

ALMA MATER SOCIETY OF UBC VOTER FUNDED MEDIA CONTEST

VFM PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK 2010

INTRODUCTION

The Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver (AMS) has asked its voters to award money to media outlets they found useful in casting an informed vote. This Voter-Funded Media (VFM) component will be a part of the 2010 elections. The AMS anticipates that this incentive will encourage more debate around election issues, while also increasing the quality of information provided. It is also hoped that this will increase the awareness of the AMS elections.

The contest is open until January 29th, 2010 with applications due by midnight of January 18th, 2010. Any individual, group, or organization can enter the competition with a \$150 entry fee. Participants are strongly encouraged to research AMS policy issues, candidate platforms and qualifications, and then give insight and advice to voters before the election via websites and/or other means. Participant websites will all be linked from the central AMS Elections web page.

Students will vote on one of the 5 following options for awarding money to each media outlet: No money, \$500, \$1000, \$1500, \$2000. The winner and rankings will be determined by the amount received in the voting process and the prizes will be distributed based on the results of this interpolated consensus style of voting. More info on this process can be found at <http://www.votermedia.org/ubc/InterpolatedConsensus.html> and examples of prize distribution from the 2009 AMS election VFM competition can be found at <http://www.votermedia.org/ubc/>.

REGISTRATION

Those who are registered in the VFM contest must submit a paper copy of the registration form to either the Elections Committee or the AMS Business Office, SUB 2nd floor, along with a \$150 entry fee. Within 2 days of submitting a registration form, participants' names will appear on the official AMS Elections web page with a link to their respective website. Only those participants who have both submitted a paper copy of the registration form and entry fee will appear on the ballot.

INFORMING VOTERS

Media participants are encouraged to research and provide information on AMS policy issues, candidate platforms and qualifications, then give insight and advice to voters before the election via websites and/or other means. Participants are allowed to advertise themselves both on and off campus to increase publicity and to allow students the opportunity to learn about the candidates and issues. During the official campaign period, participants are encouraged to interview candidates and attend Candidates' Forums so as to gather information to distribute to voters. The timeline and locations of these forums will be made available on the AMS Elections web page.

REGULATIONS

Media participants may provide subjective information on other media participants in the VFM contest. Participants found to be responsible for the breaking of any elections rules, in collusion with or in malice towards candidates or other VFM participants, may be penalized at the discretion of the Elections Committee. Penalties can include but are not limited to expulsion from the contest with no refund of entry fees, or fines.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Media participants are expected to adhere to the UBC Calendar's "Academic Regulations" for university policy on cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty (<http://www.library.ubc.ca/clc/airc.html>). All participants must send copies of their materials (i.e. posters, articles, blog entries, etc) to - Elections_vfm@ams.ubc.ca. Ignorance will not be tolerated as an excuse. If you have any questions regarding plagiarism, participants can contact the Voter Funded Media Administrator, Will Davis, at Elections_vfm@ams.ubc.ca.

Participants in the contest are encouraged to utilize all forms of media to discuss the elections and promote their publication, including the posting of advertisements for their media source. Advertisements or posters may not, however, feature endorsements of any candidate(s).

Media participants in this contest are expected to be aware of the AMS Elections Code as it describes what candidates in the elections can and cannot do. Those sections of the AMS Elections Code that directly pertain to media are Article 2 subsections 5, 7, and 8, Article 5 and Article 13.

CODE INSERTIONS AND CHANGES

Please refer to AMS Elections Code Article 14 for policies directly pertaining to VFM, available from the AMS Elections website:
http://www.ams.ubc.ca/index.php/student_government/subplate/category/ams_elections/

If you have any questions, contact the VFM Administrator, Will Davis:
Elections_vfm@ams.ubc.ca