

GSS Executive Board Election and Fee Referendum

2025 CANDIDATE ELECTION/REFERENDUM GUIDE

- 1) **Nominations open at 10:00am February 10, 2025 and close February 24, 2025 at 4:00pm.**
- 2) **Your duly signed nomination form must be submitted to the GSS Electoral Officer no later than 4:00pm February 24.** Use only the official nomination form. Submit your nomination form to the Electoral Officer by email to votegss@uvic.ca. You may request that GSS staff scan your nomination form to pdf sent to your UVic email address in the GSS front office during normal business hours. Please send all your nominators signatures as a single pdf. Please send your candidate statement and picture as separate files.
- 3) Candidates must have 10 nominators. Candidates and nominators must be currently registered graduate students. Student numbers of candidates and nominators **will be checked**, so make sure your nominators are currently registered (or get a few extra signatures to be safe).
- 4) The campaign period begins on February 25, 2025 and runs to March 4, 2025. We strongly recommend candidates use the nomination period to plan their campaigns, including designing any posters for circulation, planning how to circulate your materials, etc. GSS staff cannot advise candidates on how to campaign nor provide resources outside what is included in this guide, including access to email listservs.
- 5) Voting will be entirely online at <https://uvicusec.simplyvoting.com/>. Polls will be open 9:00AM on March 5, 2024 and close at 4:30PM March 7, 2025.
- 6) **The GSS will provide the following resources to all candidates:**
 - ✓ The organization of a Meet the Candidate event(s) on February 26, 9-10:30 during Wednesday Coffee to give candidates a platform in which to address the GSS membership.
 - ✓ The copying of (50) fifty 8.5x11 campaign posters (available at GSS office).
 - ✓ A mail out of posters: one to each graduate department. Please note: campus mail picks up from the GSS office on Wednesdays only. In order to mail out your posters, we must have them no later than February 25 at noon.
 - ✓ Circulation of a short bio and statement of intent for each candidate to all members subscribed to the GSS bulletin list-serve, the Grad Rep Council e-mail list and posted on the GSS website. This statement must be no longer than 500 words and must be submitted by email to votegss@uvic.ca when you submit your nomination form.
 - ✓ Candidates can have a digital photo posted along with their campaign statement on the GSS website. Photos will not be circulated by email due to formatting requirements. Please submit photos to votegss@uvic.ca.
- 7) Posters, no larger than 8.5 x 11" can be posted on all authorized posting boards on campus if approval-stamped at the UVSS Student Union Building Info Booth. Posters cannot be posted without the approval stamp, and can only be posted on bulletin boards.
- 8) Candidates and campaign sides may use banners to promote their campaign. Banners are made at the candidate/side's expense. Before posting, posters and banners must have an approval-stamp from the UVSS Student Union Info Booth.

- 9) Candidates and campaign sides may distribute handbills/leaflets for their campaign provided they email a PDF copy of the handbill/leaflet to the Electoral Officer at votegss@uvic.ca. Handbills/leaflets are made at the candidate's expense. Handbills/leaflets must be handed directly to the recipient and not left unattended i.e. on top of tables and chairs. If left unattended the UVIC Facilities staff will remove them.
- 10) Candidates and campaign sides may use e-mail to disseminate campaign information. Candidates may make use of their own formal or informal listservs.
- 11) Candidates and campaign sides are responsible for their own campaign expenses and may **not** spend more than \$250 on campaigning. Campaign expenses **must not** be used to directly incentivize voters to vote a specific way (vote buying). The Electoral Officer retains the right to check all receipts at any time.
- 12) Candidates or campaign sides may solicit endorsement from campus organizations **only** if that organization includes currently registered UVic graduate students, is independent from the candidate (i.e. the candidate does not hold office or authority over the organization), complies with all GSS campaign regulations, and registers their intent to endorse a candidate or campaign side with the Electoral Officer prior to engaging in any campaign activities. **Campus organizations must register their endorsement of a candidate by emailing votegss@uvic.ca no later than the close of nominations.**
- 13) Candidates or campaign sides may solicit and organize supporters to campaign on their behalf. All individuals engaged in campaigning activities **must** be currently registered UVic graduate students. Candidates and campaign sides are responsible for the behaviours of their supporters during official campaigning activities. Supporters may **not** contribute financially in any way to a campaign.
- 14) **The Electoral Officer is Jono Qualter.** They can be reached at votegss@uvic.ca. They will handle any complaints about the election process. Complaints about election results must be lodged within 7 days of the result being announced.

Thank you and good luck!

Campaign behaviour

Campaigning involves candidates, referendum sides, and/or supporters communicating with voters about the election or referendum through:

- Public appearances or speeches (e.g. at the Meet the Candidates events)
- Advertisements via email, social media or other platforms
- Distributing posters, leaflets, etc. in compliance with the regulations outlined in this guide
- Buttons, stickers, displays, chalking on sidewalks/signs, etc.

Campaign material means any verbal (e.g., speech, classroom talk, video), digital (e.g., electronic, website, social media) or physical (e.g., paper, chalking, advertising) material produced by or on behalf of a candidate or referendum side to promote their campaign. Candidates are responsible for organizing their own campaign materials outside the provisions in point 6 above.

Candidates, supporters, and endorsers **may**:

- advertise when, where, and how to vote to all GSS members and encourage voting in the election/referendum
- organize their own meet and greet events (provided no incentives for voting are given to voters)
- authorize their supporters to distribute their posters and leaflets on their behalf
- organize their supporters to canvas around campus (e.g. knocking on grad student office doors to raise awareness about the candidates or referendum question and their platform)

Candidates, supporters, and endorsers **may not**:

- engage in vote-buying (i.e. offering incentives to a voter to vote or not vote or to vote for a particular candidate). Vote-buying including providing electors with food and drinks where there is a real or perceived obligation to vote a certain way
- intimidate or harass voters, including compelling voters by action or threat to vote or refrain from voting, retaliating against voters for voting or not voting, etc.
 - Voter intimidation may include aggressively questioning voters about how they intend to vote, falsely presenting yourself as an elections official, spreading false information about fellow candidates, referenda questions, or election procedures or other behaviours that violate the UVic Discrimination and Harassment policy.

When a question arises about matters not covered in this manual, the Electoral Officer will use the rules governing provincial and federal elections as our guide.

The GSS expects campaigns to be honest and respectful in their campaign communications.

Campaigning is allowed only during the campaign period. As voting takes place online, our members may be voting on any internet connected device on campus during the polling period. Knowingly campaigning within hearing range of members who are in the process of voting is not allowed.

Simply Voting is a secret ballot. All GSS members are expected to respect the privacy of those who are casting their ballot.

[Who is required to register for a referendum or election campaign](#)

GSS members are NOT required to register to campaign in order to share their opinion or make fair comment on a campaign or candidate. GSS members are encouraged to discuss the election and referendum in their conversations, in meetings of graduate students or campus organizations, on social media, or in letters to the editor. Members may share campaign material they have received from a campaign with others without registering to campaign (e.g. pass on a handbill or forward an email to other graduate students). However, only formal referendum campaigns may access GSS resources to promote their campaign.

[Formation of referendum campaign side \(i.e. campaigning for a referendum question\)](#)

All GSS referenda allow for the formation referendum campaign sides. This means that individual student(s) and group(s) can campaign for either a “Yes” or “No” vote for any referendum question. A campaign is the organized development and circulation of official campaign materials such as posters, flyers and an official campaign platform. Only formally registered campaigns may access the resources provided by the GSS, or post posters and banners on campus. Only UVIC graduate students are eligible

to campaign for a referendum side. **Grad students who wish to campaign for a referendum side must register with the Electoral Officer by email to votegss@uvic.ca by the close of the nomination period.**

There can be only one registered campaign team for each side (“yes” or “no”) on a single referendum question. The Electoral Officer will put individual students or groups who register for the same campaign side in touch with each other by email.

Board work expectations

Candidates for the Executive Board **must** be available for ~34 hours of work per month, including a minimum of three board/committee meetings **during GSS office hours** per month, regular (i.e. 1-5 per month) UVic committee/leadership meetings during normal business hours, and monthly GRC meetings on Tuesday evenings. The Chair and Director of Finance should be able to sign cheques at Halpern Centre during GSS office hours.

Quick Reference: Calendar of Important Election Dates

Wednesday, Feb 5, 2025 9-10am in Side Project	Meet the Board event! Thinking about running for election but have questions about what it’s like to serve on the board? Come ask our current board at Wednesday Coffee!
Monday, Feb 10, 2025, 10:00am	Nominations Open, packages available at http://gss.uvic.ca/election and at the GSS general office
Monday, Feb 24, 2025, 4:00pm	Nominations Close.
Feb 17-21, 2025	Please note the GSS office closed for Reading Week. The Electoral Officer can still be reached by email.
Feb 25 - Mar 5, 2025	Campaign period.
Wednesday, Feb 26, 2025 9-10am in Side Project	Meet the Candidates event! Want to hear from the candidates for the Board? Come to Wednesday Coffee to ask your questions and hear why they’re the right people to get your vote.
Mar 5, 9:00am – Mar 7, 4:30pm PST	Voting! All voting is conducted online: https://uvicusec.simplyvoting.com/ Campaigning during the voting period is not permitted.
Mar 10, 2025	Preliminary results posted on the GSS website.
Mar 17, 2025	Deadline to file an appeal.
Mar 25, 2025, 5:00PM	GSS SAGM – Electoral Officer makes a formal election report to the members. Any seats remaining vacant are filled through an election at the SAGM.

Bylaw IV of the *GSS Constitution and Bylaws* governs all University of Victoria Graduate Students’ Society elections. The bylaws are posted online here: <https://gss.uvic.ca/forms-pdfs/constitution-bylaws/>

Current election information will be posted: <http://gss.uvic.ca/election>