

## AGENDA

Special Elections Board Meeting # 10a

February 3, 2021 – 6:00 pm

Microsoft Teams



<b>S.0</b>	<b>Call to Order</b>	
<b>S.1</b>	<b>Land Acknowledgement</b> TBD	
<b>S.2</b>	<b>Adoption of the Agenda</b> S.2.1 Approve the Agenda S.2.2 Declarations of Conflicts	
<b>S.3.</b>	<b>Comments from the Chair</b> S.3.1 Introductions and Pronouns	
<b>S.4</b>	<b>Business</b> S.4.1 Winter 2021 General Election Electoral Policy Amendments Verified Signatures S.4.2 Potential Conflict of Interest W21 General Election: Chief Returning Officer S.4.3 CSA Winter 2021 General Election – Ratification of Candidates	      <b>Pg. 2</b>  <b>Pg. 5</b>  <b>Pg. 7</b>
<b>S.5</b>	<b>New Business</b> S.5.1.	
<b>S.6</b>	<b><i>In Camera</i> Session</b>	
<b>S.7</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>	

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Notice for this amendment was provided at the January 27, 2021 CSA Board Meeting.

### Item S.4.1

#### Winter 2021 General Election Electoral Policy Amendments – Verified Signatures

**WHEREAS** filling all Executive and Board of Director positions is critical to the success of the Central Student Association;

**WHEREAS** COVID-19 public health policy and University of Guelph COVID-19 regulations have made the prescribed electoral process infeasible;

**WHEREAS** it is the collective role and responsibility of the CSA Elections Office to ensure the CSA Elections process is organized, fair and democratic;

**WHEREAS** the Elections Office believes it is necessary for the CSA to amend related policies in order to carry out a fair and successful 2021 Winter General Election;

**WHEREAS** in response to the challenges listed above, at their meeting on January 13, 2021, the CSA Board of Directors amended various Elections-related policies and bylaws, including Appendix G – Electoral, Section 4.3.1.c) by reducing the requirement for an Executive candidate to secure 100 'verified signatures in support of their candidacy' ('verified signatures') to 50 verified signatures; and

**WHEREAS** since the nomination period opened on Monday January 25, 2021, the Elections Team has received concerns from several candidates that the number of verified signatures required in the nominations package is prohibitive under Covid-related restrictions, despite employing reasonable tactics to secure the minimum number of signatures including classroom talks and reaching out by electronic means to their immediate contacts.

**RESOLVED** that based on recommendations from the Elections Office:

- a) The requirement of Executive Candidates securing 50 signatures be further reduced to 25 verified signatures in Section 4.3.1.c).
- b) The requirement of Director Candidates securing 25 verified signatures be reduced to 10 verified signatures in Section 4.2.1.d).
- c) The Elections Office be permitted to maintain Friday January 29, 2021 as the deadline for the nominations period but extend the date to submit the required number of verified signatures to Thursday February 4, 2021.

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- d) Recommendations from the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) relating to the policy revisions in a), b) and c) above, be included in their report at the end of the academic year for consideration by the Board for future elections cycles.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

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## Original Motion from January 27, 2021

Below is the original motion as provided at the January 27, 2021 CSA Board Meeting.

Please note that:

- The revisions made to this motion for the February 3, 2021 meeting do not affect policy or bylaw amendments, and therefore should not require 'one Board Meeting notice to amend'.
- It is within the Elections Office's purview to set the deadlines for candidate nominations package submission deadlines and was mistakenly included in the original motion.
- Original clause d) referring to a Board Meeting on February 3, 2021 (tonight) was removed and should not affect the intent of this motion.
- Original clause d) was changed to remove references to original clauses that have been removed for this meeting.

## Original Motion

### Winter 2021 General Election Electoral Policy Amendments – Verified Signatures

**WHEREAS** filling all Executive and Board of Director positions is critical to the success of the Central Student Association;

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**WHEREAS** COVID-19 public health policy and University of Guelph COVID-19 regulations have made the prescribed electoral process infeasible;

**WHEREAS** it is the collective role and responsibility of the CSA Elections Office to ensure the CSA Elections process is organized, fair and democratic;

**WHEREAS** the Elections Office believes it is necessary for the CSA to amend related policies in order to carry out a fair and successful 2021 Winter General Election;

**WHEREAS** in response to the challenges listed above, at their meeting on January 13, 2021, the CSA Board of Directors amended various Elections-related policies and bylaws, including Appendix G – Electoral, Section 4.3.1.c) by reducing the requirement for an Executive candidate to secure 100 ‘verified signatures in support of their candidacy’ (‘verified signatures’) to 50 verified signatures; and

**WHEREAS** since the nomination period opened on Monday January 25, 2021, the Elections Team has received concerns from several candidates that the number of verified signatures required in the nominations package is prohibitive under Covid-related restrictions, despite employing reasonable tactics to secure the minimum number of signatures including classroom talks and reaching out by electronic means to their immediate contacts.

**RESOLVED** that based on recommendations from the Elections Office:

- a) The requirement of Executive Candidates securing 50 signatures be further reduced to 25 verified signatures in Section 4.3.1.c).
- b) The requirement of Director Candidates securing 25 verified signatures be reduced to 10 verified signatures in Section 4.2.1.d).
- c) The Elections Office be permitted to maintain Friday January 29, 2021 as the deadline for the nominations period but extend the date to submit the required number of verified signatures to Thursday February 4, 2021.
- ~~d) The CSA Board of Directors hold a Special Elections Meeting on Wednesday February 3, 2021 at 6:00 pm on Microsoft Teams to discuss this motion.~~
- d) Recommendations from the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) relating to the policy revisions in a), b) and c) above, be included in their report at the end of the academic year for consideration by the Board for future elections cycles.

**Moved:**

**Seconded:**

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### Item S.4.2

#### **Potential Conflict of Interest W21 General Election: Chief Returning Officer**

The CSA's Chief Returning Officer (CRO) has declared the following potential conflict of interest regarding the Winter 2021 General Election:

Email from the CRO to Election Team members dated January 29, 2021:

Hi folks,

I wanted to let you know that someone I currently work with on the CSAHS Student Alliance is running for a director position [Alyssa Ahmed]. This could be a conflict of interest and I'm not sure what the procedure is.

Thanks!

Jewel Lindemann (She/Her)  
Chief Returning Officer  
Central Student Association

[Appendix G - Electoral](#), Section 1 Conflict of Interest addresses this issue, including providing a process to follow when a conflict is declared:

#### **1.0. Conflict of Interest**

1.1. A conflict of interest is deemed to be any relationship that a CSA Elections Office staff may have with any electoral candidate or principal in a referendum campaign, which may interfere with the impartial operation of the electoral office.

1.2. The Chief Returning Officer (CRO) and Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) are expected to declare a conflict of interest to their supervisor, who will then report such to the Board of Directors.

1.3. Any member of the organization who feels that the CRO or ARO may have a conflict of interest may report this to the appropriate supervisor, who will then take it to the Board of Directors.

1.4. In the case where a conflict of interest is reported, the Board of Directors will determine whether the perceived conflict merits an alternative process.

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1.5. In the case where a conflict of interest is determined to merit action, approvals for all campaign material for the candidate or referendum committee involved, as well as for the other candidates or referendum committee for the same question, will be determined by another CSA Elections Office staff.

1.6. If a conflict of interest is determined to exist for all electoral officers, then approvals will be determined by the CSA Elections Office supervisor.

1.7. If a conflict of interest is identified during or after the voting period, the Board of Directors will immediately begin a review of the electoral period to determine whether such a conflict has disrupted the normal operation of the democratic process, and, if so, what remedy will be undertaken.

## MOTION

### Item S.4.2

#### **Potential Conflict of Interest W21 General Election: Chief Returning Officer**

**WHEREAS** the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) notified the President of a potential conflict of interest in relation to a 2021 General Election candidate via email on January 29, 2021.

**RESOLVED** that:

- a) The information provided by the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) regarding a potential conflict of interest due to their co-worker relationship with a W21 Elections candidate be received.
- b) For the duration of the Winter 2021 General Election process, any decisions regarding candidate Alyssa Ahmed, including approvals for all campaign material for the candidate, as well as for the other candidates for the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences Director at-large election position, be determined by other members of the Elections Team moving forward (Assistant Returning Officer (ARO), President, and/or Policy & Transition Manager).
- c) Based on a recommendation from the CSA President following a review of electoral period activities to date, this conflict has not disrupted the normal operation of the democratic process, and no further remedy should be undertaken.

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### Item S.4.3

#### CSA Winter 2021 General Election – Ratification of Candidates

**WHEREAS** [Appendix G – Electoral](#), Section 4.0 Nominations, subsection 4.1.4. states:

The CRO shall submit the names of all valid candidates and the offices they are seeking to the Board of Directors for ratification within seven days of the close of nominations. If the Board of Directors does not meet within seven days of the close of nomination, the Executive Committee is empowered to ratify the list of candidates.

**MOTION** that the following undergraduate students be ratified as candidates in the CSA 2021 General Election:

#### Executive Candidates

Executive Position	Candidate(s)
President	Alex Charette Nicole Walker Radek Zaba
Vice-President Student Experience	Sara Kuwatly
Vice-President Academic	Lisa Kazuhara
Vice-President External	Jamie Gibson Shilik Hamad

#### Director At-Large Candidates

College	Candidate(s)
College of Arts (COA)	Bella Harris
College of Biological Sciences (CBS)	Lyndsey de Guzman Maya Persram Leilani Rocha Cassandra Stan

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College	Candidate(s)
College of Engineering and Physical Sciences (CEPS)	No candidates.
College of Social and Applied Human Sciences (CSAHS)	Alyssa Ahmed Mechaela Alfonso Ariel Oleynikov Laura Wilson
Gordon S. Lang School of Business and Economics	Leila Stevens Joshua Vito
Ontario Agricultural College (OAC)	No candidates.
Ontario Veterinary College (OVC)	No candidates.