



# BOARD POLICIES

## Related to Elections

EFFECTIVE DATE: MAY 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

## Introduction

**THE SRC HAS 24 BOARD POLICIES. BELOW IS THE POLICY RELATED TO ELECTIONS & REFERENDA.**

**THEY SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SRC BYLAWS AS WELL AS THE ELECTION & REFERENDA PROCEDURES, AS WELL AS ANY SPECIFIC RULES & REGULATIONS ISSUED FOR AN ELECTION.**

## 9. ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA

1. The Board shall oversee the coordination of secure, free, fair, and transparent elections to Board and membership referenda as required.
2. The Board shall appoint an individual, that is not a full-time member, with expertise and/or training in elections management to act as the Chief Returning Officer for all elections and referenda.
3. The Election Appeals Committee shall adjudicate disputes emanating from elections and referenda processes. Within the scope of the corporation's authority, the decisions of the Election Appeals Committee shall be binding and final.
4. To ensure that annual general elections, by-elections, and membership referenda are secure, such processes shall adhere to the following provisions:
  - 4.1. Each member will vote in elections and referenda by secret ballot through a secure medium that ensures the privacy, anonymity, and accuracy of their individual vote.
  - 4.2. The voting medium shall be adequately protected against unauthorized access and any unauthorized access shall be immediately addressed and publicly reported.
  - 4.3. Any voting stations erected during the voting period allow members to vote without obstruction or undue influence.
  - 4.4. Members, and clubs, societies, and other organizations whose memberships are comprised exclusively of members, shall be free to endorse or support candidates of their choice, except that Directors and member staff will remain neutral during their official engagements or working hours.
  - 4.5. Candidates shall neither seek nor accept monetary or in-kind support, assistance, nor benefits of any kind from persons or organizations other than those who are members or exclusively comprised of members. Repayable loans do not constitute support, assistance, or benefits.

**4.6.** Vandalization of promotional or campaign materials, or any other deliberate or malicious interference in election and referenda processes, shall be strictly prohibited and the corporation shall seek to punish such action within the scope of its authority.

**5.** To ensure that annual general elections, by-elections, and membership referenda are free, such processes shall adhere to the following provisions:

**5.1.** Each member, provided they meet the nomination requirements established by the Board and adhere to the procedures governing elections, shall be eligible to run for election.

**5.2.** Candidates and their campaign agents may exercise the maximum amount of freedom consistent with secure, fair, and transparent process and restrictions legitimately imposed by external authorities.

**5.3.** Restrictions on the freedoms of candidates and their campaign agents are imposed solely to serve secure, fair, and transparent process and to satisfy external authorities and not for administrative convenience or other purposes.

**5.4.** Candidates and their campaign agents may speak and act freely, except that they shall not engage in statements or acts deemed to be discriminatory, derogatory, obscene, slanderous, or otherwise indecent according to applicable statutes, regulations, the bylaws, Board policies and procedures, codes of conduct, or commonly accepted free speech standards.

**5.5.** Candidates may affiliate in slates at their discretion, though their candidacies will be regulated separately by the Chief Returning Officer and candidates will maintain separate campaign promotions, materials, and expenses.

**6.** To ensure that annual general elections, by-elections, and membership referenda are fair, such processes shall adhere to the following provisions:

**6.1.** Officials appointed to administer or oversee annual general elections, by-elections, or membership referenda shall remain impartial.

**6.2.** Officials finding themselves in a conflict of interest will recuse themselves from all election-related responsibilities in which they are conflicted. Officials are not conflicted by virtue of having an interest in matters affecting their general rights and privileges as members.

**6.3.** Official benefits provided or restrictions imposed upon candidates and their campaign agents shall be provided or imposed on an equal basis unless differentiated as a result of disciplinary action.

**6.4.** Candidates holding positions within the corporation prior to and/or during annual general elections, by-elections, and membership referenda are prohibited from using such positions, and their available resources and/or benefits, to further their campaigns or preferences.

**6.5.** Non-member staff shall remain impartial and not publicly or privately endorse or support any candidate. Member staff will remain impartial for the duration of their working hours and are prohibited from using their positions to further campaigns or preferences they support.

**6.6.** Recipients of corporate funding that host outreach events and/or opportunities shall ensure either that corporate funding is not used to host outreach events and/or opportunities or that all candidates are given equal opportunity to participate. Corporate funding used to host outreach events and/or opportunities to which all candidates are not given equal opportunity to participate shall be forfeit.

7. To ensure that annual general elections, by-elections, and membership referenda are transparent, such processes shall adhere to the following provisions:

**7.1.** All official correspondence to candidates shall be made in writing to all candidates and/or prospective candidates as circumstances dictate.

**7.2.** The schedule for each annual general election and membership referendum concurrent with an annual general election shall be publicly advertised not less than thirty (30) days in advance of its commencement.

**7.3.** The schedule for each by-election and membership referendum concurrent with a by-election or not concurrent with any election shall be publicly advertised not less than fifteen (15) days in advance of its commencement.

**7.4.** The commencement of elections shall begin at the opening of the nomination period.

**7.5.** All election and referendum-related notices to the membership shall be communicated in writing to the full membership.

**7.6.** Officials shall strive to ensure the maximum practicable promotion of annual general election, by-election, and referendum opportunities to the membership.

**7.7.** All disciplinary actions and complaints shall be communicated in writing between the relevant parties.

**7.8.** All campaign-related expenses shall be completely and accurately reported in writing.

**7.9.** All election and referendum results shall be made publicly available at the earliest opportunity following their tabulation at the conclusion of voting.

**7.10.** The Chief Returning Officer shall provide a post-mortem report following each annual general election, by-election, and/or membership referendum. Such reports shall be made publicly available for not fewer than three (3) years.

**8.** Candidates or shall be in good standing with the university or the relevant processes determining their standing shall remain undecided by the commencement of an election. If relevant processes reach a decision prior to the conclusion of an election that the candidate is not in good standing the candidate shall be disqualified.

**9.** The annual general election schedule and any referendum questions to be put to the membership shall be proposed by the Chief Returning Officer and ratified by the Board each year for the following year prior to December 1<sup>st</sup>. The annual general election shall be concluded each year prior to April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**10.** Unless otherwise determined by the Board, referenda shall occur concurrently with annual general elections.

**11.** Insofar as is applicable, this policy applies equally to any other positions elected under the purview of the corporation.

**12.** The Board may establish further procedures governing the conduct of elections and referenda, provided such procedures adhere to this policy, the principles of procedural fairness, and are not amended less than sixty (60) days prior to the commencement date of an election or referendum event.