



SPRING GENERAL ELECTIONS:

A New Beginning

Frequently Asked Questions

The following is a fictitious discussion between myself (Assil – Executive Vice-President) and a you (potential candidate).

Q: Hey Assil!

A: First things first, [the MSS encourages students with lived experience of discrimination and from underrepresented groups in medicine to apply.](#)

Q: What?

A: You heard me! So now, hello there *insert your own name* (or your friend's name because Cochrane review have shown that 50% of questions asked by humans are 'for a friend' $p < 0.05$). Where would you say you are on the zen meter?

THREAD 1 – Timeline

Q: Please don't talk to me about zen meter... I already lost my clicker in block B. Though, I could be better if you could answer my questions about [the spring general election](#). So now, let's say I want to run for something. Hypothetically, just for discussion's sake. How should I go about this?

A: Right, just for discussion's sake. So here is how this works:

1. **There is a nomination period (7 days):** this is when people who want to run need to gather signatures from people who would approve of their candidature for a given position. The minimum requirement is 20 signature. You will have 7 days to gather all your signatures on the nomination form and send it to elections.msscouncil@gmail.com. If you prefer you can also send an email to the address on the form and Cc at least 20 people who have agreed to approve of your candidature. Just so it's clear: do one OR the other. Not both – for the love of my inbox. **If there is only one person for a given position I will extend the nomination period 24 – 48 hours for the sake of our holy democracy.**
2. **The nomination period is followed by a campaign period (5 days):** this is when you have to convince people to give you their precious and go to Mordor. I mean precious vote. Convince them to give you their precious vote. This will go on during 3 school days. There will be speeches held during one of those three days.
3. **The voting will follow (5 days) the campaign period:** students will be allowed to vote for 5 full days online. At the end of this, we will announce the elected candidates via a mass email or carrier pigeon – whatever is available.



THREAD 2 – campaigning

Q: So... define campaigning.

A: **Campaigning means solicitation of people's vote by any means.**

Q: So what can you do and not do during nomination?

A: I'm glad you asked. Feels like you know exactly what I want to tell you. During nomination, you can ask people to support your candidature. Meaning you can only ask them to support you running. You are not allow to:

- **Showcase your ideas by word of mouth** (including text message or other direct messaging) or by any mass communication or any other means of communication deemed to achieve this purpose.
- **Solicit people's vote in the same ways mentioned above** - Indirectly showcase your ideas of people's vote. May include asking someone to do it for you or accidentally leaving your campaign flyers in the printer or in small group rooms on 2nd floor.
- **Engage in any sort of behavior which would directly result in discouraging a fellow class member for running.** Basically, the many institutions are already rigged(NBA, NFL, Olympic national committee, FIFA, white house...), so don't rig this election.

Q: Ok got it. Now about campaigning, anything I should know?

A: Oh yes. Here are the rules:

I) **Required**

- **Sending a blurb (or full length text – no word limit) with your ideas and/or your bio** for the MSS website. Optional: You may also add ONE picture of you or your ideas to supplement your online space. Please send your content to elections.msscouncil@gmail.com. Pictures and texts should be as separate files (i.e. please don't send a single document with your image and text).

II) Allowed

- **Creating a facebook event** for your campaign (in this case, please add Xin and I to your event)
- **Soliciting people's vote in person** - Direct messaging to solicit people's vote (equivalent to word of mouth)

III) Not Allowed

- **Posting about your candidature in Facebook groups** including your class group.
- **Performing a speech other then during the official speech period**, i.e. any discourse pronounced to a group of people in a public place., including but not limited to your class rooms, small group rooms, Lady Meredith Annex, SSMU cafeteria, and any other public place where it is reasonable to assume that your discourse will be heard by a group of first year medical students.



- **Bribing voters or any council member**, i.e. offering specific individuals a service or product specifically in exchange of their vote or support.
- **Continuing to campaign after voting period has started**, i.e. engaging in any of the above allowed and not allowed activities.

Q: Ok. But what if I run unopposed... should I campaign?

A: We have changed the rules relating to acclamations this year. **Now, even unopposed candidates require a vote of confidence by the MSS student body whereby we can either vote for you or for the (figurative) empty chair [of Sir William Osler].**

Q: I see. Ok now, what happens if say by accident I do something that is not allowed.

A: We tell CaRMS what you did, you vile fraud. Kidding. See section 6.4.7 of the MSS constitution. But seriously, don't tickle a sleeping dragon (get the reference?) For any other rules and regulation see section 6.4.3 of our constitution.

THREAD 3 – Spendings

Q: I'd like to discuss the ethics of using money to advantage one's self during an election.

A: Very nice, I love debates. Money should get out of politics. Here is the house rule for election spendings. **Each candidate will be allowed to spend a maximum of 30\$ of their own money for anything they see fit to support their candidature.** Bills can be asked to be produced. Violation of this term will be considered a violation.

THREAD 4 – Speeches

Q: How do the speeches work?

A: Speeches are held during the campaign period. They serve to present candidates to the entire student body. The content is recorded and published before voting period starts. **Each candidate has 1.5 min to deliver his speech followed by question period.** Number of questions depends on how many people are running and the time we have. Typically includes 1 question from the general council and questions from the student body at large.

Q: Just 1.5 min though?

A: It's more than speed dating. It's all about perspective.

Q: Fair enough.

A: Anything else?

Q: Not for now. If there is anything else where can I reach you?

A: email, carrier pigeon, Facebook, text messages, telepathy – in that order please.