



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA  
**STUDENTS'  
UNION**

# **Elections Review Committee (ERC) Recommendations to Council**

# Topics



- Social Media Policy
- Joke Candidates
- Fines and Penalties
- Reporting Keys
- Pre-Campaigning
- Executive/Council Election Timing and Timeline
- Endorsement
- External Media-Advertising
- Division of Bylaw 2000
- Campaigning on Election Days
- The Status of NOTA in STV

# Social Media Policy



- Issue
  - Social Media is not defined by Bylaw 2000
  - **“43. Use of Social Media and Public Internet Ventures**  
*The C.R.O. shall be kept privy to elections-related social media and public internet ventures undertaken by candidates, and reserves the right to penalize candidates for any violation of this bylaw or related regulations.”*
- Recommendation
  - ERC will work on clarifying what Bylaw 2000 means by Social Media

# Joke Candidates



- Issue

- Increased publicity
- But what happens when a joke candidate wins?
- Bylaw 2000 under §61

***“(30)Where a joke candidate is declared victorious, the seat to which that joke candidate has been elected shall be considered vacant.”***

- *Recommendation*

- *CRO to add indication the ballot to voters the effect of electing a joke Candidate*

# Fines and Penalties



- Issue
  - Should bylaw 2000 make fines and penalties explicit?
    - Standard fines regarding expense forms and Candidate Meetings
  - Should CRO declare fines and penalties?
  - Decisions made by CRO can be appealed to DIE Board
- Recommendation
  - ERC to draft changes

# Reporting Keys



- Issue
  - Meant to remove advantage of having storage space on campus
  - Those who live on campus or have a car also have an advantage
  - Executives must already take a leave of absence
- Recommendation
  - Remove Reporting Keys requirement

# Pre-Campaigning



- Issue
  - Time to organize campaign
  - Opportunity to catch up on planning or studies
- Recommendation
  - Keep the status quo of no campaigning during pre-campaigning period.

# Executive/Council Election Timeline



- Issue
  - Students do not understand difference between executive and council election.
  - Both at the same time is a greater strain on CRO office
  - Status quo allows unsuccessful candidates in the executive election to run for council
- Recommendation
  - Keep the status quo of executive/council election timing



# Endorsement



- Issue
  - Candidate slates cease to exist
  - Candidates allowed to endorse other candidates, including within own race
- Die Board interpretation
  - Candidates cannot form “slate-like” campaigns to the extent that such activity would result in profiting from one another’s resources
- Recommendation
  - None

# External Media Advertising



- Issue
  - Candidates are not allowed to advertise through external media
  - Is this rule needed? No one has tried to advertise through external media in recent history.
- Recommendation
  - Keep status quo.

# Division of Bylaw 2000



- Issue
  - Bylaw 2000 given to candidates
  - Length can be overwhelming
  - Not all content is pertinent to candidates
- Recommendation
  - Drafting a split of the bylaws
    - Candidates
    - Ballots
    - Responsibilities and Duties of the CRO

# Campaigning on Election Days



- Issue
  - Reoccurring topic
  - Increases competition during Election Days resulting in higher voter turnout
  - Not just up to the CRO to promote Election Days
- Recommendation
  - Allow campaigning on election days.
  - Restrictions that no candidate can campaign within 20 meters of polling stations.



# Questions?