**Elections & Referenda Code Proposed Amendments**

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**Proposed Amendment #1**

The overall document: change Nomination Package to nomination package

**Rationale: To keep formatting consistent throughout the document**

**Proposed Amendment #2**

Current Chapter:

Chapter II, Article 1, Section 3, Subsection b

b) The CRO also has the right to propose an amendment and should they do so it is to be brought to the table immediately.

Proposed Amendment:

b) The CRO is able to move a motion to propose an amendment to the ERC and should they do so it is to be brought to the table immediately.

**Rationale: To clarify what actually the CRO can do in this exceptional circumstance**

**Proposed Amendment #3**

Current Chapter:

Chapter 2, Article 1, Section 4

S4) If the CRO is not present during the passing of an amendment, a reasonable effort must be made by the VUSAC Executive to notify them of the change.

Proposed Amendment:

S4) If the CRO is not present during the passing of an amendment, the VUSAC Executive must notify them of the change.

**Rationale: To clarify language, and to make sure the CRO is notified even under extenuating circumstances.**

**Proposed Amendment #4**

Current Chapter:

Chapter 7, Article 9, Section 1

S1) The CRO is to host a minimum of one elections information session during the nominations period, this is in addition to any office hours the CRO may have as a member of VUSAC.

Proposed Amendment:

S1) The CRO is to host a minimum of two election information sessions during the nomination period. The VUSAC President must be present at information sessions.

a) If the VUSAC President is running in said election, a member of the VUSAC Executive not running in the election should be present.

**Rationale: Two election information sessions will be better to reach more interested students and two sessions have been historically put on by the CRO. Having the VUSAC President or other neutral exec present for the meeting helps the CRO answer questions about VUSAC positions and experiences.**

**Proposed Amendment #5**

Current Chapter:

Chapter 7, Article 9, Section 3

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

Proposed Amendment:

Chapter 7, Article 9, Section 4

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

**Rationale: Correction of section number**

**Proposed Amendment #6**

Current Chapter:

Chapter 7, Article 11, Section 1, subsection a

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.

Proposed Amendment:

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

**Rationale: To make language grammatically correct**

**Proposed Amendment #7**

Current Chapter:

Chapter 8, Article 13, Section 1

S1) All printed materials, including banners and posters, must be initialed by either the CRO, a member of the Dean’s Office, or a VUSAC Executive who is not running in that election.

Proposed Amendment:

S1) All printed materials, including banners and posters (8.5 inches x 11 inches), must be initialed by either the CRO, a member of the Dean’s Office, or a VUSAC Executive who is not running in that election.

**Rationale: To clarify banner size versus poster size and to clarify that only VUSAC execs who are not running in the election can sign posters.**

**Proposed Amendment #8**

Creation of Chapter 8, Article 13, Section 3

S3) CRO must consult with housekeeping, a week in advance of campaigning to confirm postering rules and expectations, including the locations where posters are permitted to be hung, and rules for taking posters down.

**Rationale: To make sure that housekeeping is on the same page as VUSAC and does not accidently interfere with elections and to set expectations.. Keeping open communication with housekeeping is a step in ensuring transparency during elections.**

**Proposed Amendment #9**

Creation of Chapter 8, Article 13, Section 4

S4) A poster is defined as any campaign material (8.5 inches x 11 inches) attached to walls, doors, or otherwise affixed to a surface. The following restrictions apply to postering:

1. Postering in residence will be **done in coordination with the CRO and CLC at designated times** by the CRO. Candidates are prohibited from putting up posters in residence at any other time.

i. A maximum of one poster per residence floor (for RJ, MargAd, and Annesley) or house **(North, Middle, Gate, South, Ryerson, Nelles, Caven, and Bowles-Gandier).**

ii. Bowles-Gandier counts as one residence house.

iii. There will be no postering in elevators.

iv. 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.

b) **A maximum of two posters are to be places in Old Vic on the large bulletin board by the East entrance**

c) A maximum of five posters are to be places in the Goldring Student Centre.

i) There will be no postering on any glass surface (including windows) or doors in the Goldring Student Centre. Postering in any location in the Goldring Student Centre that is not an approved student postering space will result in penalties at the discretion of the CRO.

d) Should a candidate choose to campaign outside of Victoria College campus they are restricted to placing one per residence floor and five per building.

e) Posters may not be placed on lampposts, trees, subway stations, glass doors, and any property not belonging to Victoria University or the University of Toronto.

f) 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, inside the Registrar’s Office, and the 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) Caffiends

ix) Classrooms

x) Any locations with exclusive access (such as fraternities or sororities)

g) Postering in a neutral zone will result in a strike.

h) All postering inside campus buildings must be done with either masking tape or painters (green) tape. **Push pins are permitted on bulletin boards.** Any other forms of affixing posters may be subject to penalties at the discretion of the CRO.

i) Tampering with another candidate’s posters will result in disqualification.

**Rationale: Added sections to just clarify explicitly where postering should be done and also bring responsibility back to the CRO and CLC to be present during postering sessions in residence to ensure equity regarding commuter candidates.**

**Proposed Amendment #10**

Creation of Chapter 8, Article 14, Section 1, subsection a

a) Social media pages used for campaigning can be personal pages or pages made exclusively for the elections. Personal pages however cannot be advertised on the VUSAC website, in the VUSAC elections forum, and on the ballot.

**Rationale: Campaigning on personal pages is already done and lets candidates take advantage of their connections and reach. However, we need to clarify that they will not be advertised by VUSAC.**

**Proposed Amendment #11**

Change ‘Social Media’ to Article 15 and ‘Spending’ to Article 14

**Rationale: To give a natural flow to the document and put all postering business together**

**Proposed Amendment #12**

Current Chapter:

Chapter 8, Article 15, Section 1, Subsection c

c) All campaign materials printed in the VUSAC Office using any VUSAC-owned device must be immediately deleted from said device thereafter.

Proposed Amendment:

Chapter 8, Article 14, Section 2, Subsection c

c) All campaign materials printed in the VUSAC Office using any VUSAC-owned device must be immediately deleted from said device thereafter or **the candidate risks a penalty**.

**Rationale: Provide better grammar.**

**Proposed Amendment #13:**

Current Chapter:

Chapter 8, Article 15, Section 2, Subsection c

d) Only candidates may exercise their printing credits. No candidate shall be allowed to ask another person to print on their behalf.

Proposed Amendment:

Chapter 8, Article 14, Section 2, Subsection d

d) Only candidates may exercise their printing credits. No candidate shall be allowed to ask another person to print on their behalf **or the candidate risks a penalty**.

**Rationale: Provide better grammar.**

**Proposed Amendment #14**

S2) Facebook

a) All Facebook posts must be tagged with #VUSACElections and **tag CRO Facebook account**. Posts or stories cannot include any additional “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,” “shares,” **and “reacts”** 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 Facebook pages 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.

**Rationale: Important for candidates to engage with CRO account, and reacts like love and angry and sad and wow can indicate endorsements.**

**Proposed Amendment #15**

Current Chapter:

Chapter 8, Article 14, Section 2

S2) Twitter: All campaign-related tweets must be tagged with #VUSACElections and must not include “mentions”.

Proposed Amendment:

Chapter 8, Article 14, Section 3

S3) Twitter: All campaign-related tweets must be tagged with #VUSACElections and must not include “mentions”.

**Rationale: Section number changed to match rest of document**

**Proposed Amendment #16**

Current Chapter:

Chapter 8, Article 14, Section 3

S3) Instagram: All campaign-related posts must be tagged with #VUSACElections**.** All posts and stories must not include any additional “tags” or mentions.

Proposed Amendment:

Chapter 8, Article 15, Section 4

S4) Instagram: All campaign-related posts must be tagged with #VUSACElections and **tag the CRO account.** All posts and stories must not include any additional “tags” or mentions.

**a) Accounts must be identified by the candidate to CRO if they will use it during the campaigning period**

**b) The account in question must be followed by CRO account**

**c) The CRO account must only follow current candidates ~~on the account~~**

**Rationale: The CRO will now create an instagram account to better monitor campaigning on Instagram. This amendment is to clarify and set guidelines for this change.**

**Proposed Amendment #17**

Current Chapter:

Chapter 8, Article 16, Section 2, Subsection b

b) The campaign period ends immediately following the end of Town Hall.

Proposed Amendment:

b) The campaign period ends at **midnight following Town Hall.**

**Rationale: To line up the end of the campaigning period with the beginning of the voting period.**

**Proposed Amendment #18**

Current Chapter:

Chapter 8, Article 16, Section 2, Subsection c

c) The purpose of Town Hall is to allow candidates to introduce themselves and their platform via a short speech. It is also to allow the VCU to ask questions of their candidates.

Proposed Amendment:

c) The purpose of Town Hall is to allow candidates to introduce themselves and their platform via a short speech. **All candidates except presidential candidates are allocated a one-minute speech and thirty second responses for all candidates. President candidates are allocated a one-minute speech and one minute responses.** It is also to allow the VCU to ask questions of their candidates.

**Rationale: To set guidelines so speech time so there is no variability year to year. The President will get longer response times to better facilitate debate during Town Hall.**

**Proposed Amendment #19**

Current Chapter:

Chapter 8, Article 17, Section 4

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.

Proposed Amendment:

S4) Candidates should link the same media that they submitted to be advertised on the VUSAC website and Facebook election forum to their candidate statement. Personal accounts cannot be linked in candidate statements. Linked media can be a candidate Facebook page, Instagram page, or website. An external document may also be linked, such as a pdf or Google document.

**Rationale: This change is to comply with the new amendment about using personal social media accounts. Using an external document is a great option for candidates not making a social media page.**

**Proposed Amendment #20:**

Current Chapter:

Chapter 8, Article 17, Section 6

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.

Proposed Amendment:

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

**Rationale: To fix word flow.**

**Proposed Amendment #21:**

Current Chapter:

Chapter 8, Article 18, Section 1

S1) Candidates are not permitted to seek out endorsements from or actively campaign with current VUSAC members, Dons, Ex-Officio Members to VUSAC (including Levy Heads and Orientation Co-Chairs), Building Presidents, UTSU Directors, or full-time staff members. None of the above people may appear in campaign literature, posters, or other promotional material. Any candidate found in violation of this rule will be severely penalized, including the possibility of disqualification.

Proposed Amendment:

S1) Candidates are not permitted to seek out endorsements from or actively campaign with current VUSAC members, Dons, Ex-Officio Members to VUSAC (including Levy Heads and Orientation Co-Chairs), Building Presidents, UTSU Directors**, members of the EAC,** or full-time staff members. None of the above people may appear in campaign literature, posters, or other promotional material. Any candidate found in violation of this rule will be severely penalized, including the possibility of disqualification.

**Rationale: Members of the EAC are neutral members because their advisory position puts them in a place where they must not be endorsing candidates in case they must decide on an appeal with that candidate (conflict of interest).**

**Proposed Amendment #22:**

**Current Chapter**

**Chapter 8, Article 20, Section 1**

S1) Slanderous campaigning by a candidate will result in immediate disqualification.

Proposed Amendment:

Chapter 8, Article 20, Section 1, Subsections a & b

S1) Slanderous campaigning by a candidate will result in immediate disqualification.

a) Slander is defined as attacks on a person's character, appearance, marginalized identity, or intentionally damaging one's reputation based on false information.

b) Slander does not include having respectful discourse on one's platform points, or previous experience in student politics as long as it is rooted in truth

**Rationale: To clarify slander definition so the threat of slander does not prevent from having political debate as well as be able to characterize one’s actions as slander if need be.**

**Proposed Amendment #23:**

Current Chapter

Chapter 9, Article 21, Section 2

S2) Candidates are allowed to continue campaigning online during the voting period.

Proposed Amendment:

S2) Candidates are allowed to encourage people to vote in the election but are not allowed to make reference to their own campaigns during the voting period.

**Rationale: To stop online campaigning during the voting period but still have encouragement to vote.**

**Proposed Amendment #24:**

Current Chapter:

Chapter 11, 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. Candidates and the CRO are to keep the results secret until they are made public by the CRO.

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 their outcome in 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: To clarify that candidates will not receive the full election results, and just their status.**

**Proposed Amendment #25:**

Current Chapter:

Chapter 11, 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. 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.

Proposed Amendment:

Chapter 11, Article 23, Section 4

S4) 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: Change section number to match document.**

**Proposed Amendment #26**

Current Chapter:

Chapter 12, Article 24, section 3

S3) The EAC is to be selected by the President and Vice President-Internal at the latest one month prior to the Fall Elections.

1. If any position on the EAC is empty for the Spring Elections, then the President and Vice-President Internal shall select their replacements at the latest two months prior to the Spring Elections.

Proposed Amendment:

S3) The EAC is to be selected by the President and Vice President-Internal at ~~the~~ least one month prior to the Fall Elections. Victoria College students who sit on the EAC should be randomly selected with the help of the Dean's Office. Students from another college or faculty will be selected by the CRO.

**Rationale: To randomly select the students ensures fair evaluation of appeals.**

**Proposed Amendment #27**

Current Chapter:

Chapter 12, Article 24, Section 5

S5) Members of the EAC cannot include neutral parties, as they are so defined by Chapter VII, Article 18, Section 1 of this ERC.

Proposed Amendment:

S5) Members of the EAC cannot include neutral parties, as they are so defined by Chapter VII, Article 18, Section 1 of this ERC. However, EAC members become neutral parties once they assume membership of the EAC

**Rationale: EAC members need to be neutral parties so they can ensure fair evaluations of appeals.**

**Proposed Amendment #28**

Current Chapter:

Chapter 12, Article 24, Section 9

S9) Members of the EAC shall serve both for the Fall Elections and the following Spring Elections, provided that:

1. they are available to do so; and
2. they undergo a review after the Fall Elections, conducted by the CRO in conjunction with the Executive; and
3. their status as neutral parties has not changed.

Proposed Amendment:

S9) Members of the EAC shall serve both for the Fall Elections and the following Spring Elections, provided that:

1. they are available to do so; and
2. they undergo a review after the Fall Elections, conducted by the CRO in conjunction with the Executive; and
3. **they have not taken any position that would make them a neutral party otherwise.**

**Rationale: EAC members need to be neutral parties so they can ensure fair evaluations of appeals.**

**Proposed Amendment #29:**

Current Chapter:

Chapter 14, Article 28, Section 1

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.

Proposed Amendment:

S1) The nomination~~s~~ package, as prepared by the CRO, is to be finalized, through approval by the **neutral members of the executive and CLC**, at least two weeks prior to its release.

**i)** **Neutral parties are allowed to sign nomination packages**

**Rationale: To have second eyes on the document in order to catch mistakes and such. Neutral parties have always been able to sign nomination packages but there has been confusion to this is to clarify that.**

**Proposed Amendment #30**

Current Chapter:

Chapter 15, 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.

1. This report is to be sent to every member of the VUSAC, every candidate in the election, and the entire EAC.
2. Additionally, it is to be published on the VUSAC website and advertised as such.
3. 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.

1. This report is to be sent to every member of the VUSAC, every candidate in the election, and the entire EAC.
2. Additionally, it is to be published on the VUSAC website and advertised as such.
3. Finally, the report must be officially accepted by the VUSAC at a regular meeting where the CRO is present to answer any questions asked.
4. **The Spring election report must be submitted by the Joint Council Meeting**

**Rationale: To make sure that the Spring Election report is given to the current year’s council before their term ends.**