To: GSA Council  
From: Leigh Spanner  
Date: 16 August 2019

Dear GSA Councillors,

The GSA ERC has been working on recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda. After several initial meetings to debrief following the 2019 GSA General Election and to review related GSA Bylaw and Policy, the GSA ERC met on 22 August to review and discuss recommended changes and, on 8 August, voted electronically to recommend this proposal to GSA Council.

The recommended changes included in this proposal mostly concern administrative matters (moving content from GSA Bylaw to GSA Policy, ensuring parallelism between sections, etc) and are aimed at loosening regulations surrounding campaigning. The changes can be summarized as follows:

- Addition of definitions for campaign materials and campaign volunteers;
- Clarification to outline that candidates cannot volunteer for the campaign of another candidate given that candidates are prohibited from campaigning jointly (ie, as a slate) and acting as campaign volunteers for each other could be construed as joint campaigning;
- Introduction of a new section that stipulates that no campaigning will be done during GSA meetings or events;
- Clarification of when the GSA elected officers can participate in campaigning (DEOs and the Senator (or their delegates) may not campaign at meetings or events at which they are acting in an official GSA capacity, while the Speaker and CRO and their deputies may not campaign at all);
- Restructuring of the section on campaigning with the creation of a new subsection containing all information about campaign materials in one place, structured around print material, email material (including the new provision that the CRO need only approve email material when it is being sent either from or to a University of Alberta email address), and social media material (including an addition of a statement concerning messaging accounts);
- Removal of a section with regards to penalties when exceeding the spending limit or failure to report campaign expenses as this section implies either that disqualification is the only penalty for these breaches, or that these breaches, more than all the others listed, could result in disqualification;
- Introduction of a new section outlining a process for the CRO to follow when the CRO directly discerns an alleged breach, as opposed to it being reported to them;
- Addition of a statement that clarifies that provisional results become official if no complaints are received by the outlined deadline, in order to complement the existing statement stipulating that results will become official after any existing alleged breaches or appeals have been handled; and
- Modification of the timeline to fill vacant Councillor-at-Large seats; the process to fill these seats will stop on 1 December, instead of continuing until the seats are filled as is currently stipulated.

This proposal will be presented to GSA Council for consideration at the 16 September and 28 October meetings. In advance of those meetings, I encourage any GSA Councillors with questions about the proposal to contact me via email.

Sincerely,
Leigh Spanner, Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee