

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The 2024 UASU General Election highlighted both longstanding and recently identified gaps with the UASU Elections. In order to address these, the Elections Task Force is being established, as it has become increasingly clear that the 2024-25 Council should reevaluate the UASU elections, and as such the Task Force will have the following purposes:

The first purpose of the Elections Task Force is to lead an analysis of the UASU elections, including but not limited to the UASU bylaws relevant to elections, the administration of elections, barriers students face leading up to and during elections, UASU programming in relation to elections, student engagement during elections, turnout during elections, student appointments to university governance bodies through UASU elections, concerns around vacancies and replenishment, and any other relevant concern(s) in relation to the UASU elections.

The second purpose of the Elections Task Force is to provide recommendations for changes to any of the areas analyzed, including but not limited to proposing changes to the UASU bylaws.

2. Principles

The Elections Task Force is committed to committing its work efficiently, effectively and fairly, and as such, the following are the Task Force's guiding principles:

- **Impartiality**
 - The Task Force shall maintain strict neutrality in its analysis and recommendations, ensuring that no political, ideological, or personal biases influence its work, with the sole goal of improving UASU elections and connected areas.
- **Data-driven analysis and recommendations**
 - When dealing with social analyses, it can be challenging to obtain data, but the Task Force is committed to basing as much of its findings and recommendations as possible on rigorous analysis of factual, empirical data previously collected by the UASU or through comparisons to other existing models.
- **Transparency and accountability**

- To build trust with the Students' Council and with the student body, the Task Force will operate transparently, with public reports from the Co-Chairs to Students' Council.
- **Interest-holder engagement**
 - Recognizing the diverse perspectives on UASU elections, the Task Force will respectfully seek to actively engage with a broad range of interest-holders.
- **Adaptability and learning**
 - The Task Force acknowledges the breadth and depth of the work it seeks to undertake, as well as the dynamic nature of student elections. Therefore, the Task Force is committed to being adaptable in its approaches and open to learning from new information and evolving contexts, without being stuck in "the way things have always been done."

3. Reporting

At the conclusion of their work, the Task Force will provide a report to Students' Council that shall:

- Outline the priority areas the Task Force has identified;
- Outline concerns identified in the areas analyzed in relation to UASU elections;
- Describe all recommended changes or actions needed in response to the analysis of the UASU elections, including but not limited to bylaw changes; and
- Report back any additional lessons learned in the overall process.

4. Responsibilities

The core responsibilities of members of the Elections Task Force shall be to:

- Engage with constituents and interest-holders;
- Educate themselves about the current UASU elections processes and concerns in relation to the UASU elections;
- Complete any assignments given by the Task Force to an individual member or members, including but not limited to researching a specific topic or engaging with a particular interest-holder group;
- Seek out information on how students, candidates and other relevant interest-holders have interacted with elections and the gaps they have identified; and
- Regularly attend Task Force meetings.

5. Composition

The composition of the Task Force is meant to reflect its commitment to being inclusive and representative, it is not meant to reflect the perspectives of only the current executives, or

councilors, but instead to capture a wide array of views and levels of experience. As such the composition shall consist of:

Voting members

- Vice-President (Academic) - Co-Chair
- Two (2) councilors, selected by the Students' Council, one of which will be the Co-Chair
- Four (4) students-at-large selected by the Council Administration Committee (CAC)

Resource members (non-voting)

- UASU Chief Returning Officer
- UASU Governance Manager
- UASU General Manager

Resource members are invited as needed and at the discretion of the Co-Chairs, with input from the committee.

6. Frequency of meetings

The Task Force will conduct the majority of its work between May 2024 and August 2024. In May, the Task Force shall meet to analyze the scope of the work it is hoping to accomplish, and to establish the frequency of meetings that members find appropriate in order to conclude all necessary work by August (e.g. weekly, biweekly, etc.).

The Co-Chairs shall be responsible for organizing the meeting times and providing that information to all other members.

The Task Force shall have a conclusionary meeting once the final report is provided to Council for endorsement in Fall 2024.

7. Supplemental information

[Identity Matters! A Study of Undergraduate Involvement and Leadership in Student Government at UAlberta](#)

[Identity Matters 2: Diversity of Ancestry and Aboriginality](#)

[Identity Matters 3: Gender and Student Leadership, 1908-2023](#)

[2020 General Election Exit Poll Survey Report](#)