Instructions:
The purpose of this form is to present proposed policy amendments or additions in an explicit and standard manner. Members of the Graduate Student Society of UBC Vancouver wishing to make policy amendments or additions for Council approval must use this form. Consultation with the Code and Policy Committee is strongly recommended to ensure that the language and style reflects that of the current policy manual. The Code and Policy Committee can be emailed at cpcom@gss.ubc.ca.

As per bylaw 13.1.4 and policy 1.2.1, notice of a proposed policy amendment or addition must be posted on the Society’s website and emailed to all Council members at least seven days prior to the motion at Council. For assistance with putting forms on the website, you may contact the Communications and Marketing Director at communications@gss.ubc.ca.

Date: 2021-01-21
Submitted by: Elections Committee, Code & Policy Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What type of change is this?</th>
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<th>Addition of a new policy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☒ Amending an existing policy</td>
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<tr>
<th>Original Policy #: 12.2-12.10, Appendices VI-XIV</th>
<th>New Policy # (if applicable): 12.2-12.11, Appendices VI-XV</th>
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Proposed Revised or New Policy:
Policy 12.2 will be created to read:

12.2 The Elections Policy Panel shall:

a) be formed no later than one week before the campaigning period,

b) consist of the Electoral and Student Engagement Officer, Elections Committee chair, one member from Elections Committee, and one member from Code & Policy Committee. It can be chaired by either the Elections Committee chair or the Electoral and Student Engagement Officer,

c) be responsible for the expedient resolution of complaints regarding candidates’ campaigning, and monitoring candidates’ campaign material throughout the election cycle,

d) be responsible for the approval of campaign material within one week of receiving if there are no violations of policies described in Section 12.5 of the Policy Manual,

e) review complaints regarding candidates’ campaigning behaviour,
f) demand retraction or rectification of campaign materials if it found a violation of policies described in Section 12.5 of the Policy Manual within forty-eight (48) hours of reviewing the complaint,

g) enforce policy 12.5.18 regarding disqualification of candidates after failure to retract or rectify campaign materials,

h) cease to exist once the Election Report is presented to Council following the elections.

Policies 12.2-12.10 will be renumbered to 12.3-12.11.

Policy 12.5.14 (previously 12.4.14) will be amended to read:

12.4.14 Candidates shall not in any way force, dishonestly influence, or materially induce a member into making a voting decision. This includes making unsubstantiated claims about other candidates, the GSS, or GSS members.

Policy 12.5.17 will be created to read:

12.5.17 Prepared campaign materials (including but not limited to posters, pamphlets and social media posts, must be approved by the Elections Policy Panel prior to distribution.

Policy 12.5.18 will be created to read:

12.5.18 In the event the Elections Policy Panel deems a candidate has violated a policy in their campaign material, said candidate is required to take down or otherwise retract the material within 24 hours of notification. Failure to do so will result in disqualification from the election.

Policy 12.5.19 will be created to read:

12.5.19 Candidates who wish to appeal a decision made against them by the Elections Policy Panel are entitled to do so, and the appeal will be reviewed by both the Elections Committee and the Elections Policy Panel. Said candidates are also entitled to receive a response within 48 hours of filing the appeal.

Policy 12.9.1 (previously 12.8.1) will be amended to read:

12.9.1 Any complaint by a member of the Society regarding the elections shall be reported in writing to the Electoral and Student Engagement Officer no later than five business days after a specific
incident if the complaint concerns another candidate’s behavior. If the complaint concerns the general election procedure, not later than five business days after the preliminary announcement of the election results.

Policy 12.9.4 will be created to read:

**12.9.4 Complaints and Appeals are to be filed using an Elections Complaint Form (Appendix VI), sent by email to the Electoral and Student Engagement Officer. All Elections Complaint Forms will be relayed to the Elections Policy Panel. The Electoral and Student Engagement Officer also reserves the right to file complaints themselves.**

Policy 12.9.5 will be created to read:

**12.9.5 If a complaint is not within the purview of the Election Policy Panel it will be handled by the Elections Committee.**

Policy 12.9.5 will be created to read:

**12.9.5 If a complaint is about the Electoral and Student Engagement Officer or the Election Policy Panel, the complaint will instead be filed to the chair of the Governance and Accountability Committee.**

Appendix VI will be created and will contain the contents found on the attached form “Appendix VI - Elections Complaints and Appeals Form.pdf”.

Appendices VI-XIV will be renumbered to appendices VII-XV.

All references to policies/appendices that have changed numbers will be updated throughout the document.

**Rationale Behind Proposed Changes:**

The current system relies on the Elections Committee being able to meet every time there is an issue a candidate needs addressed:

- Last year, this resulted in a slow response and candidate’s concerns were not addressed in an adequate timeframe.
- Establishing the Elections Policy Panel ensures that the arbitrating group stays small and able to frequently and quickly convene. (The rest of the Elections Committee will focus on voter engagement, organizing the election, orientation, etc).
The current policies do not explicitly prevent candidates from campaigning on false or unverifiable claims about other candidates.

- Requiring pre-approval before posting campaign materials ensures that prohibited campaign behaviour can be stopped before it occurs.
- Requiring retraction prior to filing appeals ensures that damage is minimized during the campaigning period.
- The AMS currently implements a similar system

The current policies do not explicitly state what actions might get a candidate disqualified.

- These proposed policies give the Elections Policy Panel the authority to enforce disqualifications in response to violating the rules of the election.

For a more detailed explanation, see the presentation given by the Elections Committee at the Council meeting these revisions are proposed.