

# **TRU Society of Law Students Elections Policy**

## **PART 1 – DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION**

### **Definitions**

**1.1** In this policy:

**“Annual General Meeting”** may be abbreviated as “AGM”;

**“Board”** means the directors of the Society;

**“Bylaws”** means the Thompson Rivers University Society of Law Students Bylaws;

**“Facilitators”** means those who are responsible for administering the elections;

**“Member”** means a law student who is a member of the Society of Law Students;

**“Semi-Annual General Meeting”** may be abbreviated as “SAGM”;

**“SLS”** means Society of Law Students;

**“Society”** means Thompson Rivers University Society of Law Students;

### **Definitions in Act apply**

**1.2** The definitions in the Bylaws and the B.C. Societies Act apply to this policy.

## **Part 2 – Positions**

### **Board Composition**

**2.1** The results of an election must be announced at the AGM no earlier than March 1st and no later than March 31st. The election may be called at any point preceding these dates so long as they are in accordance with the rules governing elections;

**(a)** President;

**(b)** Vice President Academic;

**(c)** Vice President Fundraising;

- (d) Treasurer;
- (e) Secretary.

### **Directors at Large**

**2.2** The remaining directors of the board may be elected at the Annual General Meeting;

- (a) Chair of Events Committee;
- (b) Chair of Student Life Committee;
- (c) Chair of the Second Year Law Students;
- (d) Chair of the Third Year Law Students.

**2.3** The following directors are appointed by their respective committees/executives;

- (a) Chair of the SLS Conference;
- (b) Chair of the Indigenous Representation.

### **Chair of the First Year Law Students**

**2.4** Notwithstanding section 2.1, the Chair of the First Year Law Students will be elected at the Semi-Annual General meeting.

**2.5** The results of an election for the Chair of First Year Law Students must be announced at the SAGM no earlier than October 1st and no later than October 31st. The election may be called at any point preceding these dates so long as they are in accordance with the rules governing elections.

**2.6** Any First Year Student is eligible to be the Chair of the First Year Law Students.

## **Part 3 – Nominations & Eligibility**

### **Nominations**

**3.2** The call for nominees must;

- (a) Go out at the same time as the general election is called;

**(b)** Be open for a period of at least one week;

**(c)** Close no later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled date of election speeches.

**3.3** In order to run for a position on the board;

**(a)** A member must be nominated by a fellow member OR

**(b)** A member in good standing may nominate themselves;

**(i)** In the case a member nominates themselves, their nomination acceptance is deemed approved.

**(c)** and must not be an honorary member as defined in the bylaws.

**3.4** If nominated by a fellow member, a member will be informed and have 48 hours to accept or deny the nomination.

**3.5** If a member does not respond by the end of the nomination period, they are deemed to have denied the nomination.

**3.6** A member may be nominated for more than one position but may only accept one nomination.

### **Eligibility**

**3.7** The following positions are open to all members;

**(a)** Vice President Academic;

**(b)** Secretary;

**(c)** Chair of Events Committee;

**(d)** Chair of Student Life Committee.

**3.8** The following positions are open to all members of their respective year;

**(a)** Chair of the First Year Law Students;

**(b)** Chair of the Second Year Law Students;

**(c)** Chair of the Third Year Law Students.

**3.9** The following positions must have at least one year of prior experience on the board:

**(a)** President;

**(b)** Vice President Fundraising;

**(c)** Treasurer;

**(i)** Notwithstanding section 3.5, the one year of prior experience may include being an active member of the finance committee who can demonstrate a knowledge of the society's finances

**(ii)** Notwithstanding section 3.5 a member may run for the Treasurer position if they can demonstrate prior experience in fiscal management.

**3.10** A member may only run for one position on the board

**3.11** A member may not hold a position on the board if they hold or intend to hold a position on

**(a)** The Dispute Resolution Committee;

**(b)** The Elections Committee;

**(c)** A Faculty Committee which may include, but is not limited to;

**(i)** Academic Planning Committee;

**(ii)** Admissions Committee;

**(iii)** Faculty Appointments Committee;

**(iv)** Law Library Committee;

**(v)** Moots, Internships and Clerkships Committee;

**(vi)** Visiting Speakers Committee;

**(vii)** Website Committee;

**(viii)** Equity Committee.

**3.12** Notwithstanding section 3.11, the running for a position on the board or faculty committee in an election does not preclude one to apply for and join a committee created by the board throughout the academic year.

**3.13** A member may not be eligible to run for any position in the election or hold a position on the board if they have have accepted a position with an externship, clinic, or academic exchange in the coming year, such that they shall not be able to be on campus more than two days each week.

**3.14** Notwithstanding section 3.12, if there is a closure of campus due to an act of god or other reason that makes the entirety of the board unable to come to campus, the elections committee may waive this requirement and no board members are required to resign their position.

## **Part 4 – Campaigning**

### **Social Media**

- 4.1** No candidate shall campaign on social media, including but not limited to:
- (a)** TRU Law related Facebook pages or events;
  - (b)** Instagram, including Instagram Stories;
  - (c)** Twitter;
  - (d)** and any other social media that is deemed to have influence in an election.
- 4.2** Notwithstanding 4.1, a candidate may announce their candidacy on their own private social media accounts and through general word of mouth.
- 4.3** Candidates may submit written statements to the facilitators to be posted by the facilitators after nominations are closed and candidates are announced.
- 4.4** Facilitators may publicize the candidate’s written statements to;
- (a)** The TRU Law Facebook Page;
  - (b)** The SLS social media accounts, including but not limited to an email to the student body;
  - (c)** The Obiter.

### **Other Campaign Methods**

- 4.5** Candidates may not campaign via the following methods:
- (a)** the distributing of leaflets, pamphlets or other papers to fellow members;
  - (b)** the hanging of posters in the school;
  - (c)** any other method other than the written statement and formal speeches.

## **Dishonourable Campaigning**

- 4.5** Candidates who are found to be in violation of the aforementioned campaign rules are to be dealt with in such a way that the facilitators deem appropriate.

## **Part 5 - Elections**

### **Administration of Elections**

- 5.1** An election will be called by a vote of the board.
- 5.2** Outgoing 3L board members that are not eligible for re-election will make up the Elections Committee and facilitate the election. Otherwise known as the "Facilitators".

### **Call for Election**

- 5.3** An election must be called in accordance with all of the rules and the results must be announced at the Annual General Meeting no later than March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Speeches**

- 5.4** Election speeches must be held at least three days prior to the election.

### **Voting**

- 5.5** Members will vote in an election either by secret paper ballot, a secure online voting platform or other secret and reliable method that the facilitators see fit.
- 5.6** In the event of an unopposed nominee, the ballot will ask members to vote for or against the only nominee.

**(i)** in the event that the nominee is not voted in, a new call for nominations will go out and a by-election will be held.

- 5.7** No member may vote by proxy

**(i)** Notwithstanding 5.7 A member may vote by proxy if they are on an exchange at the time of the election and will be attending in the following term.

### **Election Period**

- 5.8** An election will be open for a period of at least three days following the election speeches.

## **Election Results**

- 5.9** The results of the election will be determined by the highest number of votes.
- 5.10** The results of the election will be announced at their respective AGMs.
- 5.11** In the event of a tie, a by-election will be held between the tied members and voting will be held for 3 days no later than a week after the AGM or SAGM.
- 5.12** The numerical election results will not be released to the student body.
- 5.13** General voter turnout statistics may be released.
- 5.14** A candidate may ask for one recount, to be completed by the facilitators.
- 5.15** If a candidate still disagrees with the results of the recount, they may make a formal complaint to the Dispute Resolution Committee.

## **Part 6 – By-Elections**

- 6.1** A by-election will be held in the following circumstances:
  - (a)** a member of the board resigns or is otherwise unable to continue their duties;
  - (b)** an election results in a tie between two or more candidates.
- 6.2** By-Elections will be facilitated by:
  - (a)** in the event of a by-election under 6.1(a), the board;
  - (b)** in the event of a by-election under 6.1(b), the facilitators that ran the previous election.
- 6.3** By-elections will follow as closely to the format of a proper election as possible.