

A Bill To Amend the Student Government Elections Bylaws

Bill No. 34 Date Su

2020/2021 Clemson Undergraduate Student Senate Da

Committee: Finance & Procedures

Date Submitted: 02/01/21

Date Approved:

Author: Matthew Innocenti Sponsor: Samantha Hayes

- 1. Purpose: To amend the Clemson Undergraduate Student Government Election Bylaws
- 2. Be it Enacted by the Clemson Undergraduate Student Senate assembled in regular
- **3.** session the following:
- 4. That the Clemson Undergraduate Student Senate make the following amendments to the
- **5.** Clemson Undergraduate Student Government Election Bylaws:

6. Student Government Election Bylaws

7. I. General Procedures

- **8.** A. Facilitation
- 9. 1. Elections will be in the form of online ballots on TigerQuest. The Elections
- 10. Director shall allow for 24 hours of uninterrupted voting for all elections with
- 11. additional time allotted for any amount of time missed due to complications or
- **12.** technical difficulties.
- 13. 2. All voters and candidates in CUSG elections must be currently enrolled,
- **14.** undergraduate students at Clemson University.
- **15.** 3. Elections shall be publicized at least one week in advance.
- 4. Write-in votes will be accepted through online ballot.
- 5. Results of an election shall be made available within 48 hours of the poll
- 18. closing, unless the election is disputed.
- 19. 6. All candidates for office must attend at least one mandatory informational
- **20.** meeting made possible by the Elections Board except in the case of University
- 21. excused absences, serious medical or family emergency, irreconcilable conflict
- 22. of an academic nature, or any reason deemed appropriate by the Elections
- 23. Director. The dates of these informational meetings shall be selected by the
- **24.** Elections Director on or before October 1st of each year.
- **25.** *B. Timeline*
- 26. 1. The campaign season shall last a total of four (4) weeks, with the first two



- weeks being dedicated to the primary election and the last two weeksdedicated to the general election.
- 29. 2. Campaign season will begin on dates selected by the Elections Director on30. or before October 1st of each year.
- 31. 3. Elections must conclude two Wednsedays prior to Spring Break.
- 4. All campaigning will end at 12:00 AM on the day that primary electionsbegin.
- 5. Campaigns that make it past the primary may begin campaigning again
 following the announcement of the primary election results. All campaigning
 will end again at 12:00 AM on the day that general elections begin.
- 37. 6. Campaigning for Student Senate will not begin until after the results from the primary election are announced.

39. II. Eligibility Requirements

- **40.** All candidates for all elected offices must be currently enrolled as an undergraduate at
- 41. Clemson University and must remain enrolled as an undergraduate for their entire
- 42. term. All candidates must agree to serve the entire term. No Student Body President,
- 43. Student Body Vice President, or Student Senator may hold an additional executive
- **44.** office, judicial position, or legislative position that is appointed by the Student Senate,
- **45.** with the exception of external committees or commissions.
- **46.** *A. Student Body President and Vice President*
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 48. Any candidate for Student Body President or Student Body Vice President must not be on disciplinary probation or have a permanent violation on their Record through the Office of Community and Ethical Standards (OCES).
- Candidates for office must disclose their disciplinary records prior to running for office and maintain an exemplary disciplinary record while in office. These records will be observed and kept under the discretion of the Dean of Students, the Attorney General, the Elections Director, and a representative from the Office of Community and Ethical Standards (OCES).
- 3. Candidates for Student Body President must have a Grade Point Average
 (GPA) of at least 2.75 and maintain a 2.5; candidates for Student Body Vice
 President must have a GPA of at least 2.7 and maintain a 2.5.
- 4. Candidates for the office of Student Body President must have completed a minimum of 60 credit hours prior to petitioning. Candidates for Vice President must have completed a minimum of 45 credit hours prior to petitioning. If the President is removed or has resigned, the Vice President does not have to have the required number of semester hours to assume the office of President.

- 5. Nominations for office will be made by petition of seventy-five
 undergraduate students, filed with the Elections Board no later than 11:59
 PM on the Sunday before the beginning of the campaign season.
 - 6. Candidates must use their legal name for the entirety of campaign and on all ballots unless an alternate name is approved by the elections board.
- **68.** *B. Student Senate*

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- 1. Candidates for Senate President and President Pro Tempore must have aGPA of 2.7 and maintain a GPA of 2.5
- 71. 2. Candidates for Senate must have and maintain a GPA of 2.0.
- 72. 3. Nominations for office will be made by petition of twenty-five
 73. undergraduate students, filed with the Elections Board no later than 11:59
 74. PM on the Sunday before the beginning of Senate campaign season.
- 4. Candidates for Senate must receive a minimum of 100 votes in the general election to be elected to one of the seats. Failure to receive at least 100 votes will result in not being elected to the Senate. This also applies to write-in candidates for Senate.
- 79. 5. Candidates must use their legal name for the entirety of campaign and on all ballots unless an alternate name is approved by the elections board.

81. III. Campaign Rules

- **82.** *A. Student Body President and Vice President*
- **83.** 1. Campaign Staff
- 84. a. No candidates may contact any potential voters other than their fifteen 85. official campaign staff members with regard to the election prior to 86. the campaign season. Exceptions will be made for the collecting of 87. signatures for nominating petitions and the two-week period prior to 88. campaign season for each ticket to hold one interest meeting for 89. students interested in volunteering for their campaign. The only 90. contact allowed during this time is at the meeting and to publicize the 91. interest meeting. The solicitation of votes during this period will still 92. be deemed a violation.
- 93. b. Candidates may not contact their fifteen official campaign staff members94. until the Monday after final exams have concluded in Fall.
- 95. c. Each joint ticket must submit the names of the fifteen campaign staffers
 96. officially associated with their campaign two (2) Sundays before
 97. nominating petitions are due.
- **98.** d. Campaigns must immediately inform the Elections Director should any

- 99. changes occur in this list
- e. It is the responsibility of the candidate to educate any and all campaignworkers and affiliates as to the rules set forth by this Elections Code.
- 102. Candidates will be held responsible for the actions of those designated by the candidate to assist with the campaign.
- f. The Elections Board will assign a delegate(s) to each campaign and
 campaigns are required to include the delegate on any correspondence
 between the campaign and the top fifteen staffers.
- g. There shall be no agreements or commitments made prior to assumingoffice regarding future positions in CUSG if the candidate were to win.
- **109.** 2. Campaign Materials

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- a. The use of and promotion on University media shall be prohibited unless all campaigns are displayed equally as determined by the Elections Board.
- b. Campaign materials shall include, but are not limited to, all posters, signs,
 fliers, platforms, letters, buttons, banners, stickers,notices, and social
 media posts.
- c. In order to prevent slanderous campaigns, all new campaign material to be used must be approved and/or initialed by the Elections Director or their designee(s) before being distributed. This should be done before any material is replicated.
- d. All candidates must file one sample of each type of campaign material to
 be used in the election with the Elections Director and/or their
 designee(s).
- e. Candidates may not use a Clemson University trademarked logo,
 letterhead, symbol, or any other alteration that would cause confusion in
 the marketplace for campaigning purposes unless approved by Clemson
 trademark officials. This approval must be provided in writing to the
 Elections Board prior to being used in any campaign.
- f. The use of the Student Government logo, letterhead, office supplies, and office equipment for campaigning purposes are prohibited.
- g. Candidates may not do any form of public chalking or writing on boards in classrooms for their campaign.
- h. In residence halls, posted material shall be restricted to bulletin boards, but willneed to be approved by University Housing departments before posting.
- i. Posted material must be no larger than 8.5 by 11 inches and cannot be placedinside residence hall computer labs.
- ii. Fliers may not be placed under residents' doors.



- 136. iii. Fliers must be stamped and approved according to the Housing distribution 137. guidelines. 138. i. Candidates shall be restricted to kiosks, University Post Office bulletin boards, 139. and any other approved location and academic building under the following 140. guidelines: 141. i. Campaign material in academic buildings must be no larger than 8.5 by 11 142. 143. ii. Candidates shall be restricted to one piece of campaign material per bulletin 144. board in academic buildings. 145. j. No fliers or related campaign material may be distributed at off-campus 146. Locations. 147. k. Campaign material posted with the candidate's knowledge in any area other than 148. what is allowed specifically in this section will constitute grounds for a 149. violation. 150. 1. All candidates must remove their campaign material within 48 hours after the 151. election has been officially finalized. 152. i. A \$30 fine will be charged if all the materials are not removed within 48 hours 153. after the posting of election results. 154. 3. Off-Campus Events 155. a. Each campaign is allotted two (2) off-campus campaign related events 156. throughout the entirety of the campaign season. 157. b. Written approval must be obtained from property owners or property 158. management before any fliers or campaign material are distributed at 159. an off-campus housing location. 160. 4. Campaign Platform 161. a. In order to ensure that each platform and the information contained 162. therein are the property of the candidates using them, and to promote 163. factual and consistent claims to the student body, all platforms must be 164. submitted to and approved by the Platform Review Committee, consisting 165. of the Attorney General, Senate President, and Chief of Staff with the 166. confirmation of the Elections Director. If any student holding these 167. positions is affiliated with a campaign, the Elections Director will appoint an unbiased replacement from that respective branch. 168. 169.
 - b. All platform affiliation will be removed prior to review by the Platform Review Committee. The final form of all platforms must be turned in for approval no later than 12:00 PM, two Sundays before nominating petitions are due. No additions or amendments may be made to the platform after

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- **173.** approval by the Platform Review Committee.
- 174. 5. Campaign Communications175. a. Candidates are prohibited from using electronic mailing to contact
- a. Candidates are prohibited from using electronic mailing to contact potential voters with the intent of soliciting a vote.
- b. Candidates are prohibited from using a Clemson.edu listserv to send
 mass emails to contact potential voters with the intent of soliciting a vote.
 In addition, no candidate may send emails of any kind representing
 themselves as a candidate to potential voters prior to the mandatory
- 181. informational meeting.
 182. c. All candidates are strongly reminded that the Elections Board has the authority to evaluate the intent of electronic mailing.
- d. Candidates may use social media, but are reminded that in using these, the campaign rules still apply (i.e., no slanderous campaigning).
- e. Emails sent to any list which is used by a campus department or office to distribute information is prohibited.
- f. Sending electronic mail to any list without the consent of the listadministrator is prohibited.
- 190. g. Candidates may speak about another candidate's positions on campus
 191. issues and how they differ on these positions so long as these
 192. statements are truthful. Falsifying information about a candidate may result in immediate disqualification.
- h. A person who attempts to solicit a vote for an election, prior to filing the
 necessary materials to be considered an official candidate, will immediately be
 assessed a violation.
- i. The violation will retroactively apply should the person choose to file thematerials necessary for official candidacy.
- i. Gaining signatures for the completion of an election petition does not constitutegrounds for a violation.
- **201.** J. Student organizations in its entirety shall not endorse a candidate.
- **202.** 6. Active Campaigning
- a. Candidates are allowed three active campaigning days every week
- 204. b. Candidates may not perform any act of campaigning in the Student
 205. Government offices during election season. This includes all CUSG
 206. sponsored events.
- **207.** 7. Campaign Finances
- a. All candidates must specify and submit an itemized expense report withintended campaign expenditures to the Elections Director on the day

210. nominating petitions are due. Candidates will turn in an updated expense 211. report during campaign season at a time specified by the Elections 212. Director. 213. b. Candidates will also turn in two finalized, specific expense reports, the 214. Friday before the primary elections and Friday before the general election. 215. c. Any donations to a candidate must be reported and will be valued at a rate 216. set by the Elections Board. 217. d. Each ticket shall be allowed no more than a \$1,500.00 total budget to use 218. for their various campaign materials 219. i. No individual non-candidate shall be permitted to contribute more than 220. \$250.00 to one ticket. 221. ii. Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates shall be limited to a joint 222. contribution of \$500.00 to their own campaign. 223. iii. Political organizations and lobbying groups whose mission statement or 224. membership are not central to Clemson or Clemson University are not 225. permitted to donate to any campaign directly or indirectly. **Organizations** in question and their donations will be evaluated at the discretion of the 226. 227. Elections Director. 228. iv. Violation of these terms will result in the candidates' immediate 229. disqualification. 230. e. All expenses for campaign materials will be assessed toward a campaign's 231. budget at fair market value or the actual cost, whichever is higher, unless it 232. falls within the following parameters: 233. i. Fair market value shall be known as the value at which any given student 234. can reasonably purchase an item or a similar item within the Clemson 235. area as evidenced by the issuance of a receipt or other proof of purchase. 236. ii. Materials purchased outside the Clemson area not evidenced by a 237. receipt will be assessed at a fair market value, or the actual cost, 238. whichever is higher. 239. iii. Materials purchased on the internet that do not have a comparable local 240. fair market value will be assessed at the actual cost to the ticket at the 241. time of purchase. 242. iv. Materials donated to a campaign not evidenced by a receipt will be assessed at a fair market value. 243. 244. f. The following regulations shall apply to t-shirts or other promotional 245. clothing items unless the specific item is the subject of an exclusive

246. merchandising agreement, the terms of which, being determined by the 247. Elections Board, shall be offered to all campaigns equally for similar 248. promotional clothing items, agreed to by the candidates and the Elections 249. Director: 250. i. The first seventeen items purchased by a campaign, including its staff, 251. shall be assessed at fair market value. Any items purchased beyond the 252. first seventeen shall be assessed as follows: 253. 1. If the intent of the item is as a campaign tool, then it will be assessed at 254. fair market value. 255. 2. Any third party donation's cost will be assessed by the Elections 256. Director and added to the campaign's expenditure report. 257. ii. No other exclusive agreements shall be made for campaign material 258. between the Elections Board and the campaign except that which has 259. been made clear here. 260. g. A hard copy receipt to be delivered to the Elections Board upon request 261. shall evidence all purchases made by a ticket for campaign materials. 262. h. Each ticket is expected to submit a full financial disclosure statement to the 263. Elections Board at the time of filing for office, at the request of the 264. Elections Director, and by 4:30 PM on the first day of voting. i. If the campaign has no expenditures, they are still required to complete a 265. 266. full financial disclosure statement. 267. 8. Social Media 268. a. Candidates who wish to create accounts on social media must create a new 269. account every campaign. 270. b. Such accounts are subject to review by the Elections Board and shall remain as "private" and not allow any followers until approved by the 271. 272. Elections Board. 273. c. A candidate may use any personal social media accounts to promote 274. themselves or any approved campaign account. 275. 9. Disqualification 276. a. A candidate may be disqualified for not abiding by the rules governing 277. Elections. 278. b. If an offense is detected, the Elections Board has the right to determine it 279. to be a violation 280. c. If a student body member has detected a violation, an official violation form citing the specific rule breached with any evidence attached, must be submitted 281. 282. to the designated Elections Board email.

283. d. All violations will be decided within 48 hours. 284. e. Violations will be classified as one of two (2) types: standards violations and 285. severe violations. f. Each violation will be reviewed by the Elections Board Violations Committee 286. 287. and classified as such following the report evaluating the intent and impact of 288. the violation in question. 289. g. Each standard violation will result in a reduction in the total campaign budget and the removal of campaign material in a manner to be decided by the 290. 291. Elections Board. 292. h. Each campaign has the right to request a meeting with the Elections Board to 293. discuss any violation. 294. i. Grounds for immediate disqualification shall include: 295. i. Failure to correct a violation as directed by the Elections Board 296. ii. Failure to turn in a campaign finance report 297. iii. Falsifying a finance report 298. j. Accumulation of three standard violations or one severe violation will result in a 299. hearing before the Attorney General, one Assistant Attorney General, 300. Undergraduate Senate President, or an unbiased Senator chosen by the Senate 301. President prior to the start of campaigning, and the Clemson University 302. Undergraduate Student Government Advisor who have the discretion to issue an 303. automatic disqualification by unanimous vote. 304. k. If a candidate is disqualified before the polls open, the elections will be held 305. with the candidate's name stricken from the ballot. 306. 1. If a candidate is disqualified after the polls have closed, the election will be 307. considered null and void. However, if a qualified candidate has received a 308. majority of all votes cast, the results of the election will stand. 309. i. If a new election is required, all candidates' names will appear except those 310. who are disqualified. 311. 10. Special Circumstances 312. a. In the event that there are no more than two (2) eligible and declared tickets 313. for Student Body President and Student Body Vice-President, both tickets 314. shall automatically advance to the General Election and no Primary Election will be held. 315. i. Write-in votes for Student Body President and Student Body 316. Vice-President shall be allowed in this circumstance in the General 317. Election. 318. 319. ii. The candidates that receive a plurality of the vote shall be declared the

320.	winner of the election.					
321.	iii. Campaigning in this circumstance shall begin at the date in which					
322.	campaigning for the Primary Election was set to begin, and all other rules					
323.	forth in these bylaws or by the Elections Board regarding campaigning shall					
324.	<mark>apply.</mark>					
325.	B. Student Senate					
326.	1. Campaign Materials					
327.	a. The use of and promotion on University media shall be prohibited unless					
328.	all campaigns are displayed equally as determined by the Elections Board.					
329.	b. Campaign materials shall include, but are not limited to, all posters, signs,					
330.	fliers, platforms, letters, buttons, banners, stickers, notices, and social					
331.	media posts.					
332.	c. In order to prevent slanderous campaigns, all new campaign material to be					
333.	used must be approved and/or initialed by the Elections Director or their					
334.	designee(s) before being distributed. This should be done before any					
335.	material is replicated.					
336.	d. All candidates must file one sample of each type of campaign material to					
337.	be used in the election with the Elections Director and/or their					
338.	designee(s).					
339.	e. Candidates may not use a Clemson University trademarked logo,					
340.	letterhead, symbol, or any other alteration that would cause confusion in					
341.	the marketplace for campaigning purposes unless approved by Clemson					
342.	trademark officials. This approval must be provided in writing to the					
343.	Elections Board prior to being used in any campaign.					
344.	f. The use of the Student Government logo, letterhead, office supplies, and					
345.	office equipment for campaigning purposes are prohibited.					
346.	g. Candidates may not do any form of public chalking or writing on boards in					
347.	classrooms for their campaign.					
348.	h. In residence halls, posted material shall be restricted to bulletin boards, but will					
349.	need to be approved by University Housing departments before posting.					
350.	i. Posted material must be no larger than 8.5 by 11 inches and cannot be placed					
351.	inside residence hall computer labs.					
352.	ii. Fliers may not be placed under residents' doors.					
353.	iii. Fliers must be stamped and approved according to the Housing distribution					
354.	guidelines. Condidates shall be restricted to Iriosks, University Post Office bulletin boards.					
355.	i. Candidates shall be restricted to kiosks, University Post Office bulletin boards,					
356.	and any other approved location and academic building under the following					

357.	guidelines:
358.	i. Campaign material in academic buildings must be no larger than 8.5 by 11
359.	inches.
360.	ii. Candidates shall be restricted to one piece of campaign material per bulletin
361.	board in academic buildings.
362.	j. No fliers or related campaign material may be distributed at off-campus
363.	Locations.
364.	k. Campaign material posted with the candidate's knowledge in any area other than
365.	what is allowed specifically in this section will constitute grounds for a
366.	violation.
367.	l. All candidates must remove their campaign material within 48 hours after the
368.	election has been officially finalized.
369.	i. A \$30 fine will be charged if all the materials are not removed within 48 hours
370.	after the posting of election results.
371. 372.	Campaign Communications a. Candidates are prohibited from using electronic mailing to contact
372. 373.	potential voters with the intent of soliciting a vote.
373. 374.	b. Candidates are prohibited from using a Clemson.edu listserv to send
37 4. 375.	mass emails to contact potential voters with the intent of soliciting a vote.
376.	In addition, no candidate may send emails of any kind representing
377.	themselves as a candidate to potential voters prior to the mandatory
378.	informational meeting.
379.	c. All candidates are strongly reminded that the Elections Board has the
380.	authority to evaluate the intent of electronic mailing.
381.	d. Candidates may use social media, but are reminded that in using these, the
382.	campaign rules still apply (i.e., no slanderous campaigning).
383.	e. Emails sent to any list which is used by a campus department or office to
384.	distribute information is prohibited.
385.	f. Sending electronic mail to any list without the consent of the list
386.	administrator is prohibited.
387.	g. Candidates may speak about another candidate's positions on campus
388.	issues and how they differ on these positions so long as these
389.	statements are truthful. Falsifying information about a candidate may result
390.	in immediate disqualification.
391. 302	h. A person who attempts to solicit a vote for an election, prior to filing the
392. 393.	necessary materials to be considered an official candidate, will immediately be assessed a violation.
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- i. The violation will retroactively apply should the person choose to file the materials necessary for official candidacy.
- i. Gaining signatures for the completion of an election petition does not constitutegrounds for a violation.
- **398.** 3. Campaign Finances
- a. Campaign expenditures for Student Senate candidates will limit spending to \$100.00.
- b. Candidates for Student Senate elections will not be required to turn in expenditure reports, however, if a violation is reported to the Elections Director with significant proof of violating the spending restriction, a candidate may result in immediate disqualification.
- **405.** 4. Social Media
- 406. a. Candidates who wish to create accounts on social media must create a new account every campaign.
- b. Such accounts are subject to review by the Elections Board and shall
 remain as "private" and not allow any followers until approved by the
 Elections Board.
- 411. c. A candidate may use any personal social media accounts to promote412. themselves or any approved campaign account.
- **413.** 5. Disqualification
- a. A candidate may be disqualified for not abiding by the rules governing StudentSenate elections.
- b. If a candidate is disqualified before the polls open, the election will be held with the candidate's name stricken from the ballot.
- c. If a selected candidate is disqualified after the polls have closed, the qualifiedcandidate with the next highest vote will be awarded the seat.

420. IV. Appeals

- **421.** A. Grounds for appeal of elections include inaccurate vote count, failure of the
- **422.** Elections Board, the Elections Director or candidates to abide by the elections
- **423.** procedures or campaign guidelines.
- 424. B. An election referendum, special vote or disqualification may be appealed by filing
- a written notice containing specific allegations with the Attorney General within
- 426. 72 hours after the polls have closed. Any complainant in this matter shall be
- 427. considered an adversary and shall be granted all applicable rights.
- **428.** C. Grounds for appeal of elections are as follows:
- **429.** 1. Inaccurate vote count



- 430.2. Failure of the Elections Director and Elections Board to abide by the elections procedures.
- **432.** D. The Supreme Court shall hold a mandatory hearing within three working days
- 433. following the deadline for appeals. If the Court decides there are adequate grounds
- 434. for appeals of elections, the court may at its discretion call a new election, uphold
- 435. or overturn the ruling of the Elections Board or otherwise penalize the parties
- **436.** involved.

437. V. Commencement of Duties

- **438.** A. Elected candidates shall take office on the Monday after Spring Break
- and terms shall conclude on the Friday before Spring Break.
- **440.** B. The week prior to Spring Break shall act as a transitionary period.

441. VI. Vacancies

- 442. A. A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the Vice President,
- regardless of the eligibility requirements for the office of President.
- 444. B. If the office of Student Body Vice President is vacated, a new Vice
- President will be appointed by the Student Body President upon
- 446. ratification by two-thirds majority vote of Student Senate.
- 447. C. Any vacancy in the Senate shall be filled by fully qualified candidates
- 448. who are appointed by the Student Senate President and approved by a
- **449.** majority vote of the Student Senate.
- **450.** 1. These senators shall serve out the remainder of the vacated term.

451. VII. Miss Homecoming

- **452.** A. The Elections Director shall be responsible for tabulating top ten scores
- 453. from the Miss Homecoming pageant and shall be responsible for the top
- 454. ten voting which takes place through online ballot.

455. VIII. Temporary Rules

- **456.** A. The Elections Director and the Elections Board at their discretion shall
- 457. have the power to enforce temporary rules for campus wide elections
- **458.** with a simple majority vote by the Elections Board.

Benjamin Hopkins Finance & Procedures			Date		
	new Innocenti nce & Procedures Cha	ir	Date		
Hunter Bond Undergraduate Senate President					
Jonathan Gundana Undergraduate Student Body President			Date		
Lance Chris Miller Interim Vice-President for Student Affairs			Date		
CC:	Chris Miller Miles Maynard Hunter Bond Jonathan Gundana Dan Weathers	(lcmille) (mcmayna) (hbond) (jgundan) (pweath2)	Philip Sikes Mandy Hays Emma Canedo Kaitlyn Samons Altheia Richardson	(philips) (hays2) (ecanedo) (ksamons) (lalthei)	



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