

# **THE ELECTIONS REFORM**

**Fall 2012**

## **Title I- Established**

The Student Body Elections Commission is hereby established.

The Commission shall be responsible for conducting elections in a fair, honest, and impartial manner. The Commission and its individual members shall not endorse or campaign on behalf of any candidates in elections in which the Commission exercises administrative supervision.

The Student Government Graduate Assistant or the Student Government Advisor shall be the Advisor to the Commission.

## **Title II- Members of the Commission**

The Elections Commission shall be composed of (5) members, one of which will be appointed as Executive Director. These appointments are made by the Student Body President and must be approved by the Student Senate via the Consent Agenda.

The Executive Director shall be appointed as Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Commission by the Student Body President, subject to confirmation the Student Senate via the Consent Agenda. The Executive Director shall retain full voting privileges as a member of the Commission.

Members of the Commission shall not occupy any of the following offices:

- A. Student Body Executive Officer
- B. Student Senator
- C. Student Supreme Court Justice
- D. Chairperson or Vice Chairperson of University Board
- E. Member of the Apportionment Board, University Judicial Board, Student Publications Board.
- F. Editor-in-Chief, editor, or member of the editorial board of the campus newspaper or work within any other news gathering capacity.

Members of the Commission shall exercise the following powers and duties:

- I. Executive Director
  - a. Shall be the Chairperson of the Commission and shall preside over all regular and special meetings of the Commission.

- b. Shall report to the Student Government advisor and graduate student assistant following the completion of counting of ballots.
  - c. Shall conduct an informational session with all candidates regarding these policies at a meeting of the Commission.
  - d. Shall maintain attendance records of all meetings.
- II. General Commission
- a. Shall make petitions for office available to the Student Body 15 academic days prior to the elections.
  - b. Shall report violations in the elections commission final reports.
  - c. Shall enforce University policies regarding the posting and distributing of campaign materials.
  - d. Shall record and maintain all minutes of the Commission meetings with copies sent to the following: Members of the Commission, the Student Government Advisor, the Student Government Graduate Assistant.
  - e. Shall conduct a public debate for Executive candidates held each Fall election. Candidates shall be notified in writing of the date, time and place of each forum.
  - f. Candidates shall be notified in writing of the date, time and place of each forum.

### **Title III- Meetings of the Commission**

The Commission shall adopt the following procedure regarding meetings:

- I. All regular and special meetings shall be presided over by the Executive Director. In an event that the director is absent, another member of the Commission may preside over the meeting.
- II. Special meetings shall be convened by the Executive Director.
- III. Members shall be required to attend all meetings unless excused by the Executive Director.
- IV. All protests will be reviewed by the Elections Commission, who will rule on whether the alleged violation has merit.
- V. The Elections Commission reserves the right to level sanctions against individuals who have violated election guidelines.

### **Title IV- Vacancy of Executive Director**

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Executive Director, the Student Body President shall make an appointment to fill the vacancy which shall be approved by a two-thirds majority of the Student Senate.

### **Title V- Date of Elections**

- I. General Elections

- a. Fall elections shall be held on the last Monday and Tuesday of November or first week of December.
- b. Spring Elections shall be in April.
- II. Runoff Elections
  - a. Shall be conducted following the Fall and Spring elections in the event of a tie vote in any Student Body Executive Office or Student Senate Position.
  - b. Shall be conducted seven (7) days following the scheduled general election.

#### **Title VI- Eligibility Requirements for Candidates**

- I. Candidates must be enrolled in the University during the semester they seek office.
- II. A person may not occupy any two or more of the following offices simultaneously.
  - a. Student Body Executive Officer
  - b. Student Senator
  - c. Student Supreme Court Justice
  - d. Member of the Student Body Elections Commission
  - e. Chairperson or Vice Chairperson of the University Board
  - f. Voting member of the Apportionment Board, Judicial Board, or Student Publications Board.
- III. Candidates seeking office as a Student Body Executive Officer must be enrolled in the University a minimum of one semester prior to seeking office.

#### **Title VII- Terms of Office**

The term of office for Student Body Executive Officers shall be from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> the following year.

#### **Title VIII- Nominating Petitions**

##### **Filing**

- a. All candidates must petition to be placed on the ballot.
- b. Petitions shall be available in the Student Activities Center from 9:00am-4:00pm on academic days beginning fifteen days in advance of the election.
- c. Commission shall make copies of the Student Body Constitution, Student Senate Bylaws, elections Reform Act, and the University Posting policies available to anyone receiving a petition.
- d. Candidates for the Senate must obtain signatures of fifty enrolled students.
- e. Candidates for Student Body Executives must obtain signatures of one hundred students enrolled in the University.
- f. Petitions are to be turned in to the Student Activity Center

- g. Online election ballot order will be determined by the order in which petitions are submitted to the Student Activity Center.

### **Title IX – Campaigning**

- I. Campaign materials may be posted or distributed and other campaign activities carried out, in accordance with University Policy:
  - a. Notices for mailbox distribution must contain the resident’s name or “occupant”, the room number, and hall.
  - b. Candidates may not take actions to remedy posting violations aside from reporting the violations to the Commission.
  - c. Campaigners must honor “No Campaigning” signs on the door of residence hall rooms. Campaigners may not knock or slip materials under these doors.
  - d. Campaigning is prohibited in all Dining Centers.
  - e. Candidates are responsible for removing all posted literature within 48 hours following the election.
  - f. No chalking is permitted on University grounds.
  - g. No campaigning is permitted in any University computer labs or in Mary J. Booth Library.

### **Title X- Voting**

- I. Students may use their University NetID to vote.
- II. Electronic Ballots will have a link on the Student Government website.
- III. Polls will be open for 48 hours. Beginning at 12:00am on Monday morning, and at 11:59pm Tuesday.

### **Title XI- Violation of Election Rules**

- I. Any University student may file an election protest regarding alleged violations of this Act with the Elections Commission within 3 days of the conclusion of the election.
- II. Included in the protest must be the following
  - a. Violation (s)
  - b. Violator (s)
  - c. Citation of the specific rule(s) violated
  - d. Date and time of violation
  - e. Witnesses (if applicable)
  - f. Other relevant circumstance of the violation or protest and signature of the protestor.
  - g. Signature of the protestor