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Faculty Association of
the University of Waterloo

Elections and Voting Policy

This is a Class M Policy.

Purpose

This policy aims to ensure that FAUW elections and voting are conducted impartially and fairly. The FAUW Board is also responsible for maintaining an Elections and Voting Mechanics Procedure, taking advice from the Nominations and Elections Committee.

Scope and Applicability

This policy is enacted as required by the FAUW Constitution; where this policy and the Constitution conflict, the Constitution takes precedence. This policy takes precedence over any other conflicting policy. The FAUW Board of Directors may, by resolution, clarify ambiguities and resolve conflicts involving this policy.

Eligibility

Only [voting members of FAUW](#) are eligible to run for office, attend and speak at FAUW General Meetings, and vote in FAUW elections and plebiscites.

Nominations and Elections Committee

The Board of Directors shall ratify the membership of a Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC) in accordance with the Constitution and the Committee and Working Group Policy. The NEC oversees FAUW elections and solicits strong candidates to represent FAUW members on the Board, following the Constitution, this policy, and the Election and Voting Mechanics Procedure. No member of the NEC may be a candidate for any elected office during the academic term in which the election takes place.

Elections

In the following, “the deadline” denotes the date set for the General Meeting at which the election results are to be announced. However, nothing prevents a release of the election results prior to the deadline. All references to ‘days’ in this document are to calendar days.



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The NEC shall advertise vacancies widely. Nominations may be submitted to the NEC thirty days prior to the deadline and must be received by twenty-one days prior to the deadline. Nominations must be supported by three FAUW Voting Members. Nominees must agree in writing to stand for election. The name of each nominee shall be posted on the FAUW website once their nomination is verified to be in order.

The NEC shall strive to present a demographically diverse slate of candidates.

If there are fewer than two nominations for a position twenty-one days before the deadline, the NEC shall advise the relevant constituency, including the name of the nominee if one exists, and re-open nominations for that position for an additional seven days.

A first-round ballot shall be distributed to the FAUW membership at least fourteen days prior to the deadline. First-round voting shall close at 13:00 eight days before the deadline.

Elections shall be by secret ballot and shall use approval voting (that is, voters may vote for any number of candidates). The Association shall make candidate statements available to voters.

Elections for President

The elections process for President shall be carried out prior to the December General Meeting.

After the close of nominations (including re-opened nominations), if there is a single nomination for President, then there shall be a confirmatory vote in which all eligible voters can vote on the acceptability of the nominee. Fifty percent plus one of the votes cast in favour constitute a positive result. Otherwise, or if there are zero nominations for President, then a second election for President shall be conducted in the following Winter term. The confirmatory vote shall not be held in a Winter term election for President.



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A President must have the support of fifty percent plus one of votes cast. If in a presidential election no candidate receives a majority of the votes, a second-round ballot shall be distributed to the membership. This second-round ballot shall include only the two candidates with the most votes in the first round, be distributed at least seven days prior to the deadline, and close at 13:00 one day before the deadline.

If a Fall term election fails to elect a President, there shall be another election in the Winter term with results to be presented at the April General Meeting.

In the event of a tie in a Presidential ballot, the winner (or the candidate advancing to the second round) shall be randomly drawn from among the tied candidates.

Elections for Directors

The remaining directors shall be elected prior to the April General Meeting, as described in the Constitution.

If there are zero nominations for any non-Presidential Director position, then the provisions of the Constitution with respect to vacancies apply.

After the first round, the candidates for Directors with the most votes in their respective constituencies shall be elected. In the event of a tie in a vote for a Director, a winner shall be randomly drawn from among the tied candidates.

Referenda

The Constitution calls for referenda on matters of major policy or strategic significance, following a discussion and resolution at a General Meeting. Per the Constitution, either the Board or the membership (via petition) may call a General Meeting. The resolution calling for the referendum must be on the agenda of the General Meeting and must include the proposed text of the referendum question. This text may be altered by an amendment to the resolution at the General Meeting.

Voting in a referendum may be restricted to a relevant constituency. A constituency vote must be so indicated in the resolution calling for the referendum.

A referendum is called following the passage of a resolution at a General Meeting. All Voting Members attending the General Meeting may vote on the resolution establishing the referendum, even if the referendum itself is a constituency vote.



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Voting Members shall be provided with the referendum question, a description of the voting constituency (e.g., “Teaching-Stream Faculty”) if relevant, and the requirement for passage. Except when a two-thirds majority is required by the Constitution or by a Policy, a referendum passes with a 50 percent plus 1 majority of votes cast in favour.

Notice of a referendum and its question(s) shall be given to all members eligible to vote not more than five (5) days after the meeting establishing the referendum and not more than ten (10) days before the close of voting. Voting shall be open for at least seven (7) days. Referendum results shall be announced not more than three (3) days after the referendum closes.

Nothing in this policy precludes the Association from calling non-binding surveys, plebiscites, and referenda in whatever manner they see fit.

Approved by the FAUW Board of Directors September 3, 2026

Policy Version Control

Approval Date	Summary of Changes	Approving Body
September 3, 2026	New Policy	FAUW Board of Directors