

# **Wright State University**

## **Student Government Campaign Regulations**

### *Revised 2/09/2017*

#### **ARTICLE XXV – ELECTION PROCEDURE AND PROTOCOL**

The Chief Justice and Senior Director of External Affairs shall issue a press release to advertise and notify the student body regarding available positions.

##### Section 1 Candidate Eligibility

- A. Any currently enrolled student in good standing is eligible for election and re-election.
- B. Elected candidates must maintain good academic standing at the university and remain a member of their represented constituency.
- C. President and Vice President Candidates must be at least sophomore status by credit hours on an official transcript before or on the date of submitting one's application and must have completed at least two academic terms at Wright State University main campus as a full time student.

##### Section 2 Candidacy Procedures

- A. All candidates must complete the requirements for eligibility prior to the start of campaigning to be considered a candidate. Failure to do so will nullify a pending application.
- B. All prospective candidates must complete the certification of candidacy form and submit to the SEC.
- C. Prospective, candidates must complete a petition for candidacy, which includes securing legible signatures and student identification numbers from members of their respective constituency. The President and Vice President ticket needs a minimum of three hundred (300) signatures from the general student body. Boonshoft School of Medicine, School of Nursing and Health, School of Professional Psychology, University College Senator, and the Graduate Senator require a minimum of fifty (50) signatures from their respective constituency. All other candidates need a minimum of one hundred (100) signatures from their respective constituency.
- D. Petitions must be returned to the SEC in the Chief Justice's mailbox in the Student Government Association office by the designated deadline. Petitions must be complete with all information requested. The SEC will determine the validity of petitions and notify prospective candidates within one business day of receipt. Invalid petitions may be amended up to the final deadline.
- E. Prospective candidates may run for only one office at a time, and must be a member of the represented constituency.
- F. The prospective candidate must attend the candidates meeting. The SEC must be notified in writing prior to the meeting that a replacement will attend. Failure to attend the meeting will result in forfeit of candidacy.
- G. Upon completion of all candidacy requirements, prospective candidates will be declared official

- candidates.
- H. Appeals regarding deadline exceptions will be dealt with on an individual basis by the SEC. Appeals will normally only be addressed based on emergency situations beyond the candidate's control. Written verification of all circumstances should be submitted to the SEC with the appeal.

### Section 3 Campaign Regulations

- A. All campaigning will be confined to the Wright State main and Lake Campuses. The main campus will be all of the university owned/leased buildings and land within the following roads; Zink Road, Kauffman Road, and Colonel Glenn Highway. Campaigning is not allowed in residential or apartment buildings (on or off campus) or Dunbar Library.
- B. All campaign materials must meet requirements stated in the university posting policy available from the Office of Student Activities as well as the following:
- a. Posting fliers in the lobby areas of housing complexes on campus may only be done with written approval from the Community Director that oversees that building and submitted to the SEC.
  - b. The requesting candidate shall submit a copy of the chalking request permit, once approved, to the SEC.
  - c. Approved locations for chalking are any of the normal walkways on campus that are not brick areas normally used for motorized traffic: i.e. roads.
  - d. If a candidate seeks to post fliers in an area that is not already approved by the Office of Student Activities or provided for by the overseeing office in the building a request must be submitted to the SEC requesting permission. The candidate must explain why they wish to post in such a location and must have already acquired permission from the dean of the respective building.
- C. Unacceptable campaign methods include, but are not limited to, voice projecting equipment (i.e.: sound systems, megaphones) and unsolicited forms of communication (i.e.: contacting voters via phone, text message, mass e-mail).
- D. During the period of time twelve (12) hours prior to the start of voting and through the end of voting candidates will not be allowed to display materials, pass out materials, or conduct any other form of campaigning near university computer labs which is an area with twelve (12) or more computers.
- a. Near shall be defined as no less than fifty (50) feet, normal walking path, and may be increased by the Chief Justice prior to the start of campaigning.
  - b. The SEC may choose to increase this distance after the start of the campaigning process.
- E. Substantial contribution in exchange for voter support is considered bribery and is not permitted. The SEC reserves the right to determine what a substantial contribution is.
- F. Candidates are not permitted to leave materials in stacks around campus or to place items on windshields.
- G. The SEC in conjunction with the Chief Justice will determine the dates, times, and locations for all elections.

- H. Any activity which is not expressly allowed within these regulations is hereby expressly denied except by clear and distinct ruling by the SEC prior to doing so.
- I. Campaigning is permitted during voting week. In person and materials are allowed on campus or university property during voting week.

#### Section 4 Campaign Regulation Enforcement and Violations

- A. During the elections and subsequent campaign, the SEC shall meet to make final decisions regarding rule enforcement. An attempt will be made to inform all candidates of any adjustments pertaining to the election, but full responsibility is upon all candidates to stay informed of all updates. The SEC will address these situations within twenty-four (24) hours and post final decision at polls.
- B. The expectations provided in the Code of Student Conduct and university policies, including posting regulations, apply to all campaign activities. Violations of the university policy will be addressed using procedures outlined in the Code of Student Conduct.
- C. The rules and regulations packet for running for Student Government Association, as well as the Student Code of Conduct, applies to every student; not just those campaigning for office. Ignorance of the rules is not an acceptable defense in response to any and all violations of these or other policies.
- D. It is the responsibility of the candidates to educate his/her campaign manager, and all staff members, about the rules set by the SEC in the rules and regulations packet.
- E. Candidates will be held responsible for the actions of all those who assist with the campaign.

#### Section 5 Fine/Sanction System for Violations

Any fines assessed by the SEC in this manner will be given to the Student Government Association scholarship program. Fines are not required as a sanction. They are limited by class, as stated below.

- A. Class I
  - a. Shall be assessed for minor offenses as determined by the SEC.
  - b. Shall be assessed for minor offenses as determined by the SEC.
  - c. Shall be assessed for the first time offenses.
  - d. Shall not exceed \$15 per violation.
- B. Class II
  - a. This is the minimum level of infraction during the voting period.
  - b. Shall be assessed for second time offenses for the same infraction.
  - c. Shall not exceed \$25 per violation.
- C. Class III
  - a. Shall be assessed for a second offense for the same infraction during voting
  - b. Shall be assessed for the third offense for the same infraction.
  - c. Shall not exceed \$100 per violation.
- D. Class IV

- a. Shall be assessed for the third offense for the same infraction during voting.
  - b. Shall be assessed for severe or heavily repeated infractions during the entire process.
  - c. Shall not exceed \$150 per violation.
  - d. The candidate may also be considered for disqualification.
    - i. Candidates who have been disqualified will have their name removed from the ballot and will not be able to run for any elected position in SGA during the election they were disqualified.
- E. The SEC has the right to determine additional sanctions as deemed necessary. These may include the following.
- a. Loss of votes.
  - b. Restricted campaigning time.
  - c. Removal of campaign materials.
  - d. Limitation of campaigning methods.
  - e. Referral to the Office of community standards and student conduct.
  - f. Disqualification.

#### Section 6 Campaign Finance Regulations

- A. Campaign expenditures will be limited to a total of \$750 per ticket (President and Vice President collectively) and to \$300 for all other candidates.
- B. The costs of free or donated materials must be accurately estimated and recorded as if the full expenditure was necessary.
- C. Receipts and records of expenditures must be signed by the candidate(s) and submitted to the SEC by 12:00 p.m. on the day after the close of the polls (for verification).
- D. Expense reports must be submitted on the provided Expense Report Form. Receipts or supporting documentation must accompany the Expense Report Form.
- E. Any candidate with knowledge of third party election expenditures must provide the SEC written verification and report the material as a donation on the Expense Report Form.
- F. Candidates assessed a fine will be required to pay it and must include it as part of their expense report.
- G. The SEC shall determine the sanction for candidates that exceed the stipulated budget cap, fail to report expenses, or fail to provide accurate receipts prior to the voting period.
  - a. The SEC may choose to release specific guidelines in addition to the ones given on the expense report.

### Section 7 Violation Submissions

- A. If available, submissions should be made through an email to the Chief Justice. Otherwise, submissions must be made in writing and submitted to the Chief Justice.
- B. Submissions should be as complete and detailed as possible to help the SEC reach a ruling as fast as possible.
- C. Written documentation from eye witnesses should be included when possible and without such documentation some violations will be unable to be ruled on.
- D. Photos cannot be used to demonstrate time lapses.
- E. The SEC reserves the right to ask for more evidence when deemed necessary.

### Section 8 Fundraising

- A. Candidates may raise funds to support their campaigns as long as the amount does not exceed the expenditure given in section A.
- B. Funds raised to support a candidate's campaign must be recorded as a donation on the Expense Report Form.
- C. Funds collected must be from Wright State students, or organizations, currently enrolled for the semester in which the elections are being held.
- D. The donor(s) names and identification numbers must be included on the Expense Report Form. If the donor was a student group, that group's name must be listed.
- E. No student may give a single candidate or a ticket more than \$50.
- F. Candidates may receive funding from groups outside of Wright State University, or non-student members, a maximum of \$100 for President/Vice-President tickets and to a maximum of \$50 for all other tickets.
- G. Only non-Student Organization Budget Committee (SOBC) funded student groups at Wright State may donate money to a candidate or ticket.
- H. All funds raised must be used on campaign materials only.

### Section 9 Voting Procedures

- A. Position of candidate names will be assigned by random drawing.
- B. Guidelines will be formed by Student Government Association and will uphold all rules and regulations provided by CaTS.

### Section 10 Write-ins

- A. A space for write-in candidates will be included for each specific office.
- B. Write-in votes must be legible, and first and last names are required. Spelling of names will be

- considered on an individual case basis by the President/Vice-President ticket must include both names to be counted.
- C. Students running as a write-in candidate are encouraged to notify the SEC in writing in order to recognize incorrectly spelled ballots.
  - D. Write-in candidates must fulfill all eligibility requirements for holding office. All campaign rules and regulations apply to write-in candidates.

#### Section 11 Ballot Count

- A. The count that is given by CaTS to the SEC is the final result of the election. The only change in resulting numbers would include any additional votes due to hand counted ballots, if applicable.
- B. The winner is declared on a plurality vote. Plurality indicates the candidate receiving the most votes and does not need to exceed fifty percent if there are more than two candidates.
- C. Results will be declared official by the chair of the SEC after the expiration of all appeals deadlines. These results will be presented to the Student Government Association President.

#### Section 12 Appeals Procedures

- A. Appeals must be in writing, signed, and delivered to the SEC by the earlier specified deadlines.
- B. Candidates filing an appeal are not permitted to attend the hearing.
- C. Appeals concerning candidate qualifications and/or petitions must be received by the SEC by 12:00 noon; two (2) business days after the candidates meeting.
- D. Appeals concerning campaign violations and/or polling procedures must be received by the SEC by the close of polling on the final day of elections.
- E. If no appeals are on the table twenty four (24) hours after this announcement, results will be deemed official.
- F. If an appeal is on the table and twenty four (24) hours have passed, no additional appeals may be submitted unless it is in direct relation to a sanction imposed at this point.
- G. All appeals will be heard by the SEC in a closed hearing and a decision rendered within two (2) business days following the appeal.
- H. All SEC decisions are final

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