



## OPERATING POLICY 1.9.10.2 - VICE PRESIDENTIAL, SPEAKER AND COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS

### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To outline a structure for the annual elections of the MSU Vice Presidents, SRA Standing Committee Commissioners and the annual election of the MSU Speaker.
  - 1.1.1. Should mid-year elections be necessary, these procedures shall be appropriately adapted.
- 1.2. To normalize these processes and the communication of relevant information to increase and facilitate the accessibility of running for these positions.

### 2. NOMINATIONS

- 2.1. Nominations for all Vice President positions and the position of Speaker shall be opened by a member of the outgoing Board of Directors at the first SRA meeting in March each year.
- 2.2. Nominations for the Vice President and Speaker positions shall be closed at the first meeting of the incoming SRA and nominations for MSU Standing Committee Commissioners shall be opened
- 2.3. Nominations for SRA Standing Committee Commissioners shall be closed on the second meeting in April
- 2.4. The Speaker, in collaboration with the Elections Department, shall be responsible for advertising the available Vice President, Standing Committee Commissioner, and Speaker positions.
  - 2.4.1. Nominations shall be advertised on the MSU Website and through appropriate social media channels starting no later than twenty-four (24) hours after nominations have opened and until nominations have been closed.
  - 2.4.2. Information regarding the nature of the positions shall be made available on the MSU website and centralized under the Elections webpage no later than twenty-four (24) hours after nominations have been opened and until nominations have been closed.
    - 2.4.2.1. This information shall include, but is not limited to, the relevant job descriptions, past Vice President and Commissioner reports, and past Vice President and Commissioner transition reports.
  - 2.4.3. Information regarding the typical protocols for campaigning and running for these positions shall be made available on the MSU website and centralized under the Elections webpage no later than twenty-four (24) hours after nominations have been opened and until nominations have been closed.

2.4.3.1. This information shall include, but is not limited to, how to contact incoming SRA members, how to contact the outgoing Vice Presidents, Commissioners, and Speaker, what equipment will be available for presentations, and this Operating Policy.

2.4.4. The Speaker and Elections Department, as well as the incoming SRA, shall advertise through appropriate social media channels the occurrence of these elections to the general MSU membership no later than one week prior to their occurrence.

2.4.5. Other advertising may be done as the Speaker and the Elections Department see fit.

### 3. PROCEDURE

3.1. The Vice President ~~and Speaker~~ elections shall ~~normally~~ be of the following format:

3.1.1. Twelve (12) minutes presentation by each candidate;

3.1.2. Ten (10) minutes of questioning per candidate pooled, in a debate;

3.1.2.1. During this time the candidates have a time limit of two (2) minutes to answer each question;

3.1.2.2. During this time the SRA must submit questions to the Speaker in writing;

3.1.2.3. During this time the SRA shall not ask booth questions

3.1.2.4. During this time the Speaker shall amalgamate and/or remove questions at their discretion;

3.1.3. Ten (10) minutes of individualized questions per candidate;

3.1.3.1. During this time, only the candidate being questioned will remain in the room;

3.1.3.2. During this time, all candidates may not use personal electronic devices;

3.1.3.3. During this time, the candidates have a time limit of two (2) minutes to answer each question;

3.1.4. Additional time for questioning as moved and approved by the SRA;

3.1.5. Five (5) minutes closing statement by each candidate.

#### Reasoning

- We will be implementing public forums for discussion on platforms, such as meeting the candidate sessions, as well as increasing promotion for VP elections
- Presumably VP candidates will still be having meetings with SRA members which means the SRA members have ample time to learn platform basics and ask immediate questions
- We have shortened the presentation time because SRA members have had adequate time to learn about platforms in detail one on one and during their own research sessions while MSU members can also access those documents and attend meet the candidate sessions to learn the details of platforms
- We have shortened pooled question time and decided to make it a debate like presidentials to get a better across the board comparison of candidates and eliminate booth questions, which burn through valuable time. Any question for an individual candidate can be asked during individual question period and it is illogical to break the flow of the debate to usher candidates out of the room. Rebuttals during debate will allow candidates to distinguish themselves from others.
- Written questions must be submitted for questioning during the debate so as to have a more productive question period with more thoughtful questions.
- We are aiming for a setup in which questions will be typed up as they are received and projected so everyone can see what they are with the Speaker's notes next to them if they are amalgamated or removed. This allows the Speaker full control so everything runs smoothly while remaining transparent.
- Please note it is not ONLY the Speaker running the debate portion. They may get help from the CRO, DRO, someone from elections, etc.
- The individualized question period has been shortened because its purpose should be to ask a

candidate a defining question to set them apart. This time is for the last remaining questions on small details and the SRA should have researched and asked enough questions by this period that not many questions should be remaining.

- Overall, the MSU is moving to a more publically accessible format in which platform education and questioning candidates will mostly be conducted in advance so the election meeting is the final step in which SRA are determining which of their frontrunners they prefer and their ranking.

3.2. The Speaker elections shall be of the following format:

3.2.1. Five (5) minutes presentation by each candidate;

3.2.2. Ten (10) minutes of questioning per candidate, pooled;

3.2.3. Five (5) minutes of individualized questions per candidate;

3.2.3.1. During this time, only the candidate being questioned will remain in the room;

3.2.3.2. During this time, all candidates may not use personal electronic devices.

3.2.4. Five (5) minutes closing statement by each candidate.

Reasoning

- The Speaker does not have a platform in the sense that a VP or commissioner candidate does as the Speaker is supposed to remain impartial and not have an agenda
- As a result, we have decided the Speaker only needs 5 minutes maximum to present as question time is more valuable for this role.

3.3. The Standing Committee Commissioner elections shall be of the following format

3.3.1. Five (5) minutes presentation by each candidate;

3.3.2. Five (5) minutes of questioning per candidate, pooled;

3.3.3. Five (5) minutes of individualized questions per candidate;

3.3.3.1. During this time, only the candidate being questioned will remain in the room;

3.3.3.2. During this time, all candidates may not use personal electronic devices;

3.3.4. Additional time for questioning as moved and approved by the SRA;

3.1.0;3.3.5. Two (2) minutes closing statement by each candidate.

~~3.1.1. Twenty (20) minutes presentation by each candidate;~~

~~3.1.2. Fifteen (15) minutes of questioning per candidate, pooled;~~

~~3.1.3. Ten (10) minutes of individualized questions per candidate;~~

~~3.1.3.1. During this time, only the candidate being questioned will remain in the room;~~

~~3.1.3.2. During this time, all candidates should not use personal electronic devices.~~

~~3.1.4. Additional time for questioning as moved and approved by the SRA;~~

~~3.1.5.0.0. Five (5) minutes closing statement by each candidate.~~

3.1.6. The Standing Committee Commissioner elections shall normally be of the following format:

3.1.6.1. Five (5) minutes presentation by each candidate

3.1.6.2. Five (5) minutes of questioning per candidate, pooled;

3.1.6.3. Five (5) minutes of individualized questions per candidate;

~~3.1.6.3.1. During this time, only the candidate being questioned will remain in the room;~~

~~3.1.6.3.2. During this time, all candidates may not use personal electronic devices.~~

~~3.1.6.4. Additional time for questioning as moved and approved by the SRA;~~

~~3.1.6.5. Two (2) minutes closing statement by each candidate.~~

3.4. A laptop and projector shall be made available for all candidates;

3.5. Each SRA member shall sign their ballot so individual votes can be made public in the minutes;

~~3.2.0-3.5.1.~~ Candidates who also hold an SRA seat shall be forced to abstain from voting for the position they are running for.-

#### Reasoning

- Votes being secret in the moment and made public later both allows SRA members to not be peer pressured into voting a certain way but remain transparent for their constituents who can check to see how their representatives voted later.
- In a room of 35 people one vote makes a drastic difference, especially when there are many candidates running for a position. Removing the ability of the candidate to vote for themselves and potentially change the outcome of the votes removes bias.

## 4. COMMUNICATION WITH SRA MEMBERS

4.1. Candidates must have their documentation sent to the Administrative Assistant by noon (12:00pm) four (4) business days prior to the meeting in which their elections close.

4.2. In accordance with Operating Policy 3.7 (Internal Document Distribution), if an SRA member wishes to secure a copy of a candidate's documentation for the meeting, a request must be made to the Administrative Assistant prior to a deadline of their discretion.

4.3. Candidates will not be permitted to bring their own physical copies for distribution to the SRA;

4.3.1. The only documentation that will be permitted for distribution is that which is distributed by the Administrative Assistant.

4.4. The Administrative Assistant will post the campaign material on the MSU website in the same manner as a supporting document.

4.4.1. Any documentation which is not submitted by the above stated deadline will not be posted on the MSU Website.

4.5. Meetings pertaining to campaigning for these elections shall not take place in the MSU ~~or SRA Offices.~~

4.6. Candidates may request from the Speaker contact information from the SRA:

4.6.1. The Speaker will notify the incoming SRA members of their intent to release contact information and provide members with at least 24 hours to opt out of this information sharing.

## 5. AMENDMENTS

5.1. Any amendments to this policy shall require five (5) days notice.

- 5.2. Notification of intent and/or motions to amend this policy shall be communicated on the Elections webpage with the original information on the election process.