Dear GSA Council Colleagues,

6 September 2019

Following the 2019 GSA General Election, the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee (GSA ERC) met on 16 April and 22 July to discuss changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda. The recommended changes were developed through considering issues that were raised in the election.

The recommended substantives changes before you can be summarized as follows (these changes also apply to the section on referenda with necessary modifications to align with the referendum process):

- 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
o 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.

In addition to these substantive changes, the GSA ERC recommends various editorial changes.

Finally, as noted in the Outline of Issue, if the recommended changes to GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections and referenda are approved, sections listed at the end of the double document will be updated accordingly to ensure alignment.

I look forward to presenting these changes to you at the September meeting of GSA Council and welcome any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Leigh Spanner, Chair of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee