

CUSA^X elections

CUSA 2025 Vice-Presidential Election Nomination Guidelines

Introduction

These guidelines are meant to provide information regarding the 2025 Vice-Presidential Election, and provide further explanation of various processes and requirements that are set out in the [Electoral Code](#) (hereinafter referred to as the Code) and the [Vice-Presidential Elections Policy](#) (hereinafter referred to as the Policy). These guidelines provide information and rules that are meant to supplement those that are set out in the Code and Policy, and in no way replace any provisions of the Code or Policy. It is the responsibility of all prospective candidates and candidates to familiarize themselves with the Code and Policy, and all other relevant election policies.

Nominations

Nomination Period: Monday February 10 to Monday February 24, 5:00pm EST.

Nominations can be sought by prospective candidates during the nomination period. Nominations are to be submitted through the official [CUSA 2025 Vice Presidential Elections Nomination Form](#), and all fields must be completed in order to be considered.

Prospective candidates must indicate which of the three Vice-President positions (Internal/Secretary; Student Issues; Student Life) they are seeking, and are not permitted to run for more than one position. Furthermore, prospective candidates who submit a nomination form to run for one of the three positions are ineligible from also applying for the hiring process of the 2025-26 Vice President, Finance/Treasurer.

Additional nomination specifics include:

- Candidates must receive at least **twenty-five (25) nominations** from eligible nominators.
- It is recommended that candidates receive at least two to three additional nominations, in case one of their nominators is found to be ineligible.
- Candidates may not receive more than two times the required amount (i.e. no more than fifty (50) nominators).

- Eligible nominators must be currently enrolled Carleton University undergraduate students, in any faculty.
- An eligible nominator may nominate more than one candidate, as the act of nominating alone is not to be taken as an endorsement of that candidate.
- A candidate may not nominate themselves.
- A candidate who has run in a previous election may not use the information of nominators received in that election without the express consent of the nominator to have the information re-used.
- A candidate must collect their own nominations, and may not use names received or gathered by any other person other than themselves.

Campaigning vs Nomination Period

Campaigning is **not permitted** during the nomination period. The solicitation of nominations is permitted, and such an act is not considered to be, on its own, campaigning. However, candidates may not use the solicitation of nominations as a campaigning mechanism, nor exceed the maximum number of nominators. Any solicitation of nominations beyond the maximum indicated will be considered campaigning prior to the campaign period, and may be penalized as such under S. 84 of the Code.

In order to be able to be successful in soliciting the required number of nominations, a prospective candidate must be able to publicly engage with electors in order to receive these nominations (i.e. asking electors to nominate them). Furthermore, in order to give a nomination, it is reasonable for an elector to want to know basic information about who the candidate is and why they are running.

While these may seem very similar to campaigning activities, the differentiator is that, during the nomination period, they must be **done only for the purposes of soliciting nominations**. The key is that the purpose of any interactions/publicity the prospective candidate undertakes during the nomination period must be for the purpose of receiving nominations, and not for the purposes of receiving votes (which is what distinguishes it from the campaign period).

Therefore, a prospective candidate is permitted to “announce” their candidacy via a social media post, which can include one, high-level campaign statement that outlines why they’re running. Furthermore, they may introduce their campaign branding, including a hashtag, slogan, etc. However, specific campaign platform

points/promises/goals are not permitted during the nomination period, and are strictly reserved for the campaign period. Furthermore, a prospective candidate may not continuously make additional social media posts during the nomination period beyond what is reasonably required to receive the minimum number of nominators (25). Finally, absolutely no posting or indirect campaigning activities may occur between the prospective candidate's submission of the nomination form or the end of the nomination period (whichever is sooner) and the beginning of the campaign period.

Next Steps After Nomination Submission

Following the closure of the nomination period, prospective candidates will be informed of the status of their nomination by the end of the week of February 24th. A **mandatory all-candidates meeting** will be held on **Wednesday February 26, 9:00pm**, on campus (exact location TBC). As per S. 7 of the Policy, it is the responsibility of the candidate to contact the CRO within 24 hours if they cannot attend the meeting due to exceptional circumstances. In such a case, alternative arrangements may be considered. Otherwise, failure to attend will result in the cancellation of the candidate's nomination.

Following the meeting, all confirmed candidates will be required to sign the [Candidate Code of Conduct](#) prior to the beginning of the Campaign Period. Failure to attend the meeting, or approved alternative, or sign the Candidate Code of Conduct will result in the cancellation of the candidate's nomination.

Authority

These guidelines are issued by the Chief Returning Officer under the authority of S. 20 (f) of the Code and S. 17(2) of the Policy, and shall be considered regulations/procedures for the good administration of this election.

Issue date: February 7, 2025.