

Considering recent events in the UTMSU Spring Election 2023, I wish to make a formal announcement regarding candidates' involvement/participation in the electoral process. As the CRO, I ensure that the Elections Procedure Code and the Charter for Referenda are enforced, as well as the democratic rights of the students at UTM.

We are observing a high volume of complaints from candidates, and we are carefully reviewing each one. It is my responsibility to ensure all candidates are provided with a respectful, equitable environment to campaign, while also holding candidates to the standards established by the EPC to keep both voters and candidates safe.

At this time in the elections, it is important to remind everyone that the purpose of these elections is for students to elect their representatives and not for candidates to seek the disqualification of other candidates. A candidate's primary attention should be put into campaigning. Putting attention into seeking disqualification of other candidates may be interpreted by the CRO as failure to comply with the spirit and purpose of the elections, which is a violation of the Fair Play guidelines. Candidates should be seeking support from students, and students should be voting for candidates that they feel will best represent their collective interests. The decision to issue demerit points is at the sole discretion of the CRO and the Elections and Referenda Committee, and the disqualification of candidates is a last resort decision made at the discretion of the CRO and Elections and Referenda Committee.

I trust that these matters will be considered deeply and that we can continue to engage with voters and members in a respectful, dignified manner. Please do not hesitate to contact me via email (cro@utmsu.ca) should you have any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Elias Ancer, Chief Returning Officer
UTMSU Elections Team