Senate Student Election Guidelines

All candidates are responsible for the conduct of their campaigns, including the actions of others who are campaigning for them. It is the responsibility of all candidates to follow the campaign rules.

1. Campaigning may start once the candidate receives their letter of validation confirming that their nomination has been approved by the Secretary of the Senate.

2. All campaign activities are subject to official University regulations and policies (By-laws, Codes of Conduct, etc.), as well as the laws of the land;

3. Any campaigning that is slanderous or libellous is prohibited.

4. Any use of social media must be in good taste and adhere to all codes of conduct.

5. Spamming of public forums or University e-mail distribution lists is forbidden.

6. All in-person campaigning must end at 11:59 p.m. the night prior to the start of the first day of voting. Candidates may, however, continue to campaign using social media platforms on election day(s).

7. Candidates shall take down signs or posters within sight of the computer lab(s) by 11:59 p.m. the night prior to the first day of voting.

8. Candidates may not approach voters requesting them to cast votes in their favour on election day(s).

9. Candidates may not provide computers or other devices to the electorate for the purposes of voting.

10. Candidates must notify the Secretary of the Senate of their scrutineers at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of voting days. A candidate may not be a scrutineer.

11. Campaign expenses will be limited to $50.00 for each candidate, in order that those students with limited finances are not placed at a disadvantage during the election campaign. The Secretary of the Senate is authorized to reimburse each candidate for campaign expenses up to the amount of $50.00, upon submission of receipts for expenses by the candidate.

12. The Secretary of the Senate reserves the right to disqualify any candidate if regulations are violated. He or she shall also:
   (a) up to 14 days after the election, receive and investigate allegations of malpractice;
   (b) up to 14 days after the election, hear appeals for a re-count, evaluate them, and arrange for a re-count if judged necessary;
   (c) have the authority to levy fines, up to the amount claimed for campaign expenses, for violation of campaign rules;
   (d) have the authority to declare an election invalid.

13. The Secretary of the Senate shall report to Senate on the student elections to Senate at the first regular meeting of Senate after the elections have been completed.

In addition to the above regulations, it is each candidate’s responsibility to ensure that any and all posters are displayed according to each building’s poster and advertising policies. For many campus buildings, this is MSU Operating Policy – Promotions & Advertising, which can be viewed on the MSU website: https://www.msumcmaster.ca/governance/bylaws-policies/msu-operating-policies. Other campus buildings, such as the McMaster University Student Centre, the McMaster University Medical Centre, and McMaster residences, etc., have their own policies that must be followed.