

BYLAW 3: THE ELECTIONS BYLAW

As passed at the Bethune College Council Meeting on September 16th, 2026

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ARTICLE I: GENERAL

1. General

- 1.1. All BCC Elections shall be coordinated by the Chief Returning Officer, hereby referred to as the CRO. If the CRO is a candidate in the election then another member who is deemed fit by Council shall take their place;
- 1.2. In any situation(s) where this Bylaw contradicts Bylaw 1, Bylaw 1 shall have precedence.

2. Principles

- 2.1. In general, the goal of any election is to:
 - 2.1.1. Objectively inform all voters;
 - 2.1.2. Elect an appropriate candidate; and
 - 2.1.3. Offer a fair chance to all legitimate candidates;
- 2.2. The following actions are strictly forbidden:
 - 2.2.1. Spamming, including, but not limited to, sending unsolicited bulk email;
 - 2.2.2. Solicitation, including, but not limited to, forceful, urgent, or repeated requests; and
 - 2.2.3. Deception, including, but not limited to, lies, coercion or slander;
- 2.3. Any election activity that breaches York University policies or regional or national laws will be grounds for disqualification.

ARTICLE II: CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER

1. Roles and Responsibilities

- 1.1. The CRO, shall oversee the online voting process;
- 1.2. Be in charge of all matters pertaining to the holding of the BCC elections, By-Elections, and/or referenda, and shall do so in accordance with the Secretariat Policy of Regulation Regarding Student Organizations;
- 1.3. Conduct the elections, By-Elections, or referenda on days established by the Constitution, or by motion of the BCC;
- 1.4. Ensure Council does not publicly promote candidates during the election period;
- 1.5. Maintain complete impartiality and may take any complaints or charges of undue pressure or influence before the BCC for investigation and resolution;
- 1.6. Have authority to enforce all electoral regulations or decide matters of contention or to take them before the BCC for resolution. They may disallow nominations or force the withdrawal of any candidate for documented just cause, and such a rejected person may appeal to the BCC for reconsideration;
- 1.7. Be eligible to run for office in the BCC elections or By-Elections only if written notice of their resignation is given to the BCC President at least a week prior to the opening of all nominations for such elections or By-Elections;
- 1.8. Be replaced as the CRO by the Hiring Committee in the event of their resignation;
- 1.9. Must have an All Candidates Meeting with all nominees before the start of the Campaign Period to determine their eligibility and commitment to run for office;
 - 1.9.1. The rules and regulations listed in Appendix I must be explained and discussed in great detail and all questions about said rules and regulations shall be answered;
- 1.10. Must sign a contract with the Council and receive a contract based payment of \$150 per election conducted;
 - 1.10.1. In the event of all responsibilities not being fulfilled by the CRO, the Council shall reduce the amount of pay with a supermajority vote of the Council to an amount decided by the Council;
- 1.11. After elections are over, the Chief Returning Officer must release the final vote count along with the results of the elections in the Ratification Meeting.

ARTICLE III: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

1. Nominations

- 1.1. Candidates for office must be regular Members of the Community, and in accordance with other provisions outlined in Bylaw 1;
- 1.2. Nominations shall be open for at least seven (7) days during the election or By-Election;
- 1.3. Candidates can be nominated for all voting positions of Council as outlined in Bylaw 1 Article IV Section 3.1;
- 1.4. No candidate may be nominated for more than one office in any one election or by-election;
- 1.5. For the positions of: Vice-President Athletics, co-candidates shall be allowed to campaign together in elections;
- 1.6. Nominees must attend the All Candidates Meeting before the start of the Campaign Period to determine if their eligibility and commitment to run for office are satisfied;
 - 1.6.1. Failure to attend the All Candidates Meeting or a similar meeting with the CRO shall result in disqualification from the election;
- 1.7. Nominees may choose to change the office they are being nominated to any time before the start of the All Candidates Meeting;
 - 1.7.1. Nominees must have nominated themselves before the end of the Nomination Period to be eligible to change the office they are being nominated for;
- 1.8. No regular member shall be allowed to run for office if they fail to be nominated during the Nomination Period.

2. Voter Eligibility

- 2.1. Any Regular Member of the Community as defined in Bylaw 1 Article II Section 1.1.1.b., and only such persons, may vote in BCC elections, By-Elections and referenda;
- 2.2. Each such voter is entitled to cast one vote for each position with the following restrictions:
 - 2.2.1. Only Regular Members who are in the first year of study in their program may vote for the First Year Representatives;
 - 2.2.2. Only Regular Members who are in the Faculty of Lassonde School of Engineering may vote for the Lassonde Representative;

2.3. The CRO shall not be allowed to vote in the BCC elections regardless of any other eligibility criteria being fulfilled to maintain impartiality in the electoral process;

2.3.1. BCC shall ensure that the CRO is not an eligible voter by notifying SCLD when submitting the election ballot.

3. Elections

3.1. BCC elections shall be held on dates set by the BCC or the outgoing Council, but never on Saturday, Sunday or a University Holiday, and these dates shall be duly advertised;

3.2. BCC shall hold at least two elections per academic year:

3.2.1. A General Election held in the Winter Semester to elect an incoming Council for the following academic year;

3.2.2. A By-Election held in the Fall Semester to elect the First Year Representatives as well any other vacant position on Council if applicable to be elected;

3.2.3. Additional By-Elections can be held at the sole discretion of the Council;

3.3. An abstain option is provided to constituents to not select any of the candidates in the elections. A reject option will also be provided to not endorse any of the candidates available. This is to be clarified and communicated to all constituents ahead of, and during the voting period.

3.4. If the option to reject all candidates has higher votes than any candidate at the end of the voting period, that candidate is therefore rejected, and a new election must be called for the respective position if necessary. Any applicable position requirements should be disregarded for the new elections in accordance with Bylaw 1 Article III Section 1.14;

3.5. In the event of a tie between winning candidates for any election, a re-election shall be held with a new campaign and voting period with only said winning candidates being eligible to run to determine the specified number of winning candidates as allowed by Bylaw 1 Article IV Section 3;

3.5.1. In the event that the subsequent election ends in a tie as well, council shall proceed with another re-election or decide a winner with a supermajority vote at the sole discretion of the BCC.

4. Ratification

4.1. A Ratification Meeting shall be held after the end of elections to ratify the

elections, as well as after hiring to ratify the hired candidates;

4.2. For elections, a supermajority vote shall ratify the proper execution of elections;

4.2.1. In the case of improper execution of elections, Council may reject election ratification by a supermajority vote;

4.2.2. If election ratification is rejected, a new By-Election shall be held by the Council for all positions being elected in the current election;

4.3. For hired positions, a majority vote to reject ratification should reject the proposed candidate by the hiring committee;

ARTICLE IV: INTERIM PROTOCOL

1. General

- 1.1. In the event an elected position becomes vacant for any reason, BCC shall follow the procedures outlined in this Article.

2. President

- 2.1. In case of infirmity, death, resignation, or other form of ineligibility of the President, the council is required to appoint an interim President with a two-thirds vote of Council no later than ten (10) business days following the resignation;
- 2.2. Once an interim President is appointed, Council shall hold a By-Election at its earliest convenience to fulfill the position permanently, as outlined in Article III;
 - 2.2.1. In the event that a current member of Council is appointed as interim President, they shall temporarily vacate and hold no authority or influence over their current position in Council until the end of their interim term;
 - 2.2.2. The member of Council shall be allowed to return back to their original position in Council if they choose to not run in the aforementioned By-Election;
 - 2.2.3. If the member of Council chooses to run in the aforementioned By-Election, they must resign from their current position in Council before the commencement of the By-Election;
- 2.3. The interim term shall end when a new President is ratified at the end of the By-Election.

3. Executive Vice-President

- 3.1. In case of infirmity, death, resignation, or other form of ineligibility or vacancy of the President, the council is required to appoint an interim Executive Vice-President with a two-thirds vote of Council no later than fifteen (15) business days following the resignation;
- 3.2. Once an interim Executive Vice-President is appointed, Council shall hold a By-Election at its earliest convenience to fulfill the position permanently, as outlined in Article III;
 - 3.2.1. In the event that a current member of Council is appointed as interim Executive Vice-President, they shall temporarily vacate and hold no authority or influence over their current position in Council until the end of their interim term;

- 3.2.2. The member of Council shall be allowed to return back to their original position in Council if they choose to not run in the aforementioned By-Election;
- 3.2.3. If the member of Council chooses to run in the aforementioned By-Election, they must resign from their current position in Council before the commencement of the By-Election;
- 3.3. The interim term shall end when a new Executive Vice-President is ratified at the end of the By-Election.

4. Vice-President Athletic(s)

- 4.1. In case of infirmity, death, resignation, or other form of ineligibility or vacancy of both Vice-President Athletics, the council shall have the right to choose between two options as outlined below;
 - 4.1.1. Council shall appoint an interim for the position with a two-thirds vote of Council no later than fifteen (15) business days following the resignation. Once an interim has been appointed, the Council shall hold a By-Election at its earliest convenience to fulfill the position permanently, as outlined in Article III;
 - 4.1.2. Council shall hold a By-Election within fifteen (15) business days following the resignation;
- 4.2. In the event that a current member of Council is appointed as interim for the Executive position, they shall temporarily vacate and hold no authority or influence over their current position in Council until the end of their interim term;
- 4.3. The member of Council shall be allowed to return back to their original position in Council if they choose to not run in the aforementioned By-Election;
 - 4.3.1. If the member of Council chooses to run in the aforementioned By-Election, they must resign from their current position in Council before the commencement of the By-Election;
- 4.4. The interim term shall end when a new Executive is ratified at the end of the By-Election.
- 4.5. In the event that one of the two members resigns, is removed, or is otherwise unable to complete their term, the Hiring Committee may initiate a hiring process to appoint a Co-Council Member to serve for the remainder of the term, if deemed necessary.
 - 4.5.1. The Hiring Committee shall recommend a candidate to Council following the completion of the hiring process. The appointment of the Co-Council Member

shall require a two-thirds majority vote at a Regular Meeting.

4.5.2. The Co-Council Member shall be considered a hired, non-voting member of Council.

4.5.3. The Co-Council Member is required to attend Council meetings and shall be subject to the same attendance expectations and conduct standards as other Council Members, except where voting rights are restricted.

4.5.4. The Co-Council Member shall assume the responsibilities of the joint position in conjunction with the remaining member and/or as directed by Council.

5. Commuter Director(s) or Outreach Director(s)

5.1. In case of infirmity, death, resignation, or other form of ineligibility or vacancy of both Commuter Directors or both Outreach Directors, the council shall have the right to choose between two options as outlined below;

5.1.1. Council shall appoint an interim for the position with a two-thirds vote of Council.

Once an interim has been appointed, the Council shall hold a By-Election at its earliest convenience to fulfill the position permanently, as outlined in Article III;

5.1.2. Council shall hold a By-Election at its earliest convenience to fulfill the position permanently, as outlined in Article III.

5.2. In the event that one of the two members resigns, is removed, or is otherwise unable to complete their term, the Hiring Committee may initiate a hiring process to appoint a Co-Council Member to serve for the remainder of the term, if deemed necessary.

5.2.1. The Hiring Committee shall recommend a candidate to Council following the completion of the hiring process. Appointment of the Co-Council Member shall require a two thirds majority vote at a Regular Meeting.

5.2.2. The Co-Council Member shall be considered a hired, non-voting member of Council.

5.2.3. The Co-Council Member is required to attend Council meetings and shall be subject to the same attendance expectations and conduct standards as other Council Members, except where voting rights are restricted.

5.2.4. The Co-Council Member shall assume the responsibilities of the joint position in conjunction with the remaining member and/or as directed by Council.

6. Other Positions of Council

6.1. In case of infirmity, death, resignation, or other form of ineligibility or vacancy of any other member of BCC, the council shall have the right to choose between two options as outlined below;

6.1.1. Council shall appoint an interim for the position with a two-thirds vote of Council.

Once an interim has been appointed, the Council shall hold a By-Election at its earliest convenience to fulfill the position permanently, as outlined in Article III;

6.1.2. Council shall hold a By-Election at its earliest convenience to fulfill the position permanently, as outlined in Article III.

APPENDIX I: BETHUNE COLLEGE COUNCIL ELECTION RULES

1. General

- 1.1. Appendix I shall be reviewed and discussed at a Regular Meeting of the Council before the start of each Election or By-Election;
- 1.2. All deductions are stackable and subject to the Council's interpretation.

2. Campaign Rules and Penalties

Note: Percentages listed in brackets next to each infraction are the minimum deductions that will be applied to a candidate's vote count. Deviations from this rule are subject to the Council's interpretation on a case-by-case basis.

2.1. Infractions Resulting in Disqualification (-100%)

- 2.1.1. Failing to attend the Mandatory All-Candidates Meeting, without providing prior written notice to bethune.elections@gmail.com and scheduling a make-up meeting with the CRO before campaign period begins.
- 2.1.2. Posting physical or digital content or acting in a way that is deemed tasteless, harmful or degrading towards another candidate or towards the Bethune College Council.
 - Acts deemed degrading or harmful by persons affiliated with a candidate toward another candidate or toward the Bethune College Council will result in a penalization as deemed appropriate by the CRO and BCC. (-35%)
- 2.1.3. Ripping down or defacing another candidate's posters or digital content.
- 2.1.4. Campaigning with, or promoting another candidate running in the election (i.e. slates and parties).
 - Slates and parties refers to campaigning for yourself with another candidate. For example, if I am running for the First Year Representative position and my friend is also running for this position, I would be in violation of slates and parties if I put up posters, social media content, or verbally ask others to vote for myself and my friend.
- 2.1.5. Emailing constituents using YorkU-sanctioned, Bethune registered, or CNS registered listservs.

- You are not allowed to mass-email or individually email any constituent regarding the elections or your campaign because they have not provided consent to receiving these emails.

2.2. General campaigning infractions

2.2.1. Using any Bethune College Council or Bethune College Head Office materials, with the exception of the Bethune College Dragon Logo and publicly released media by BCC or Head Office. (-10% per material used)

- Including, but not limited to, printers, stationary, privately owned media by BCC or Head Office, etc.

2.2.2. Campaigning in the Bethune College Council Office or Bethune College Head Office in any way, including verbally or through affiliated social media platforms. (-20%)

- Including, but not limited to, Bethune College Council, Bethune Athletics, and Bethune College Head Office social media platforms on Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, YUConnect, etc.

2.2.3. Posting or distributing campaign material (physically, digitally) before the official Campaign Period begins. (-15% per material reported, per day)

2.2.4. Posting or distributing campaign material where the main focus of the photo is on current Bethune College Council members or other candidates in the election. (-15%)

2.2.5. Posting on eClass or making verbal announcements during class without obtaining written permission from your course instructor in advance and forwarding this to bethune.elections@gmail.com. (-15% per announcement, per class)

2.2.6. Distributing or providing any incentives to constituents in exchange for votes or coercing constituents before, during, or after the Election Period. (-25% per report)

- Including, but not limited to food, beverages, buttons, stickers, and money.

2.2.7. Passing around any device (laptop/tablet/phone) to constituents to vote. (-30% per report)

2.2.8. Failing to comply with the instructions from the CRO regarding the removal or modification of campaign materials within 18 hours. (-5% per missing item, per

day)

- If you are unable to comply with the instructions from the CRO within 18 hours for any reason (eg. physical distance from campus), you must provide written notice to bethune.elections@gmail.com before the deadline passes with an explanation and a timeframe for when you will be able to comply with the instructions.

2.3. Infractions Specific to Physical Postering

2.3.1. Posters may ONLY be posted on bulletin boards in the Bethune College building.

(-5% per poster, per day)

- This is excluding the Bethune College Council Office and the Bethune College Head Office, where postering is prohibited. (-15% per poster)
- Bulletin boards in the Bethune College building have already been pre-approved for postering. If you would like to post around the rest of campus, please adhere to the YorkU Guidelines. (-5% per poster)

2.3.2. Postering during the Voting Period. (-25% per poster, per day)

2.3.3. Posters MUST be taken down by the last day of voting. (-2% per poster, per day)

2.4. Infractions Specific to Digital Content

2.4.1. Posting in Bethune-affiliated social media platforms. (-20% per post reported)

- Including, but not limited to, Bethune College Council, Bethune Athletics, and Bethune College Head Office Social Media Platforms on Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, YUConnect, etc.

2.4.2. Campaigning in any way during the Voting Period.

- Including, but not limited to re-posting or re-sharing previously published campaign content, whether by the candidate or by others acting on their behalf. Candidates are responsible for informing their supporters of this rule. (-20% per report)
- Texting, direct messaging, or intentionally telling people to vote for you. (-25% per report)

2.4.3. Note: You are permitted to remind constituents to vote in the election in general during the Voting Period.

- Such reminders must not include your name, photograph, slogan, or any content suggesting to voters that you are running in the election and to vote for you. (-20%)
- Voting Period Terminology (such as telling people voting is open now) shall not be used during campaign period advertisements or posts.

3. Appendix I Amendment

- 3.1. Appendix I of Bylaw 3: The Elections Bylaw, shall be amended with:
 - 3.1.1. A simple majority vote at a regular meeting of the Council;
 - 3.1.2. A simple majority vote at a General Meeting of the BCC;
- 3.2. Appendix I shall not be considered a part of Bylaw 3, but as an additional document further elaborating on the information provided within Bylaw 3.