International Relations Students' Association

Report on the 2026 Annual Elections, Re-Election, and Financial Transition

26 June 2026

1. Summary of Alma Mater Society Election Ruling

From 16 March to 05 April 2026, the International Relations Students' Association (IRSA) held its Executive Member elections. On the release of results on 06 April, an IRSA Co-President, who was serving as the Elections Administrator, was notified by a candidate of irregularities in the election. Shortly after, the Alma Mater Society (AMS) Admin Office opened an investigation and declared the election invalid and required a re-run. As the AMS Clubs Administrator stated to the Co-Presidents on 07 April:

> *Given the cumulative nature and severity of these concerns, including issues of eligibility, verification, conflicts of interest, and procedural non-compliance, **the election is deemed invalid alongside the collected results**… As such, the IRSA executive election must be re-run in full, beginning with a new nomination period. The rerun election must adhere strictly to AMS policies and your club's constitution, including proper notice, verified eligibility, impartial administration, and conducting voting during a quorate general meeting with a secret ballot. Additionally we will be sending a representative from the Admin Office for this general meeting session in order to act as an election administrator due to the former listed issues.*

Prior to this ruling, a coalition of 10 candidates (out of 14), including 6 who secured seats, emailed the AMS Clubs Administrator and the AMS VP Admin with evidence, including communications, meeting minutes, testimonies, and social media posts demonstrating non-adherence to the IRSA *Constitution* and the AMS *Clubs and Societies Committee Policy Manual*. The AMS Admin Office verified the support of each coalition signatory. The re-election was conducted on April 23rd during a General Meeting over Zoom, with the AMS Clubs Administrator in attendance as the Elections Administrator, who would manually verify all results. Afterward, IRSA announced its incoming Executive Member team on Instagram eight days later. The elected Presidents stated that they would publish a report that publicized the AMS's findings that invalidated the election in their election campaign.

2. Association Electoral Non-Compliance

Broadly, major deficits were categorized into eligibility, conflicts of interest, or timelines. A summary of deficits is provided below, along with Alma Mater Society (AMS) direction to the Co-Presidents from the AMS Admin Office, the AMS Clubs and Societies Committee, and the AMS Clubs Administrator.

Category	Deficit	AMS Direction
Eligibility	The voting link lacked security features, was not secret, and the ballots were not verified by a Co-President, who served as the Elections Administrator. The ballots themselves could not be verified, as the membership roster did not contain student numbers. The voting link remained open for 5 days, despite AMS procedures mandating voting only during a General Meeting (GM).	The AMS Clubs Administrator stated that : "All results will be reviewed and manually verified by me prior to final approval" and "Given the circumstances, we will be requesting a list of IR student numbers directly from the faculty as well as from the bounce platform. This will allow us to validate voter eligibility alongside Bounce membership data and ensure the integrity of the election" The AMS Clubs Administrator also stated that "The voting form will open and close during the General Meeting on April 20, in accordance with policy."
Eligibility	Two candidates who secured seats as President and Treasurer were ineligible to run, including the Co-President, as they had not purchased a membership at least 30 days prior to the election.	The AMS Clubs Administrator stated that "the 30-day eligibility requirement (CSCPM 7.g.i) will be enforced for both candidacy and voting"
Eligibility	82 voters who were absent during the GM on 31 March were allowed to vote, resulting in a 415% voter turnout.	The AMS Clubs Administrator stated that "only students who attend the GM will be able to vote once more as per our procedures. This would resolve any irregularities in the number of voting students."
Conflict of Interest	One Co-President, who ran as a candidate, created the nominations package, election timelines, and the format. This Co-President also responded to election inquiries and organized election office hours. The other Co-President served as the Elections Administrator despite AMS policy stipulating the role be designated due to potential conflicts of interest. A candidate was approached by the Co-President running for a position regarding the candidate's nomination, despite their candidacy not being made public.	After meeting with the Co-President serving as an Elections Administrator, the AMS Clubs Administrator stated that "To ensure impartiality as well as a request to our office, [the Co-President] will be stepping down from her role as Elections Chair. [The other Co-President] will assume this role and will remove herself from the nomination pool for the presidents office."
Timelines	Nominations were closed three days before the deadline stipulated by the IRSA Constitution; three late nominations were accepted, and the nomination deadline submission was extended only to IRSA team members. A seven-day notice was not provided to IRSA members regarding nomination submissions or voting.	The AMS Admin Office prescribed a timeline for IRSA's re-election, "To support this, our office has established the following accelerated election timeline:" and "I will follow up with [the Co-President] to ensure that nominations are communicated appropriately through official channels, including the Bounce membership list, in addition to social media.

3. Immediate Corrective Remediation for Association Electoral Non-Compliance

An impartial Electoral Committee was designated to manage all Association voting and elections in line with the IRSA *Constitution* Alma Mater Society (AMS) procedures. The Electoral Committee developed a solution for each issue of non-adherence listed in the above table while preventing conflicts of interest.

4. Association Financial State in May 2026

After accessing financial records and email accounts, the Treasurers conducted a financial audit, noting:

(1) IRSA had multiple outstanding financial transactions:
   a. IRSA had approximately $1,200 CAD in potential outstanding reimbursements to be paid to Auxiliary and Executive Members from 01 May 2025 to 30 April 2026;
   b. IRSA owed approximately $720 CAD to the Journal of International Affairs for printing costs of the 41st JIA edition published in 2026; and
   c. IRSA had an outstanding payment of approximately $3,400 CAD to the Alma Mater Society for its usage of the PIT for its Dance Around the World event on 12 March 2026.

(2) IRSA would experience an 84% reduction in membership fee revenue (-$945) due to illegally raised membership fees in the previous fiscal year and program club affirmation by the AMS which resulted in a 477% increase in served members (112 to 535).

5. Immediate Corrective Remediation for Association Financial State

After conducting these audits, the following measures were instituted to prevent financial mismanagement, pay outstanding debts, and clarify the overall Association's financial health:

(1) On 13 May 2026, the Treasurers spoke with the previous Treasurer to receive appropriate transition material to review outstanding reimbursements and contacted the Alma Mater Society Finance Office to request the restoration of Continia access to process reimbursements.

(2) On 14 May 2026, a Fiscal Year Spending suspension was signed that prohibited spending by all Auxiliary and Executive Members (without clear operational or financial necessity) pending weekly quadrilateral suspension renewals.

(3) A Memorandum of Understanding was outlined that would require all Auxiliary and Executive Members to complete an International Relations Students' Association course on AMS financial procedures, IRSA reimbursement requirements, and ethical spending.