

CODE CHANGES 2010: VOTERMEDIA

TO: COUNCIL
FROM: LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES COMMITTEE
January 21, 2011

Amendment to introduce rules for a Continuous VoterMedia contest and to make explicit that Council members cannot take part in VoterMedia contests. Also to change the name Voter Funded Media to VoterMedia.

Additions are indicated by ***bold italics***. Deletions are indicated by striking through (~~like this~~).

SECTION IX: CODE PROCEDURES

A. ELECTORAL PROCEDURES

Article 1. Elections Committee

A. Composition

1. The Elections Committee shall be composed of the following six (6) members, all of whom shall be Active Members of the Society:

- (a) the Elections Administrator, who shall be Chair;
- (b) the Chief Returning Officer;
- (c) the Voter-Funded Media Administrator; and
- (d) three (3) other Active Members of the Society.

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B. Powers and Duties

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2. The administration and conduct of Executive elections, as defined in Bylaw 5(3), and of Society referenda, as defined in Bylaw 4, shall be vested in the Elections Committee. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Committee shall:

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- (t) administer the ***OneTime*** Voter-Funded Media contest ***held in connection with the elections*** as described in Article 14; and

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C. Duties of Committee Members

3. The Voter-Funded Media Administrator shall be responsible for running the *OneTime* Voter-Funded Media contest *held in connection with the elections*.

Article 2. Nomination and Campaign Regulations

8. Conflict of Interest

- (c) Neither the Student Resource Groups nor the Society's Constituencies shall spend money or resources on behalf of any candidates, with the exception of any publication dependent on a Resource Group or Constituency for funding that has entered the Voter-Funded Media contest and abided by all procedures outlined in Article 14 below. Any candidate who benefits from a violation of this provision may, at the discretion of the Elections Committee, be penalized in accordance with Article 3 below.
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10.
 - (h) If an organization to which a candidate belongs spends money on campaign materials explicitly endorsing that candidate, the money so spent shall be counted as part of that candidate's expenses when determining whether the candidate remained within the campaign spending limits, but the candidate shall not be eligible for reimbursement for such expenses. The term "campaign materials" in this provision does not include the publication of written endorsements by media outlets participating in the Voter-Funded Media contest.

Article 7. Counting of Ballots and Release of Results

6.
 - (e) The Elections Committee shall announce the results of the *OneTime* Voter-Funded Media contest *held in connection with the elections* in a timely manner, and distribute the award money to all eligible contestants prior to the Society's Annual General Meeting.

Article 14. Voter-Funded Media

1. Society elections shall include a ~~media~~ *OneTime VoterMedia* contest which will allow the voters to award funds to participants in the contest.
2. The *OneTime VoterMedia* contest shall be open to all individuals and groups, regardless of their standing with the Society, provided they pay the Society ~~the \$150~~ *an entry fee equal to two percent (2%) of the prize pool* by the designated deadline *or qualify for free entry based on their standing in the Continuous VoterMedia contest as described in paragraph 12 below*. This provision notwithstanding, the contest shall not be open to candidates running in the election associated with the media contest, members of the Elections Committee, *members of Council*, ~~the Speaker of Council~~, or officers of Student Court. Once they submit their nomination papers, candidates running in the election

associated with the media contest may not be listed as contributors to any media outlet participating in the contest, but may submit letters to the editor of such a media outlet.

3. Participants must register between the time announced by the Elections Committee for the commencement of the contest and a time during the Official Campaign Period to be announced by the Elections Committee.
4. At the time of registration participants must pay the entry fee *if required*, and must disclose:
 - (a) the name of the media outlet as it will appear on the ballot; ~~and~~
 - (b) the name of the person or organization to whom a cheque may be written should they be entitled to receive prize money; *and*
 - (c) ***the name of an Editor, who shall be wholly responsible and liable for all material appearing in the media outlet.***
5. The designated recipient of prize money for any participant may not be changed once the participant has entered, except at the discretion of the Elections Committee.
6. Participants shall provide any additional information that the Elections Committee requires and shall agree to operate within limitations set by the Elections Committee for the protection of candidates and the integrity of the elections.
7. The Elections Committee shall have control of the funds raised through entry fees and may use these funds for:
 - (a) the salary of the Voter-Funded Media Administrator,
 - (b) administrative costs; and/or
 - (c) publicity related expenses.
8. A central site shall be located on the Society's elections website listing the participants, who may also choose to submit a brief statement and have links to their respective websites. The Elections Committee shall determine the length and format of participants' content allowed on the Society's elections website.
9. Contest procedures
 - (a) On the ballot, be it paper or electronic, there shall be a section showing the names of all the media contestants, at the top of which the following statement shall appear: "Voter-Funded Media contest: For each media contestant, please select the amount of award you think it deserves."
 - (b) The media contestants' names shall appear on the ballot in the order of ***their ranking in the Continuous VoterMedia contest, followed by any paid entrants in***

the order of the date and time they completed their registration for the contest, if possible.

- (c) For each media contestant, the ballot shall provide *options for* award amounts *in dollar or percent terms*. ~~the following five options as award amounts: NO MONEY, \$500, \$1000, \$1500 and \$2000. The online ballot shall show the default vote of NO MONEY pre-selected for each contestant.~~

10. Prizes shall be awarded by the following sequence of steps:

- (a) The votes shall be interpolated to allow for a graduated awards system that can more accurately reflect the relative support of each media contestant.
- (b) Award money ~~will~~ *shall* be allocated to the media participants *proportionately to their relative levels of voter support*. ~~that:~~
 - i) ~~is awarded in increments of \$100, except in cases where this is not possible; and~~
 - ii) ~~is proportionate to their relative levels of voter support; and~~
 - iii) ~~does not exceed the total award pool amount of \$8000.~~

11. *In addition to the OneTime VoterMedia contest described above, there shall be a Continuous VoterMedia contest running for a period that extends before, during, and after the elections period. Funding for the two contests shall be established each year in the Society's budget*

12. *The Continuous VoterMedia contest shall be administered by the SAC Vice-Chair in accordance with the following rules:*

- (a) *The Continuous VoterMedia contest shall have no entry fee and no entry deadline, but contest participants must be Active Members of the Society and must not be members of Council.*
- (b) *Media outlets entering the contest must provide to the SAC Vice-Chair the name of an Editor, who shall be wholly responsible and liable for all material appearing in the media outlet. However, the Editor's name need not be made public.*
- (c) *To be approved to participate in the Continuous VoterMedia contest, media outlets must demonstrate at the time of registration that at least 40 percent of their content is directly related to the Society, UBC Vancouver or its Affiliated Institutions, or student life at UBC Vancouver or its Affiliated Institutions.*
- (d) *If at any time the content referred to in paragraph (c) falls below 40 percent for any participant, the SAC Vice-Chair may penalize that participant or remove them from the contest.*

- (e) *The SAC Vice-Chair may also impose penalties up to and including removal from the contest for the publication of content that the Vice-Chair deems to be libellous, offensive, a violation of personal privacy, or a violation of Society policies on confidentiality.*
- (f) *Decisions of the Vice-Chair may be appealed to SAC.*

SECTION VIII: COMMISSIONS

A. OVERALL PROVISIONS FOR COMMISSIONS

Article 4. Vice-Chairs

- 4. In addition to those powers and duties set out in Bylaw 7(3) and in paragraph 3 above, the SAC Vice-Chair shall:
 - (a) be responsible for the election of the Grad Class Council in accordance with Section XVI of the Code; ~~and~~
 - (b) *be responsible for administering the Continuous VoterMedia contest in accordance with Section IX A, Article 14 of the Code; and*
 - (~~b~~ c) be responsible for making sure that he or she is instructed by the Treasurer-Controller on appropriate procedures for reviewing cheques and the related supporting documentation.

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B. STUDENT ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION (SAC)

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Article 2. Powers and Duties of SAC

- 1. In addition to those powers and duties set out in the Bylaws, SAC shall:
 - (a) establish regulations for constituting and deconstituting Clubs and publish such regulations in the SAC Policy Handbook;
 - (b) act as the official liaison between the Society and all Constituencies and Clubs, and between the Society and the student associations at affiliated institutions, and between the Society and the Graduate Students' Society;
 - (c) grant space in the Student Union Building to Clubs, and require Clubs to apply for such space annually, unless specified otherwise in the Code;
 - (d) grant space in the Student Union Building to the Elections Committee;

- (e) regulate bookings and security in the Student Union Building and publish bookings and security regulations in the SAC Policy Handbook;
- (f) maintain an electronic information database on Constituencies, Clubs and Student Resource Groups;
- (g) manage the Society's Art Gallery and collection;
- (h) present options and recommendations to Council regarding policies or plans that are related to its area;
- (i) present options and recommendations for Council in relation to Council's powers in relation to the Subsidiary Organizations, under Bylaw 13;
- (j) have the power to regulate the elections of Clubs and Associations, to make rulings in the case of disputed elections held by Clubs or Associations, and to require the Elections Committee to provide it with advice or recommendations in making such rulings;
- (k) have such powers and duties in relation to Student Resource Groups as are stipulated in Section XI of the Code;
- (l) establish regulations concerning alcohol consumption in the SUB and publish such regulations in the SAC Policy Handbook;
- (m) collaborate with the Food and Beverage Manager, or that Manager's designate, and the Safety Coordinator in order to work out the details of an alcohol training program for Subsidiary Organizations and Student Resource Groups;
- (n) work with Clubs and Constituencies to implement the Society's sustainability strategy; ~~and~~
- (o) ***hear appeals of rulings by the SAC Vice-Chair in matters relating to the Continuous VoterMedia contest as described in Section IX A, Article 14 of the Code; and***
- (p) have such other powers and duties as are assigned by Council or the Executive Committee from time to time.