



AUSU Election Nomination Package (Winter 2025)

Prepared by the Algoma University Students' Union (AUSU)

Request for Accommodation

If you require accommodation during the election process, please contact the CRO/DRO.

Please carefully read all sections of this nomination package. It is your responsibility to be aware of all key dates, contacts, and election details noted below.

Contact Information

The Winter 2025 election is organized by the AUSU Elections Committee, with day-to-day operations managed by the Chief Returning Officer (CRO)/ Deputy Returning Officer (DRO).

CRO Email: ausu.elections@ausu82.ca

DRO Email: ausu.dro@ausu82.ca

Please refer to the [AUSU Website](#) or contact the CRO/DRO if you have questions or concerns.

Kevin Igweh

Chief Returning Officer

ausu.elections@ausu82.ca



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Election Vacancies

Position	Vacancies
President	1
Vice-President, Programming	1
Vice-President, Campus Affairs	1
Board Representatives	10

The roles and responsibilities for each position are outlined on the [AUSU Elections webpage](#). Details for each position including the compensation, key responsibilities, accountability, qualifications, learning, and benefits will be found on the webpage or in section 3.5 of the [AUSU Bylaws](#). Please review these before submitting your nomination.

This information is available on the [AUSU Website](#), [Bylaws](#), and documents in the election resources section below.

Election Schedule

Phase	Dates
Call Out to Communicate Eligibility Requirements	January 8, 2025
Start accepting applications, Communicate deadlines	January 10, 2025
Nomination Period	January 17 – January 23, 2025
Approval of Nominees Completed and Announced	January 24, 2025
All-Candidates Meeting	January 28, 2025 (Online/In person)
Campaign Period	January 29 – February 12, 2025
Candidate Debate	February 5th (2pm - 4pm), February 10th (3pm - 5pm)
Voting Period	February 13 (12:00 AM) – February 14 (11:59 PM), 2025
Election Results	February 19, 2025
Final Day to Submit Election Result Appeals	February 21, 2025

All times are based on Eastern Standard Time (EST).

Dates are subject to change, with updates posted on the [AUSU Website](#).

Candidate Eligibility Guidelines

A valid candidate must be a student at Algoma University at the time of expressing interest in any position, during the election process, and during their tenure in their corresponding position.

In addition to this, candidates must meet the following criteria as outlined in Bylaw 3.4:

- Be registered in at least one course during both the Fall and Winter semesters
- Maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 or 60%.

Candidates must complete the following steps

Submit a completed [Nomination Form](#) signed by:

- **40 members** for Executive positions.
- **25 members** for Board Representative positions.

Nomination Form Submission:

- Deadline: January 23, 2025, at 4:00 PM (EST).
- Failure to submit the nomination form on time will result in declaring candidates ineligible to run the election.

It is recommended that you obtain **MORE** signatures than is minimally required, as each name is verified to ensure full-time student status and to make sure no duplicate names exist. If one or more names are found to be invalid, the extra names will then be taken into account.

The CRO will be checking nomination signatures and will notify prospective candidates when they are eligible to run in the election.

The All-Candidates Meeting

The All-Candidates Meeting is a mandatory session designed to provide candidates with a comprehensive understanding of the election process and their responsibilities.

The **All-Candidates Meeting** shall take place on January 28, 2025, at 4:00PM

Location: Online (**information will be sent to successful candidates**).

Attendance for the duration of the meeting is mandatory for every candidate. If a candidate is unable to attend, appropriate arrangements must be made with the CRO/DRO at least 24 hours in advance of the All-Candidates Meeting. Failure to attend the meeting or make appropriate arrangements with the CRO/DRO will result in **disqualification**.

The meeting will cover the following topics:

Election Schedule:

- A walkthrough of important dates and deadlines for campaigning, voting, and results announcement.

Campaign Guidelines:

- Detailed rules on approved campaign practices, including materials, spending limits, and prohibited activities.
- Explanation of the process for submitting campaign materials for approval.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Overview of the duties for each elected position, referencing [Bylaw 3.5](#) for Executive roles and Board Representatives.

Complaint and Appeal Procedures:

- How to report violations and the process for handling complaints and appeals.

Code of Conduct:

- Expectations for candidate behavior, including promoting fair play, avoiding slander, and respecting AUSU policies.

Question and Answer Session:

- Opportunity for candidates to seek clarification on the election process or their responsibilities.

Candidates must sign the **All-Candidates Meeting Acknowledgement Form** to confirm their understanding of the rules and responsibilities. Failure to do so will result in being **declared ineligible** to campaign.

Campaign Rules and Finances

Campaign Rules

The campaigning period, running from January 29 to February 12, 2025, is an essential phase where candidates can promote their candidacy and connect with the student body. Campaigning must adhere to specific rules to ensure fairness, transparency, and respect for AUSU policies and the university community.

Candidates are required to submit all campaign materials, including posters, flyers, and social media content, to the Chief Returning Officer (CRO)/ Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) for approval at least two business days before use. This measure ensures compliance with AUSU regulations and avoids the dissemination of unapproved or inappropriate materials. Campaign posters must be in English and adhere to the size limitations set by the AUSU Elections Policy. **Executive candidates** may post up to **15 posters per campus**, while **Board Representative candidates** may post up to **10 posters per campus**.

Campaigning in specific locations such as the library and residences is strictly prohibited. Classrooms can only be campaigned in with explicit permission. Candidates are also barred from campaigning during the voting period, as this is considered a serious violation.

The use of AUSU or university resources, including official social media platforms and email lists, is not permitted for campaigning. Candidates must refrain from slandering opponents, spreading misinformation, or engaging in other forms of malicious conduct. Any breaches of these rules will result in penalties ranging from warnings to disqualification, as determined by the CRO/DRO.

Campaign Finances

To ensure equity among candidates, campaign spending limits are enforced. **All candidates** may spend up to **\$100 CAD** on their campaigns. All campaign-related expenses must be documented, with receipts submitted to the CRO/DRO by **February 2, 2025**. The CRO/DRO will verify all submitted expenses to ensure compliance with the spending limits.

Failure to adhere to these financial guidelines, including exceeding the spending limit or failing to provide receipts, will result in penalties, which may include **disqualification**. Candidates who do not incur any campaign expenses must submit a **written declaration** to that effect.

Complaints and Appeals

Complaints

Complaints regarding violations of the AUSU Elections Policy or Bylaws must be submitted to the CRO/DRO within 48 hours of the alleged incident. Each complaint must include specific details of the violation, including the date, time, and nature of the incident, as well as a reference to the relevant sections of the Elections Policy or Bylaws. Anonymous complaints will not be accepted, and the complainant's information may be shared with the accused candidate if necessary. However, the complainant's identity will be kept anonymous to the accused candidate to ensure that there is no opportunity for retaliatory behavior.

The CRO/DRO will evaluate the complaint and issue a written ruling within 48 hours of its receipt. If the complaint is upheld, the CRO/DRO may assign penalties such as demerit points or disqualification, depending on the severity of the violation. All rulings will be documented and, if applicable, published to ensure transparency. Frivolous or baseless complaints may result in penalties for the complainant.

Appeals

Candidates who wish to contest a ruling by the CRO/DRO may submit an appeal to the Elections Appeals Committee within 24 hours of receiving the decision. The appeal must outline why the CRO's/DRO's ruling is being contested, referencing specific facts or procedural issues, and must propose a desired resolution.

The Elections Appeals Committee will deliberate on the appeal and issue a final decision as soon as possible. This decision will be communicated to all relevant parties and is considered binding. Appeals that are deemed baseless or malicious may result in penalties for the appellant.

These measures ensure a fair and transparent process, allowing candidates to address grievances while maintaining the integrity of the election. Let me know if you'd like additional refinements or further elaboration.

Demerit Points

To ensure a fair and transparent election, candidates must adhere to all rules and regulations outlined in the [AUSU Election Policy](#). Failure to comply with these rules will result in the issuance of demerit points. Demerit points serve as a mechanism to penalize candidates for infractions during the election period.

Candidates who accumulate 25 or more demerit points will be disqualified from the election. The Chief Returning Officer (CRO)/ Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) will issue demerit points based on the severity of the violation. All infractions will be carefully documented, and candidates will be notified of any penalties incurred.

Table of Offenses and Corresponding Demerit Points

Offense	Demerit Points
Failure to submit campaign materials for approval	5
Campaigning before the official campaign period	10
Exceeding campaign spending limits	10 (automatic disqualification)
Campaigning in unauthorized areas (e.g., residences, classrooms)	15
Misrepresentation or spreading false information	15
Campaigning during the voting period	20
Using unauthorized resources (e.g., AUSU or university email, materials)	10
Failure to attend the All-Candidates Meeting without prior notice or proxy	20
Slander or personal attacks against other candidates	20
Engaging in disruptive behavior during election events or meetings	15
Unauthorized access to voter portals or influencing votes	25 (automatic disqualification)

Election Resources

The Elections are governed by the Bylaws and Election policy. Nominees will be familiarized with the Election Procedure at the All-Candidates Meeting.

It is the responsibility of every candidate to comply with all Bylaws, Policies, and Elections Procedures.

[AUSU Election Policy – Approved on November 2024](#)

[AUSU Website – Elections 2025](#)

[AUSU Bylaws – Reviewed on January 7, 2025](#)

[AUSU Election Nomination Form – Winer 2025](#)

[AUSU Election Executive Positions’ Description](#)

[AUSU Election Representative Positions’ Description](#)