUSAC at a regular meeting where the CRO is present to answer any questions asked.

Rationale:

Fixes for grammar and clarifying that the report is to be posted on the VUSAC website.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #29:

Current Chapter XV, Article 30, Section 2:

S2) These elections reports can serve in place of a traditional transition report for the incoming CRO. This does not mean the current CRO is unable to, or discouraged from, supplementing the transition with additional materials.

Proposed Amendment:

S2) These elections reports can serve in place of a traditional transition report for the incoming CRO. **The CRO is still able to supplement the transition with additional materials.**

Rationale:

Clearer language, previous use of double negative was confusing.