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AHCSSA

Our department would not like Elections AUS to administer our elections this year. I would like to request an exemption on behalf of our organization.

Conventionally, our Executive Committee selects the candidates for next year. This is due to the small size of our department, which is dominated by minors who are less likely to join a departmental executive than majors or honours students. This process is detailed in our constitution.

Applications will be widely publicized within AHCS classes and spaces. All positions will be open for any major, minor, or honours student to contest; there is no internal promotion. Applicants will submit 15 signatures, along with a completed questionnaire stipulating their qualifications and interest in joining our organization. Interviews will be held exclusively for VP Academic, VP External, and Presidential candidates, and nobody else. These interviews are exclusively to assess their availability to commit to attending AUS and departmental faculty meetings.

All applications will be completely anonymized (names removed and assigned a number, and reference to previous AHCSSA experience for incumbents strongly discouraged), and posted on our organization's Google Drive for executives to review. Polling will be held over McGill's OneDrive network so our executives can only vote once, with their McGill Outlook account. Incumbents planning on returning to the organization cannot vote for themselves. I plan on overseeing the anonymous selection process, and will abstain from all voting accordingly. The only information that will be released will be the name of the selected candidate upon their formal acceptance of the position.

Sarah MacRae-Korobkov
President, AHCSSA

ASSA

ASSA would prefer to run our own elections. Because our department is very small and interdisciplinary we allow non-african studies Arts students in political science, international development, history, and anthropology to hold exec positions. We plan to open applications during the same period as the departmental elections, or the week directly after, and advertise through our listservs and facebook.

CSA

I am Daniel Whittle the President of the CSA. We have already emailed Erik requesting an exemption form the online elections as we were told to do at the time. I have CC'd him in this email to confirm this. I have attached below the form we submitted to him explaining the reasons that we wished to opt out of the online elections. If you need anything else from the CSA for the exemption process do not hesitate to contact me at the email listed in the signature line below

CSAUS

CSAUS was granted an elections exemption last year, and we would like to request another one for the same reasons:

The Canadian Studies Association of Undergraduate Students (CSAUS) would like to request an Elections Clause Exemption from section 8.2 of the AUS Constitution for the 2018–2019 AUS election process. CSAUS represents an extremely small department (fewer than 40 students, including Canadian Studies minors) and as such, it is feasible and desirable for us to include any Canadian Studies student who is interested in holding a position with CSAUS to sit on our executive. Because of a small student population and low interest, this has resulted in an executive that has ranged between 3 and 8 members over the years.

Typically, the outgoing executive organizes a general assembly in April, at which any member can put forward their interest in holding a position. The three positions mandated by CSAUS' constitution (President; Vice-President, Finance; and Vice-President, External) are elected at this meeting, and students wishing to hold other positions (past examples include Vice-President, Internal; Vice-President, Events; and Editor-in-Chief of 'Canadian Content,' our undergraduate research journal) may put themselves forward for these positions as well. In September and January, Canadian Studies students are once again invited to join the executive if they wish to do so. This method of electing an executive is collaborative, encourages communication and networking among members, and results in an executive that is much more welcoming to student members than one formed by a typical process of election.

For these reasons, we request to be exempted from the AUS election process for the upcoming year, and to be permitted to maintain our current method of forming the CSAUS executive.

CSUS

CSUS will not be using Elections AUS this year as most of our students are enrolled in the faculty of science. As per the AUS Departmental Elections By-Laws section 2.4, interfaculty departments such as computer science have an exemption automatically granted.

JSSA

Departmental Background

The Jewish Studies Program is a small department, consisting primarily of students in Minor programs. As of the Fall 2017 semester, there were 58 students enrolled in the program as either a minor or a major – which is down from the 2016-2017 academic year which saw 67 students enrolled in a Jewish Studies program. As such, there is a major risk of low voter turnout, as well as less interest in filling executive positions. It is worth noting that the JSSA existed in the past, but ceased to exist approximately 7-8 years ago when there was no effort made to ensure its continuing existence through the maintenance of an executive committee. We would like to opt out of Simply Voting software and propose an alternative election plan that is mindful of these aforementioned obstacles while still ensuring democracy.

Proposed Plan

Those who are enrolled in a Jewish Studies major or minor who wish to run for a position on the executive committee (consisting currently of President, Vice President External, Vice President Academic, Vice President Finance and Operations, and Vice President Communications), will complete a form on which they will declare their candidacy. On this same form the candidate will be required to answer a series of written questions on their skills and suitability to the position, as well as at least 20 signatures from the Jewish Studies membership (which is defined as any student enrolled in a Jewish studies class) supporting their candidacy. Following the submission of this application to the JSSA email (mcgilljssa@gmail.com), each candidate's application will be carefully considered by the current JSSA executive, upon which the successful candidate will be appointed to the position for which they have declared their candidacy. If a member of the current executive is applying for a position, then they will recuse themselves from the evaluation of their own application as well as those for the same position so as to avoid conflicts of interest.

Proposed Timeline

The application for candidacy will be disseminated on the JSSA Facebook page as well as in the weekly listserv, to be released on the date of March 12th. The last day applications will be accepted is on March 19th at 11:59 pm. In the event that not enough applications are submitted, the extension will be extended by one day to March 20th at 11:59 pm. Between the dates of March 21 and March 27, the applications of each candidate will be evaluated. Candidates will be notified of the results on March 28th, with information made public to the greater JSSA membership through both listserv and Facebook.

Respectfully Submitted The JSSA Executive

MESS

I believe we are planning to run our elections through the SUS platform! Please let me know what else you'd need from us, but from what I'm told we can use either the AUS or SUS platforms without jumping through any major hoops.

MUGS

MUGS will be administering our own elections this year through the McGill myInvolvement site, which is the site we used last year. We do this because our eligible voters are both majors and minors spanning across multiple programs, including the BA, BSc, and Interfaculty Ba&Sc.

I discussed elections with Erik, the AUS President, on Friday, February 23rd during his office hours. From my understanding of the conversation we do not need to apply for a waiver, because

as an interfaculty department we are de facto exempt from the provisions contained in Article 8 Section 2 of the AUS Constitution (as per AUS Departmental Electoral Bylaws 2.4).

PSA

The PSA consensus is that we do not wish to have AUS supervision for our elections, and choose instead to keep the system we have been operating with for the past years, which involves an in-person election in room LEA 931 at the end of each academic year.

This seems to be the most reasonable decision for us based on the model we have been using in the past, the size of the department, and the kind of atmosphere we seek to create for each new team of executives.

RSUS

This email is to request that RSUS not have to do a formal election for our 2018-2019 executive team. We would like to conduct our own elections. In the past, we have always had people apply through an online application and then proceeded to interview the applicants. We would like to continue with this method if possible. We have often only had one person apply per position, which is why I believe holding a formal election would be unnecessary. Ideally, we will send the online applications out during the reading week and have them due by March 17th. The interviews would then take place the following week.

RUSS

No explanation given.