

McMaster Linguistics Society

Bylaw 2 - Elections

1. PURPOSE

1.1. To set forth the expectations and guidelines for fair and equitable MLS elections.

2. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

2.1. The Presidential election for the next academic year will be coordinated by the current President or Co-Presidents.

2.1.1. In the case in which the current President or at both Co-Presidents intend on re-running for their position, the Vice President (Internal) will monitor the nomination and voting forms to prevent potential tampering.

2.2. Candidates who meet the criteria for Presidency will:

2.2.1. Return as a full-time undergraduate student of McMaster University in the Faculty of Humanities in the next academic year.

2.2.2. Have served at least one full academic year on the Executive Board or on the Academic Committee.

2.2.3. Be nominated by at least one general member or executive member, excluding themselves.

2.3. The Presidential Election will consist of three stages:

2.3.1 The nomination stage will follow these guidelines:

(1) The nomination process must be announced all on active social platforms.

(2) Nominations will be submitted through Microsoft Forms which will include the list of all eligible Presidential candidates who have not otherwise asked to withdraw from the list.

(3) Nominations for President can be made by any executive or general member during the established nomination period.

(4) Members may nominate multiple candidates, but self-nominations will not be counted.

(5) Valid nominations will include the nominee's name and a short paragraph (50 words minimum) that details why this person

should serve as President.

- (6) Multiple nominations for the same candidate(s) will not be counted as votes in the election stage.

2.3.1. The campaigning stage will follow these guidelines:

- (1) All nominees will be contacted with information on how to proceed with the Presidential election.
- (2) The campaigning stage will not consist of public campaigning through social media, posters, or public announcements.
- (3) Candidates will submit a 250 to 500 word paragraph about their qualifications and anything what they would like to amend in the MLS Constitution.
- (4) Candidates shall not be permitted to disclose any information that will interfere with the anonymity of their application, aside from their experience on the MLS.
- (5) Candidates may run as a Co-President pair. These pairs will send in one submission with 600 to 1100 words.
- (6) Once submissions have been confirmed, the current President(s) will name-blind the submissions unless there is only one submission either from (1) a single Presidential candidate or from (2) a pair running as Co-Presidents.
- (7) The Vice President (Internal) or the Vice President (Administration) will name-blind the submissions in the case where the current President(s) are re-running for the position.

2.3.2. The election stage will follow these guidelines:

- (1) Election shall be on Microsoft Teams and require a majority vote.
- (2) Candidates who are caught disclosing which application belongs to them to eligible voters will be disqualified from the Presidential election.
- (3) Votes will be for individual candidates, even if the candidates ran as a Co-President pair.
- (4) Candidates who receive a majority abstain vote will be removed from the Presidential election. If the candidate was part of a

Co-President pair and their partner wins the majority vote, they will be paired with the candidate with the second highest number of votes. In the same case but where the Co-President pair was the only submission, the valid candidate will be instated as the sole President.

3. EXECUTIVE APPLICATIONS

- 3.1. Selection of remaining executive officers shall be by application.
- 3.2. The selection of the Primary Applied Positions will be conducted solely by the President(s). The application process will follow these guidelines:
 - 3.2.1. Each individual will complete an application (indicating their relevant experience and why they are interested) and the current and incoming Presidents will select the successful candidates.
 - 3.2.2. In the case where the executive applications are held past May 1, the former President(s) will not be part of the selection process.
 - 3.2.3. Applications are open to general members and existing executive members.
 - 3.2.4. The official announcement about executive applications shall be posted at least one week before applications open.
 - 3.2.5. Applications will be open for at least one week and shall be followed by a deliberation period with the Co-Presidents. In the case of a sole President, they will make an official decision after a three day period.
- 3.3. The selection of the Secondary Applied Positions will be conducted mainly by the President(s) with the assistance of the remaining Executive Board upon request. The application process will follow the same guidelines from 3.2.1. to 3.2.5., with one exception:
 - 3.3.1. The position of First Year Representative may only be granted to a first-year student who fulfills general membership qualifications and has the majority of the prerequisites for Linguistics or Cognitive Science of Language planned on their timetable.