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| MSU logo.jpg. | MEMO*From the office of the…*Associate Vice-President Internal Governance |
| TO: | SRA Members and Committee Chairs |
| FROM: | Michelle Brown, Associate Vice-President (Internal Governance) |
| SUBJECT: | Bylaw 7/A – Electoral Procedures |
| DATE: | SRA 20P – March 7th, 2021  |

**Dear Members of the Assembly,**

With the student feedback that the MSU has received regarding the MSU Presidential Procedures, we found it pertinent to implement changes as quickly as possible. The SRA has polled the student body, and we have suggested changes to the Bylaw based on this insight. We are suggesting a Vote of Confidence for FYC, SRA, and Presidential Elections when the number of candidates is less than or equal to the number of positions available. The vote of confidence will be conducted by the student body where there would have previously been an acclamation.

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| Section | Current  | Proposed | Explanation  |
| Title | Electoral Procedure | Electoral Procedures | Adding a ‘s’ is more descriptive of the content included in the Bylaw |
| 1.1, 2.1 | MSU, CRO, DRO | McMaster Students Union (MSU), Chief Returning Officer (CRO), Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) | Clarifying acronyms before they are used creates more transparent documents |
| 1.1, 2.1 | N/A | “elections-at-large”, Describing which elections are covered by this bylaw | Describing which elections are covered in this policy increases clarity |
| 3.0, 3.3 | & Side Registration | & Referendum Voting | The term “Side Registration” is confusing and unclear, using more descriptive terms better explains the proceeding section |
| 3.1.1 | “And those who have not been charged with violations of 32(a), (b), or (c) of the Student Code of Conduct at the discretion of the Equity and Inclusion Office” | As outlined in Bylaw 2 – MSU Membership Section 2 | More clear, and allows for the SRA to revoke a person’s MSU Membership if any specific circumstances arise. |
| 3.3  | “through the MSU Main Office” | “electronically” | Currently our processes have shifted to electronic means, and we have no guarantee when in-person schooling will return. Electronic submissions are more accessible to those who are unable to arrive in person to campus, while still not being limited to submissions either via the MSU website or email. |
| 3.3.1  | “If the number of valid nomination forms submitted is fewer than or equal to the number of available positions, the CRO shall declare all nominees duly elected by acclamation” | “The following procedure will be followed if seats have not been filled within the original timeline: If the position of MSU President is not filled, the nomination period shall be extended for up to two (2) weeks at a time until a candidate is nominated;For all other elections, nominations for any remaining seats shall be re-opened for a period of up to two (2) weeks at the discretion of the Elections Department;If a seat on the SRA or FYC is still not filled, the nomination period shall be reopened at the next scheduled by-election as outlined in Bylaw 7 – Elections, Section 3.4.2” | Changes the procedures to a vote of confidence and specifies how nominations will continue or reopen if the position is empty. |
| 3.4.1 | “Declare the remaining candidate(s) duly elected by acclamation” | “grant a poll for a vote of confidence” | Changes the procedure to a Vote of Confidence during a situation where a candidate withdraws their nomination |
| 4.1 | N/A | “If the number of candidates nominated is less than or equal to the number of elected positions available, the CRO shall grant a poll for a vote of confidence” | Specifies the context in which a Vote of Confidence shall take place through a poll directed by the CRO |
| 5.3.3.1, 5.3.3.2 | “given”, “the CRO will use discretion in deciding which name shall” | “preferred”, “the preferred name shall” | Allows for students to represent themselves with the name that they feel most comfortable with. Presents potentially triggering situations of ‘dead-naming’ a person. |
| Throughout | Incorrect formatting or grammar, inconsistent acronym use, otherwise unclear clauses | Corrected grammar and formatting, consistency in acronym use, clarity of clauses | Increases clarity, consistency, transparency, and accessibility to standardize formatting and use accurate grammar |

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email prior to the meeting.

Kind regards,

Michelle Brown

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