DAWSON STUDENT UNION (DSU)
ELECTIONS & REFERENDA STANDING REGULATIONS

Approved by Student Council on 26 October 2026

I. ELECTIONS

1. Conduct of Candidates

1.1. Nominees for Student Councillors and Executive Officers become candidates upon submission of their nomination papers to the Elections Commission (the Chief Returning Officer and the Deputy Returning Officer).

1.2. Candidates shall abide by the Dawson Student Union (DSU) Constitution and the Chief Returning Officer's (CRO's) specific guidelines in addition to these Standing Regulations.

1.3. Candidates may campaign only between the dates designated by the CRO. Any campaigning outside this period is prohibited.

1.4. Candidates' campaign expenses shall not exceed the authorized amount specified by the CRO.

1.5. Any pre-owned material that is not commonly owned by students needs to be declared at market value and accounted for in the campaign expenses.

1.6. The DSU shall reimburse the campaign expenses approved by the CRO/DRO. Such receipts are to be presented to the CRO and the DRO before the commencement of counting the votes. Failure to present such receipts shall constitute grounds for disqualification, and the expenses shall be deemed non-refundable.

1.7. Candidates shall not make libellous or slanderous comments toward other candidates.

1.8. Candidates shall not deface or damage the campaign material of any other candidate, nor knowingly authorize, direct, or encourage any other student, friend, staff or teacher to do so on their behalf. This shall apply to anything posted on social media or any other medium used for campaigning purposes.

1.9. Candidates shall not accept bribes or any additional financial support. In addition, candidates shall not bribe electors.

1.10. Candidates shall abide by all other regulations established by the CRO.

2. Penalties and Disqualifications

2.1. Candidates are subject to sanctions for any minor violations of election rules, which may include verbal warnings, written warnings, or any other sanction deemed appropriate by the CRO.

2.2. Candidates are subject to sanctions for any major violation of election rules, which may include disqualification from the election.

2.3. Three (3) or more minor violations of election rules may be considered a major violation.

2.4. Disqualifications issued less than three (3) days before the commencement of the Voting Period shall not be enforced during that period. If the candidate is elected, the disqualification shall take effect upon the announcement of the election results.

3. Voting

3.1. Every DSU member, at the opening of the nomination period, shall be considered an elector.

3.2. During each election, every elector may cast their votes in accordance with the ranked preferential ballot system for each position of the Executive Officers and Student Councillor(s) in the academic program division in which they are registered.

3.3. Voting shall take place online. The ballots shall be counted by the software in a transparent manner. Results may only be viewed once voting has closed, and all ballots tabulated.

3.4. The ballot for an election must present:

3.4.1.1. the names of all candidates

3.4.1.2. the position for which each candidate is running

3.4.1.3. an option for the electors to vote for the candidate(s) of their choice or to abstain.

3.5. In the case of an uncontested position, the members shall be asked to ratify the candidate.

4. Campaigning

4.1. Circumstances outside of the CRO/DRO's control may require changes to the timeline of the elections.

4.2. The campaigning period shall be set by the CRO, must start after the All-Candidates meeting, and must end before the commencement of the voting period.

4.3. Each candidate is solely responsible for their individual campaign efforts and may not assist or publicly affiliate with another candidate's campaign effort. Candidates may not campaign in groups or parties.

4.4. Candidates shall submit a full written report of expenditures, with accompanying documentation, before the commencement of counting the votes by the CRO/DRO.

4.5. The Dawson Student Union main office shall be considered off-limits for campaigning purposes.

4.6. Designated Office Volunteers must inform the Elections Commission prior to the campaigning period of their involvement with the DSU.

4.7. Candidates must comply with the DSU's and Dawson College's rules for postering.

4.8. DSU club endorsements and affiliations with candidates is prohibited.

5. Communications

5.1. Candidates shall communicate with the Elections Commission via the Elections Commission Instagram, Teams, or DSU email.

5.2. Only information regarding the election's procedure sent by the CRO and/or DRO shall be legitimate.

6. Social Media

6.1. Candidates must inform the CRO, in writing, of all social media platforms and accounts used to promote their campaign.

6.2. Candidates shall not tag or make use of the DSU's logo or DSU's social media accounts for the purpose of their campaign.

6.3. Candidates shall not tag or make use of the Dawson College logo or Dawson College social media accounts.

7. Ballot Counting

7.1. Candidates shall be informed, by email, of the election results simultaneously to their public announcement on the Elections Commission's and the DSU's social media platforms.

II. REFERENDA

Refer to the DSU Constitution Section on Referenda

1. Voting

1.1. Every DSU member shall be considered a voter.

1.2. During each referendum, every voter may cast one (1) ballot for each question.

1.3. Voting shall take place online. The ballots shall be counted by the voting software in a transparent manner. Results may only be viewed once voting has closed, and all ballots have been tabulated.

1.4. The ballot for a referendum must present:

1.4.1.1. the closed-ended specific question on the topic

1.4.1.2. an option for voters to vote Yes or No, or to Abstain.