



Saint Mary's University Students' Association

EXTERNAL POLITICAL REPRESENTATION POLICY

Enacted May, 2014

1.0 GENERAL

1.1 The Saint Mary's University Students' Association (herein after referred to as "the Association") believes that external political representation is an important component of student government and will strive to ensure that the students it represents are fairly and effectively represented to all levels of government.

1.2 The Association believes that any external political advocacy must be representative of the needs of Saint Mary's students, both provincially and federally, and will ensure those needs are adequately communicated to government officials.

2.0 MEMBERSHIP

2.1 The Association holds official membership within the following external political advocacy organizations:

- (1) Students Nova Scotia (StudentsNS)
- (2) Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA)

2.2 The Association, under the direction of its PRESIDENT, will officially review the performance of these organizations if and only if the PRESIDENT decides that a reasonable outcome has not been achieved as a result of the Association's membership.

3.0 REVIEW PROCESS

3.1 Official reviews will take place between September 1st and February 1st of the given review year. Additionally, upon the PRESIDENT's request, the decision to officially review an organization must be ratified by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

3.2 The organization which is to be under review must be notified within seven (7) days of a decision made by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

- 3.3 An official review will be conducted by the PRESIDENT in consultation with the Association's GENERAL MANAGER, a representative from the BOARD OF DIRECTORS, as well as the Association's primary and/or secondary delegates to the organization that is under review.
- 3.4 Upon completion of an official review, said review must be forwarded to the organization under review immediately following ratification by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

4.0 WITHDRAWAL PROCESS

- 4.1 The Association may sever membership agreements with an external political advocacy organization if all of the following conditions are met:
- (1) Two consecutive official reviews recommending member severance/disaffiliation are ratified by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
 - (2) If the Association is a full member of an external political advocacy organization when a review recommending withdrawal from the organization is ratified by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS, the Association will perform the required steps to become an Associate/Prospective member of the organization for a period of one (1) year. In the following academic year, a subsequent review of the organization in question must be conducted.
 - (3) If the Association is an Associate/Prospective member of an external political advocacy organization when a review recommending withdrawal from the organization is ratified by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS, the Association will perform the required steps to terminate its membership in the organization.
- 4.2 Upon receiving a written notice from the PRESIDENT, the Association may immediately sever membership agreements with an organization by a two-thirds majority vote of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS if and only if there are serious legal, criminal, or financial concerns with that organization. The

organization in question must be given two (2) weeks notification prior to any such vote being held.

5.0 JOINING PROCESS

5.1 The Association may enter into a membership agreement with an external political advocacy organization if all of the following conditions are met:

- (1) Two consecutive official reviews recommending membership are ratified by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
- (2) If the Association is a non-member of an external political advocacy organization when a review recommending joining the organization is ratified by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS, the Association will perform the required steps to become an Associate/Prospective member of the organization for a period of one (1) year. In the following academic year, a subsequent review of the organization in question must be conducted.
- (3) If the Association is an Associate/Prospective member of an external political advocacy organization when a review recommending upgrading membership status is ratified by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS, the Association will perform the required steps to become a full member in the organization.

5.2 The autonomy of the Association must be maintained within any external political advocacy organization that the Association is a member of. The Association shall not join any external organization that limits the autonomy of the Association in any of the following ways:

- (1) Requirements surrounding how its members decide to join or withdraw from the organization, including:
 - i. Which mechanisms of voting are acceptable;
 - ii. Quorum, the binding percentage of votes needed;

- iii. Wording of a referendum question;
- iv. What constitutes appropriate campaign materials; and
- v. When the vote is allowed to occur.

- (2) A requirement that the Association enters into purchasing agreements with suppliers and companies as members of that external organization.
- (3) A requirement to allow the staff/leaders/members of that organization to have access to any events at Saint Mary's University campus, even without the consent of the Association.
- (4) A requirement to allow the external organization to distribute flyers/magazines/printed content on Saint Mary's University campus, even without the consent of the Association.
- (5) A requirement to provide due notice of leaving, and to pay the fees that were due for that year, are acceptable.

6.0 FEES

- 6.1 The Association will collect and pay membership fees to external political advocacy organizations in the amount defined by the organization.
- 6.2 The Association must be notified of any fee increases before January 31st of the year preceding the increase.
- 6.3 The Association will publish the fees paid to external political advocacy organizations through a per-student fee model.
- 6.4 The Association, through the PRESIDENT as well as primary and/or secondary delegates, will strive to ensure that all fees paid to external political advocacy organizations are utilized in an effective and efficient manner, all while reflecting the needs of students at Saint Mary's University.

7.0 REPRESENTATION

- 7.1 The PRESIDENT will act as the Association's primary delegate and is empowered to select a secondary delegate for any external political advocacy organizations. Alternatively, the PRESIDENT may delegate this responsibility and select a primary and/or secondary delegate to act in their place.
- 7.2 Any delegate representing the Association must act in the best interests of the Association, and by extension, the students of Saint Mary's University.

8.0 POLICY

- 8.1 Policy development by an external organization will occur at the delegated discretion of the primary and/or secondary delegates.
- 8.2 Delegates of the Association, in their capacity as delegates of an external organization, may lobby the Association for policy that is not supported by the Association on behalf of the external organization, unless that policy is explicitly condemned by the PRESIDENT.
- 8.3 All policy proposals to external political advocacy organizations will adhere to the stipulations conveyed in this policy document.
- 8.4 The Association will strive to ensure that all policy developed and passed by external political advocacy organizations will serve the best interest of the Association, and by extension, the students of Saint Mary's University.