



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
**STUDENTS' UNION**

# Elections Procedure Code

Last amended on 14 February 2021 by the Board of Directors

Last confirmed on 22 December 2020 at a general meeting of the members

Current to 16 February 2021

## **Elections Procedure Code** of the University of Toronto Students' Union

The University of Toronto Students' Union (UTSU) is a not-for-profit organization incorporated under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act (CNCA). The UTSU functions autonomously from the University of Toronto, and acts as the primary student government for over 38,000 undergraduate students at the University of Toronto's St. George Campus.

You can learn more about how the UTSU operates at [utsu.ca/governance](https://utsu.ca/governance)



## Article VII - Voting Process

### 1. The Voting Process

Voting shall be conducted by online voting. Each voter should be able to vote using their personal electronic device. Valid Identification is required for voting. Online voting shall not be restricted to certain operating hours.

### 2. Candidacy Statements

Candidates shall be allowed to submit a statement that the CRO shall post on the UTSU Website, the Online Voting System, and at polling stations. The statement must meet the following requirements:

- a. Statements must be no more than 100 words or 750 characters in length, whichever is shorter.
- b. Statements must be submitted to the CRO via email by the end of the nomination period, or on paper along with their nomination package.
- c. The Candidate holds sole responsibility for any errors in spelling or of fact in their statement, and the CRO shall post statements exactly as received.
- d. Statements shall be posed without formatting, graphics, or additional adornment besides functional internet hyperlinks where applicable, and should not be submitted as such.

### 3. Election of Candidates

- a. Winners shall be elected by the Wright System of the single transferable vote electoral system.
- b. If the number of candidates is equal to or less than the number of seats available for any position (i.e. the race is uncontested), then there shall be a confirmation vote put to the membership for the candidate(s). The ballot will contain the Candidate(s) name and an option of "Yes" or "No" for the Candidate(s). In the event that there are more "No" votes than "Yes" votes for an individual Candidate, their position shall be declared vacant.

### 4. Spoiled Ballots

The UTSU shall use an Optional Preferential Voting ballot such that a valid and invalid ballot shall be defined as outlined below. Where possible, the order of candidates on the ballot shall be randomized to prevent arbitrary rankings (a "donkey vote").

**Valid ballots** shall be those fulfilling the following descriptions:

- Ballots with full sequential rank

- E.g. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- Ballots with partial sequential rank starting at 1
  - E.g. 1, 2, 3, blank, blank
- Ballots with a single mark in one box, indicating a preference of 1
  - E.g. x, blank, blank, blank, blank
  - Any clearly discernible marking indicating a clear preference for one singular candidate shall be valid.

**Invalid ballots** (“spoiled ballots”) shall be those fulfilling the following descriptions:

- Ballots with non-sequential ranking, either full or partial
  - E.g. 1, 2, 2, 3, 4, or 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, or 1, 1, 1, blank, blank
- Ballots with a rank starting at any number that is not 1
- Ballots with multiple x markings
- Ballots with no markings
- Ballots which have markings, but non clearly indicating a vote for a candidate
- Ballots which are ripped or otherwise destroyed
- Ballots where the voter’s intention cannot be clearly ascertained.
- Ballot where the voter’s identity is compromised.
- Any ballot improperly printed or distributed, e.g. missing poll clerk initials.

*Note: all examples are for a ballot with five eligible candidates.*