

## Election Questions

### **Who can be nominated for an Executive, Graduate Student Senator and Trustee Position?**

On-campus and off-campus students that have paid the SGPS membership fee, who are eighteen or over, who are not in undischarged bankruptcy and who have not already served on the Executive for more than three years in the previous nine years. Only ordinary members of the SGPS who are students in the School of Graduate Studies are eligible to be nominated as candidates for Graduate Student Senator.

Candidates must file a nomination form to the Chief Returning Officer. Submission of a nomination form may be accomplished by delivery in person to the SGPS office during regular business hours. The nomination package can be found here:

<http://www.sgps.ca/jobs/downloads/nomination-package.pdf>

### **What are the campaign rules?**

The campaign period runs from the close of the nomination period until 11:59 P.M. on the day before voting begins.

Candidates can choose to designate a campaign manager if they wish.

Only the candidate or campaign manager can authorize spending money on campaign expenses. The maximum amount that can be spent on campaign expenses is \$100.

Disqualification will occur under the following circumstances:

- campaigning in the immediate vicinity of any polling station;
- egregious conduct, including but not limited to discriminatory behaviour, slanderous or libellous actions, purposeful misrepresentation and harassment;
- any other circumstance determined by the CRO to give a candidate an unfair advantage

For more information on penalties, please refer to the SGPS Bylaws & Policies, Section P.7.1.8. The SGPS Bylaws and Policies can be found here:

<http://www.sgps.ca/info/bylaws.html>

## **What is the percentage of assent that is needed to be successful?**

In the case of a contested position, the candidate receiving the larger number of votes is successful.

In the case of an uncontested position, the candidates' name shall appear on the ballot with the following question: "Do you agree to the acclamation of (name of candidate) to the position of (name of position) of the SGPS?" If the candidate receives a majority of 'yes' votes, the candidate is successful.

## **Referendum Questions**

### **How do we propose a question for the referendum?**

All proposed student fees need to be submitted to the Finance & Services Committee via the VP Finance & Services ([vpfs@sgps.ca](mailto:vpfs@sgps.ca)) at least two weeks prior to the February meeting of SGPS Council. The schedule for SGPS Council can be found here:

<http://www.sgps.ca/council/schedule.html>

### **What are the stipulations for proposed referendum fee questions?**

- The question must be phrased affirmatively, the current value of the fee to be assessed is clear, and the question is not misleading;
- The question states whether the fee will or will not be indexed for inflation;
- An explanation accompanies the proposed question that outlines the objectives of the group proposing the fee;
- In the case of a fee proposed by a student group, that the group proposing the fee submits its Constitutional documents;
- Submit contact information for the group's executive and the mailing address of the group;

The group proposing the fee provides a copy of its most recent financial statements and budget (if available) and a copy of its proposed budget. The budget should reveal sources and quantity of income and also sources and quantity of expenses;

The question was properly submitted to the Finance & Services Committee; and

The question does not violate any standing SGPS/AMS service agreement.

For more information on the establishment and renewal of student fees, please see the SGPS Bylaws and Policies, Section P.1.2. The SGPS Bylaws and Policies can be found here:

<http://www.sgps.ca/info/bylaws.html>

## **How does the question get approved by Council to appear on the ballot?**

There are two ways:

1. Referendum questions must be approved by a simple majority vote of Council.
2. Through a petition directed to the Chief Returning Officer that specifies the question(s) to be asked and bears the signatures of at least 10% of the ordinary members of the SGPS at any time up to two weeks before the referendum date, in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the SGPS Bylaws & Policies, Section B.10 and P.7. These questions are not subject to the approval of Council.

## **How do I establish a referendum committee?**

Any ordinary member may establish a Yes or No referendum committee for any referendum question by submitting an application to the Chief Returning Officer. The application may be submitted in person to the SGPS office during normal business hours, and must be submitted no later than the 7th day before the first voting day.

For more information on establishing a referendum committee, please see the SGPS Bylaws & Policies, Section P.7.1.5. The SGPS Bylaws and Policies can be found here:

<http://www.sgps.ca/info/bylaws.html>

## **Who ratifies election and referendum results?**

SGPS Council will normally do this at the next meeting following the voting.

## **What is the percentage of assent that is needed to be successful?**

Fee questions require a majority (50% + 1) in order to be approved.