

Motion to Amend the Departmental Elections By-Laws

Whereas, many departments within AUS, particularly small departments, prefer to run their own elections;

Whereas, the formality of the AUS elections process can deter students from getting involved on their department's executive team;

Whereas, any department wishing to opt out of AUS elections must get approval from Council;

Whereas, the aforementioned approval process is rather inconsistent, as there are no clear guidelines by which departments can ensure that their request will be granted;

Be it resolved, that the following clause be inserted as Clause 2.2.2 of the Departmental Elections By-Laws: "2.2.2 Any department may opt out of the AUS Elections process with Council's approval so long as their proposed appointment process meets all of the standards in Appendix X":

Be it further resolved, that the following clause be inserted as Clause 2.2.2.1 of the Departmental Elections By-Laws: "2.2.2.1 Any individual who believes that a department granted exemption from Elections AUS has not followed the guidelines in Appendix X, they may appeal to Elections AUS to challenge the departmental election's legitimacy. If the investigation of Elections AUS finds that the department did not comply with the following guidelines in Appendix X, the departmental election will be deemed invalid and must be readministered through Elections AUS. Investigations by Elections AUS must be completed within 7 business days, subject to renewal"

Be it further resolved, that "Applications for the aforementioned exemptions shall include a detailed proposal for an alternative electoral process." of 2.3.1 in the current Departmental Elections By-Laws be struck

Be it further resolved, that for the Winter 2019 semester only, departments have until February 27th to request exemption from the AUS Elections process

Moved by,

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Appendix X: Guidelines for Departmental Associations Granted Exemption From an Electoral Process Administered by Elections AUS

1. Departments must hold elections.
 - 1.1. These elections are not subject to AUS Elections timeframe, and instead may occur anytime before April 1st.
 - 1.2. Departments must give their students notice and allow time for at least five business days of nomination period, two businesses days of extended nomination period, and at least five business days campaigning period.
 - 1.2.1. Departments must send out a listserv before the beginning of the extended nomination period, listing positions that have the available number of positions or less running candidates.
 - 1.2.2. The extended nomination period is deemed optional, at the discretion of departments.
2. Voting must occur online.
 - 2.1. Platforms of candidates must be made available through the departmental listserv, so that voters unable to attend information sessions can make informed decisions.
 - 2.1.1. Should candidates not submit their platform in the reasonable timeframe provided by the department, their platform will not be included within the listserv.
 - 2.1.2. Departments will have the option to send out the platform of candidates through other means of communication, notwithstanding the listserv.
 - 2.1.3. Voting must be made available for a minimum of at least 2 days
 - 2.2. Online voting must be administered by an individual who is not rerunning for a position within that department
 - 2.2.1. In the case that all individuals within the department are rerunning, the department shall seek an outside individual whether from the master's association or otherwise who can administer it
 - 2.3. Online voting must be run through a legitimate platform that requires an online authentication service such as ballotbin, ballotbox, omnivox.
 - 2.3.1. Google forms shall not be considered a legitimate platform given that it can be easily manipulated
 - 2.4. Departments are free to host in-person information sessions during the voting period.
3. After this initial election has taken place, departments are free to fill unfilled positions in one of two ways:
 - 3.1. Departments may hold a second election on their own timeframe, provided that is still meets the standards set forth in Article 2.

- 3.2. Departments may hold interviews where executives can select the best candidate, following AUS Equity guidelines.
 - 3.2.1. Interviews must be held by two recently elected executives, along with a member of Elections AUS, an Equity Commissioner, or the Secretary General, who will ensure the transparency of the interview process.
 - 3.2.1.1. If there are one or less elected executives, the outgoing executives will interview the candidate(s).
 - 3.2.1.2. In the case that there are only one or less outgoing executives, the interview, with the consent of the candidate will be recorded for accountability concerns.