



MARIANOPOLIS STUDENT UNION

## CONGRESS 2020 ELECTORAL REGULATIONS

### I. General

- a. The results of the election will be posted on the official Marianopolis Student Union Congress website ([www.msucongress.com](http://www.msucongress.com)) within 48 hours after the end of the voting period.
- b. Votes by all Members of the MSU must remain secret, and no Member may prove the content of their ballot to another individual, nor may candidates or Members of the MSU observe such proof.

### II. Chief Electoral Officer and the ERC

- a. The Chief Electoral Officer is the Vice President of MSU.
  - i. Responsible for ensuring that all the membership requirements, electoral and appointment requirements, and specific Congress rules are upheld throughout the electoral and appointments processes. When rules are broken, the Chief Electoral Officer must report these violations to the Elections and Referenda Committee.
- b. The Elections and Referenda Committee (ERC) is composed of 5 randomly selected club executives
  - i. Responsible for fostering a fair election process by enforcing the Electoral Regulations, tracking, and assigning demerit points

### III. Campaigning

- a. Candidates may not run in slates and may not share campaign materials and/or share social media platforms.
- b. Candidates must not begin any form of campaigning, or publicly declare themselves as candidates for a specific position, before the start of the official campaigning period.
- c. Candidates must notify the Chief Electoral Officer of all online platforms (e.g: Facebook, Instagram, etc.) on which they will campaign before the first post on the platform. Candidates must add all ERC members and the Chief Electoral Officer to all their online platforms.
- d. Candidates can only communicate on social media using languages that the ERC is familiar with.
- e. Candidates may conduct Get Out the Vote (GOTV) operations during the voting period but may not publish new campaign material or platform elements. Previously published



MARIANOPOLIS STUDENT UNION

campaign materials may remain in place and republished.

- f. All candidates must campaign in accordance with the rules of Fair Play. Unacceptable practices include, but are not limited to:
  - i. Libel (written false statement damaging someone's reputation);
  - ii. Slander, public or private (spoken false statement damaging someone's reputation);
  - iii. Harassment;
  - iv. General sabotage of other candidates' campaigns;
  - v. Malicious or intentional breach of election rules;
  - vi. Obstruction of the ability of the ERC to carry out its responsibilities;
  - vii. Interference with the voting process.

#### **IV. Endorsements**

- a. All members of the MSU, excluding members of the ERC and the Chief Electoral Officer, may endorse candidates on a personal basis. Candidates may not endorse another candidate who is running for a different position. Endorsements made by Club executives or Congress members must be accompanied by a disclaimer dissociating it from the opinions of their respective Club, or of Congress unless it's an official club endorsements.
- b. Candidates must not request MSU Members for endorsements prior to the official campaigning period.
- c. Appointed position applicants may endorse elected position candidates.

#### **V. Infractions**

- a. An infraction can be defined as a violation of a rule.
- b. Any Member of the MSU may report a potential infraction of the present Electoral Regulations, the MSU Constitution, or of the Bylaws by contacting a member of the ERC.
- c. An infraction that is deemed unintentional and confers no significant advantage to the candidate is considered a minor infraction.
- d. Any member of the ERC may effect corrective measures, or require them from a candidate, when they consider that an infraction has taken place.
- e. Only the ERC may rule that an infraction has taken place, and it must determine the amount of demerit points that accompany it.
- f. The ERC must notify the candidate of their infraction and the amount of demerit points decided upon.



MARIANOPOLIS STUDENT UNION

- g. The ERC may only impose a ban from campaigning if, and only if, such a ban functions as a corrective measure corresponding to the time length of disallowed campaigning in the case of an infraction relating to campaigning before the campaign period.
- h. The ERC will publish a summary of the infractions by a candidate on social media outlets if he or she accumulates twenty-five (25) or more demerit points.
- i. Any candidate who accumulates thirty-five (35) or more demerit points is disqualified from the election.
- j. If a candidate feels they have received a demerit point in a way that surpasses the Electoral Regulations, the MSU Constitution, or of the Bylaws, they may submit a formal appeal to the Chief Electoral Officer. The appeal consists of a maximum of 200 words, explaining the given situation and why the candidate believes the appeal should be made.

### Demerit Points

- a. The values below are the maximum number of demerit points that may be issued for a type of violation.

<b>Violations</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Displayed in an unauthorized area*</b>	10
<b>Campaigning before the campaign period</b>	10
<b>Unapproved promotional material (major)</b>	20
<b>Violations of Fair Play (major)</b>	25
<b>Failure to submit campaign receipts or overspending (major)</b>	25
<b>Excessive and/or systematic harassment of voters during voting period</b>	25
<b>Failure to comply with directives from an ERC member</b>	25
<b>Any other minor infraction (judged by the ERC)</b>	5
<b>Any other major infraction (judged by the ERC)</b>	15

\*Unauthorized area: outside of the undesignated board in the A-100 area (as stated in the *Election Guide*).