

General Election Policy

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to govern the conduct of the annual elections and all plebiscites and referenda conducted by the ASA and protect the voting interests and rights of students. Election policies are upheld and enforced by the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) who is hired by the Augustana Students' Association.

Policy:

Elections:

- The ASA shall conduct a minimum of two elections each year.
- The Annual Spring Election occurs during the second semester and the following positions can be contested:
 - All Executive positions;
 - All ASA Students' Council positions with the exception of the First Year Representatives; and
 - Augustana's Students' Union Representative and General Faculties Council Representative.
- The Fall By-Election occurs before October 15th and the following positions can be contested:
 - Both First-Year Representatives;
 - Any other position that was not successfully filled in the Spring Election.
- Candidates are considered are elected by a majority vote (50%+1 of valid ballots cast) of the student population that they represent.
- Results will be unofficial for 72 hours after polls close.

ASA Candidates' Forum:

- The ASA Candidates' Forum is mandatory for all candidates and sides.
- The D.R.O. shall determine and announce the date and location of the forum prior the distribution of nomination packages.
- The D.R.O. shall moderate the ASA Candidates' Forum and shall enforce the following rules:
 - Each candidate and side shall be afforded an opportunity to speak that is equal to the opportunity afforded to each candidate or side in their race;
 - No objects shall be thrown;
 - No heckling shall occur;
 - No campaign materials shall be distributed during the forum in the room where the forum is held.
- Where an individual contravenes the above regulations, the D.R.O. shall remove that individual from the forum.
- Where a candidate or side contravenes the above regulation, in addition to remedies prescribed in Policy #2.5.3, the D.R.O. shall have the authority to enforce further disciplinary action applicable to the situation.

Requirements of Additional Forums and Debates:

- Any group or individual can host an official forum or debate so long as:

Last Revised

11/09/2016

Date of Passage

03/08/2017

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- it does not conflict with class times or the ASA Candidates' Forum;
- the D.R.O. moderates or co-moderates the forum/debate;
- all candidates in a race or side received notification of the forum and will be afforded equal chance to speak at it; and
- all candidates running for the same position must approve or consent to any additional forums or debates.
- There will be a maximum of three (3) forums or debates, including the ASA Candidates Forum, during each campaign cycle. The D.R.O. will approve/decline applications to host on a first come, first serve basis. The D.R.O will approve/decline applications within a 48hr period.
- All applications must be submitted at least five business days prior to the proposed date of the forum/debate.
- Applications to host a forum must include, at minimum,
 - The name of the individual or organization applying to host;
 - Rationale for hosting the forum or debate;
 - An outline of the proposed structure of the forum or debate;
 - A proposed date and time for the forum or debate to take place.

Qualification of Candidates:

- All candidates running for elected positions on Students' Council must be full time members in good standing of the Students, Association, as defined in Bylaw.
- All candidates who wish to run for a position on Students' Council must have a minimum G.P.A. of 2.0, and must not be on disciplinary probation.
- All candidates must be a full time student in both 11 week semesters that they are in office.
- A student may run for a Councillor position in the semester that they commence studies at Augustana, but they cannot serve as an Executive.
- Any student wishing to run for a councillor position that represents a specific year must meet the credit requirement for the specific position as follows:
 - Any student running for a First Year Representative position must have 0-23 credits;
 - Any student running for a Second Year Representative position must have 24-53 credits;
 - Any student running for the Third Year Representative position must have 54-83 credits;
 - Any student running for the Fourth Year Representative position must have 84+ credits.

None-of-the-Above Options

- All ballots, excluding referenda and plebiscites, must contain a "none-of-the-above" option.