

CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 1. Definitions

For the purposes of this title or any other official document created or used by the Election Commission, the following definitions will apply:

¹AUTHORIZED AGENT—The term “authorized agent” means any individual who is tacitly authorized by a candidate to act on behalf of, or otherwise represent, the candidate including but not limited to individuals who would be considered staff, volunteers, and other organized members supporting a candidate or ticket.

²BALLOT—The term “ballot” means the totality of the website pages viewed by a voter as they cast a vote through the voting system used by the University.

³CAMPAIGN SEASON—The term “campaign season” means the period after the registration period has been completed to the time voting closes.

⁴CAMPAIGN PERIOD—The term “campaign period” means the five class day period during which campaigning is permitted.

⁵CAMPAIGNING—The term “campaigning” means advancing or inhibiting a candidacy or tending toward that particular end. Campaigning does not include the creation or availability of any website, social media account, social media post, or other internet campaign tool or any private verbal statement of a candidate’s intent to seek office.

⁶CAMPAIGN MATERIAL—The term “campaign material” means any tangible object that is intended for public distribution or display and is intended to advance or inhibit a candidacy or tends towards that end.

⁷CANDIDATE—The term “candidate” means any individual who has registered to seek or been elected to office, and wherever this title states a rule restricting or regulating the actions of a “candidate,” the rule must be construed to apply equally to an “authorized agent.”

⁸CLASS DAY—A “class day” shall be a day from Monday through Friday on which classes were scheduled to be held by the University in the calendar released by the University prior to the start of the semester in which the election occurs.

⁹COMMISSION—The term “Commission” means the Election Commission.

¹⁰DISTRIBUTION—The term “distribution” means the intentional transmission of material by a candidate to any individual not associated with the candidate’s campaign, and “to distribute” refers to the actual or attempted transmission of material in this manner.

¹¹ELECTION—The term “election” means any general, recall, referendum, or special election of the Student Government.

¹²ELECTION DAY—The term “Election Day” means any time period which the Commission has scheduled for voters to be able to cast votes in any election.

¹³ELECTION SEASON—The term “election season” means the period from the start of candidate registration to the certification of results.

¹⁴MAKE AVAILABLE—The term “make available” means to intentionally place material in the public domain such that individuals not soliciting such material may, but are not instructed to, receive it.

¹⁵PERISHABLES—The term “perishables” means things, especially food, likely to decay or go bad quickly.

¹⁶RECRUITING—The term “recruiting” means any effort to convince, persuade, solicit, or otherwise encourage an individual to affiliate with a candidate in any capacity.

¹⁷REFERENDUM—The term “referendum” means a question or proposal submitted in an election upon which the voters may cast a vote.

¹⁸RESTRICTED ZONE—The term “restricted zone” means any designated area of the University in which the Commission determines campaigning is prohibited in any form.

¹⁹SOLICIT—The term “to solicit” means to willfully seek to obtain, or to request, as for something desired.

²⁰TICKET—The term “ticket” means a coalition of candidates combining resources and organizing as a group for the purposes of registration. Voters are not required to vote for a ticket as a whole. Any time the term “candidate” is used in this title, the term also refers to a ticket provided that such a ticket is registered with the Commission.

²¹UNIVERSITY—The term “University” means Louisiana State University Agricultural & Mechanical College at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

²²UNIFORM CONSTITUENCY GROUP—The term “uniform constituency group” means a group of students having uniform demographic characteristics for the purposes of ballot categorization or the students of the group being qualified to vote for identical offices or initiatives, such that an identical ballot may be used for any such student to cast their individual vote.

§ 2. Severability

The provisions of this title are severable, and if any section, rule, or part thereof, is held to be unconstitutional by the Election Court or University Court, the decision may not be construed to affect or invalidate any other provisions of this title or the title as a whole.

§ 3. Amendments to this title and effective dates

This title shall be amended by two-thirds of the Senate present and voting. Such amendments shall not go into effect until one semester following passage, not including the Summer Semester.

§ 4. Accountability

All interested, potential, and filed candidates, tickets, their affiliated staff, members of the Student Government, and volunteers shall be held responsible to the contents of this title.

§ 5. Prohibition on multiple candidacy

No person may be a candidate for more than one office established under, or elected under the authority of, the Student Government Constitution or any provision derived therefrom.

§ 6. Withdrawal

¹In order to withdraw from an election, a candidate must submit to the Commission an email notice sent from the account listed on the candidate's official candidate registration form.

²In order to be removed from the ballot, notice of the withdrawal must be submitted before commencement of the voting period, during which time the Commission will make every effort to remove the candidate from the ballot. Candidates who withdraw after the commencement of the voting period will remain on the ballot, but for the purposes of tabulation, the candidate shall be treated as if they had never contested. The candidate's votes shall be transferred to each voter's next preference prior to the first round of tabulation.

§ 7. Electing Senate seats

Senate seats shall be divided in half after apportionment in which one-half of the seats available in a college shall go up for elections in the fall and the other half shall be up for election in the spring. In the case of an odd number of seats, one more shall be elected in the spring. Students will be able to rank as many candidates on the ballot for a particular race as desired but shall not be required to do so.

§ 8. Change in apportionment of the Senate

If apportionment causes an Academic Area to have more or less Senate seats than it previously had, the seats will be added or removed, as the particular case requires. In the event that seats are removed, any Senators whose seats have been discontinued shall be allowed to serve out their regular terms. In the event that seats are added, they shall be placed on the fall or spring general election ballot, whichever will balance apportionment, for a full term.

CHAPTER 2. THE ELECTION COMMISSION

§ 101. Acknowledgment

There hereby be recognized an Election Commission, as referred to in Article IV of the Student Government Constitution.

§ 102. Composition

The Commission shall be composed of one University Administrator, ex officio and without the right to vote, and five Commissioners appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of two thirds of the Senate present and voting.

§ 103. Qualification

All full-time enrolled students of the University are eligible to serve as members of the Commission, except no person is eligible who: (1) is registered as a candidate for any office in an election to be administered by the Commission; (2) will be engaged in a program of study abroad during an election season; (3) is being held under either academic or disciplinary probation by the University; or (4) is planning to continue serving as an officer of the executive, legislative, or judicial branches.

§ 104. Timing of appointments

The President shall appoint the five Commissioners in the Spring Semester, before the general election to take office concurrently with the incoming President elected at the aforementioned spring general election, serving for the election cycles of the following year.

§ 105. Election and vacancies of the Chair

A Chair shall be elected by the Commission from among the Commissioners. The outgoing Chair of the Commission shall administer the election of the newly appointed Chair. The Chair shall serve a term of one year concurrent with the other Commissioners. Should the outgoing Chair of the Commission be reappointed as a Commissioner and seek election to another term as Chair, the outgoing Vice Chair shall administer the election.

In the event of a vacancy of the Chair, the Vice Chair shall become the Chair, and the Commission shall elect a new Vice Chair from among the remaining Commissioners. The President shall then appoint a new Commissioner approved by two-thirds of the Senate present and voting.

§ 106. Election and vacancies of the Vice Chair

The Vice Chair shall be elected by the Commission from among the Commissioners. The Chair shall administer the election of the Vice Chair. The Vice Chair shall serve a term of one year concurrent with that of the other Commissioners. In the event of a vacancy of the Vice Chair, the Commission shall elect a new Vice Chair from among the remaining Commissioners. The President shall then appoint a new Commissioner approved by two-thirds of the Senate present and voting.

§ 107. Appointment of Commissioner roles

Once a Chair and a Vice Chair have been elected, the Chair shall appoint the remaining three Commissioners to the following roles: the Commissioner for Finance, the Commissioner for Administration, and the Commissioner for Communications.

§ 108. Role restriction

All Commissioner roles must be filled by separate and distinct Commissioners.

§ 109. Responsibilities of the Chair

The responsibilities of the Chair include but are not limited to: facilitating all meetings of the Commission; overseeing election investigations instituted by the Commission; coordinating the tabulation of votes with the University Administrator; communicating with media outlets and the press; assisting the other Commissioners in the administrative functions of the Commission; serving as the Commission's primary contact for the Student Government; and breaking all ties in Commission votes.

§ 110. Responsibilities of the Vice Chair

The responsibilities of the Vice Chair include but are not limited to: assisting the Chair in communication with candidates; assisting the Chair and other Commissioners in the performance of their responsibilities; maintaining and coordinating a meeting space for the Commission; serving as Chair in the absence of a Chair; planning a debate between all presidential and vice presidential candidates in the spring general election; and making available a transition guide for the succeeding Commission.

§ 111. Responsibilities of the Commissioner for Finance

¹The responsibilities of the Finance Commissioner include but are not limited to: regulating the expenditures of all candidate campaigns; informing candidates of expectations and possible campaign violations in regards to finances; being responsible for all the Commission's financial affairs; and ensuring candidates access to Commission resources.

²The Finance Commissioner is responsible for ensuring that all candidate and ticket financial forms submitted to the Election Commission are publicly published and emailed to ticket heads and all presidential and vice-presidential candidates.

§ 112. Responsibilities of the Commissioner for Administration

The responsibilities of the Administration Commissioner include but are not limited to: taking minutes at all Commission meetings; ensuring Commission compliance with public records; compiling an election manual for candidates; and ensuring the Commission's compliance with this title.

§ 113. Responsibilities of the Commissioner for Communications

The responsibilities of the Communications Commissioner include but are not limited to: executing all outreach efforts for Commission operations prior to the candidate registration period including on-campus tabling, elections advertisement to campus newsletters, student organizations, graduate programs, and candidate information sessions; updating and maintaining appropriate social media accounts

and the Commission's portion of the website; and assisting in the coordination and promotion of election events during the campaign period.

§ 114. Compliance

All members of the Commission shall comply with all laws, policies, rules, and regulations found within the governing documents of the Student Government, including all University policies, rules, and regulations.

§ 115. Conduct

Given the nature of the powers of the Commission, the Commissioners are to be held to the highest standards of conduct. The Commissioners may not be affiliated with or in any way support or assist any candidate's campaign, directly or indirectly, except by exercising their individual right to vote. The Commissioners shall represent this title and the facts of any matter pertaining to the Commission to all divisions of the Student Government and the public accurately and fairly. The Commissioners shall faithfully execute their roles as outlined in this title and to the standard a reasonable person would expect of someone in such a position.

CHAPTER 3. COMMISSION POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

§ 201. Authority

The Commission holds power and control over all matters, decisions, and actions related to the administration of the elections of the Student Government excluding those powers granted to the Election Court.

§ 202. Delegation

The Commission has the authority to delegate any of its functions to an individual Commissioner, even if not directly in accordance with the responsibilities listed in the preceding chapter.

§ 203. Investigative and prosecutorial authority

All Commissioners shall have the authority to investigate alleged violations of this title and prosecute candidates via the submission of a complaint to the Election Court. The Commission shall not have the authority to vacate the results of an election on its own accord. The Commission may only request such a result to the Election Court via the proper court filings.

§ 204. Meetings and office hours

The Commission shall conduct, at a minimum, one public meeting before the start of the election season and hold office hours throughout the season by appointment.

§ 205. Quorum

A simple majority of the Commission must be physically or virtually present at a meeting in order to establish quorum.

§ 206. Voting

In any matter to be decided by the Commission, the voting threshold will apply only to those Commissioners who are present and voting. Unless otherwise specified by this title, all decisions and actions of the Commission must be approved by a simple majority vote. Commissioners may not be present by proxy.

§ 207. Calling a meeting

¹A meeting of the Commission may be scheduled either solely by the Chair or jointly by a simple majority of the Commission. All Commission meetings and agendas must be open to the public. In order to call a meeting, a notice of the date, time, and tentative location of the meeting must be sent via email at least forty-eight hours prior to the meeting along with a preliminary agenda to the Commissioners, the ex officio University Administrator, the Student Body President, the Student Body Vice President, the Speaker of the Student Senate, the Speaker pro tempore of the Student Senate, the Chief Justice of the University Court, and the Deputy Chief Justice of the University Court.

²Emergency meetings may be called at the discretion of the Chair or a simple majority of the Commission. Notice of the date, time, and tentative location of the emergency meeting must be sent via email at least eight hours prior to the meeting along with a preliminary agenda to the Commissioners, the ex officio University Administrator, the Student Body President, the Student Body Vice President, the Speaker of the Student Senate, the Speaker pro tempore of the Student Senate, the Chief Justice of the University Court, and the Deputy Chief Justice of the University Court.

§ 208. Public requirement

The Commission shall generally conduct its meetings in public, such that members of the public may come and go at any time during a meeting.

§ 209. Agenda

¹At the commencement of each meeting, the Chair shall propose an agenda for the approval of the Commission. Prior to its approval, the proposed agenda may be amended by a simple majority vote of the Commission. The proposed agenda must be approved by a simple majority vote. After the agenda is approved, any item may be added to the agenda by a simple majority vote of the Commission, but no item may be removed or altered. The final agenda for a given meeting must be made available to the public pursuant to public records laws.

²The agenda for each meeting must include at least the following items: roll call, initial public comment, approval of agenda, and new business.

§ 210. Minutes

¹The Administration Commissioner, or another member of the Commission in the Administration Commissioner's absence, shall keep minutes of each meeting. The minutes from a given meeting must be made available according to the public pursuant to public records laws.

²The minutes for each meeting must include at least the following items: the list of present during roll call, a paraphrased record of all public comments, a record of all motions made, a record of which member made each motion and seconded each motion, and how each member voted if a vote was taken.

§ 211. Record keeping

¹The Commission shall keep and maintain all records, reports, forms and other documents related to the Student Government elections. These records must be kept in a manner that can easily be passed on year-to-year. All physical records must be stored in a Student Government office.

²All of the following records, whether physical or digital, must be retained following the conclusion of an election cycle: (1) verified election results for all races; (2) individual campaign expenditure reports, excluding personal financial information; (3) expenditure reports of the Commission; and (4) agendas and minutes from all Commission meetings.

§ 212. Website

On the Student Government website, the Commission shall make available at least the following items: (1) a schedule listing all validly called meetings; (2) a schedule listing all relevant elections dates and deadlines; (3) methods by which the members of the Commission can be contacted, including a schedule of office hours if applicable; (4) a copy of this title; (5) copies of all pertinent documents and forms which may be submitted to the Commission; (6) a list of candidates following verification; and (7) candidate completed finance forms included with a list of certified candidates.

§ 213. Electronic accounts

¹The Commission may maintain electronic accounts, such as email accounts and social media pages, as it finds appropriate to carry out its duties.

²All official electronic correspondence from the Commission must only come from the official University email account of the Commission.

³Any Commission-related electronic correspondence received to a personal email account or personal social media account must be immediately forwarded onto the Commission's official account.

⁴The passwords, security questions, and methods of access to all electronic accounts must be set by the Commission and transferred upon the transition of a new Commission.

CHAPTER 4. TICKETS

§ 301. Tickets

Candidates are permitted to organize into tickets for purposes of collective finances, commonly recognized materials, streamlined registration, and/or ballot name-recognition.

§ 302. Tickets without executive candidates

Tickets are not required to have a presidential or vice-presidential candidate.

§ 303. Restriction on number of candidates

A ticket may not register more candidates than seats available in a given election.

§ 304. Ticket representatives

Each ticket shall select a ticket representative who shall serve as the liaison between the Commission and the organized ticket. The ticket representative must transmit a list of all staff members, volunteers, and candidates after registering with the Commission. No individual may be listed on multiple tickets.

§ 305. Total expenditures

Tickets must account for their total amount of expenditures but only have to submit one financial expenditure report and donation list for all grouped candidates.

§ 306. Candidate recruitment

No individual may recruit or attempt to recruit candidates or potential candidates for a potential ticket until twelve class days prior to the candidate registration period as outlined in chapter six of this title. Violations, in addition to the appropriate penalty under chapter nine of this title, will cause the recruited candidates to reduce the ticket's financial limit by one hundred dollars each. Each candidate recruited or attempted to be recruited before the twelfth class day before the candidate registration period, shall constitute a separate violation. Additionally, each instance of recruitment or attempted recruitment shall constitute a separate violation.

§ 307. Ticket registration

¹The ticket representative shall provide the Chair with the ticket registration form on the Monday no sooner than ten class days prior to the registration period and no closer than one class day before the beginning of the registration period and confirm the entire ticket roster no later than one academic week after the end of the registration period in order to register the ticket with the Commission.

²Included in the ticket registration form is an "About the Tickets" section providing tickets the opportunity to offer a concise answer to why students should want to join the ticket, including but not limited to the motto, slogan, purpose, and

top three initiatives of the ticket. This section should also include information about how to contact the point of contact for each ticket.

³Ticket names shall appear as they are registered on the ballot. Only ticket representatives may alter ticket names.

⁴Ticket names may not incorporate any form of hate speech. This provision understands that hate speech is any abusive or threatening speech of writing that expresses prejudices against a particular group, especially but not limited to on the basis of race, religious, sexual orientation, or gender.

§ 308. Ticket liability

Tickets, as a whole, may be held responsible for violations of provisions of this title.

CHAPTER 5. ELECTION PREPARATION PROCEDURES

§ 401. Sample timeline

The Commission may use this sample timeline as a model for the timeline the Commission adopts and publishes pursuant to the requirements of the publicity period:

Week 1—Monday: Community contact and election information session

Week 2—Monday: Publicity event

Week 3—Monday-Monday: Candidate registration

Week 4—Tuesday-Friday: Candidate registration validation

Week 5—Monday: Candidate meeting

Week 6—Monday-Friday: Campaign period

Week 6—Thursday-Friday: Election Day

§ 402. Pre-election

Prior to the commencement of the registration period, the Commission shall establish by rule a date for the general election. The Commission shall send the date to the Student Body President, the Speaker of the Student Senate, and the Chief Justice of the University Court. There shall be two general elections per academic year. The fall general election must be held in ample time for the Senate to host organizational sessions for the newly elected senators. The spring general election must be held in March in order to accommodate newly elected positions and allow time for executive appointments.

§ 403. Selection of election-related dates and deadlines

¹The Commission shall be in charge of setting all dates of the election-related events listed in this title. The Commission shall have the authority to have class days be non-consecutive as long as they inform candidates of said dates.

²Non-consecutive class days may only be used to avoid weeks shortened by University holidays or affected by emergency conditions declared by the University.

³After the University makes available a calendar for the Academic year, any class days that are added due to unforeseen closures of the University shall not be calculated when setting the timeline.

§ 404. Publicity period

The publicity period shall consist of community contact, information sessions, and a publicity event.

§ 405. Community contact

¹At least ten class days prior to the commencement of the candidate registration period, the Commission shall contact all undergraduate and graduate colleges and schools, student organizations registered with the Office of Campus Life, and student newsletters, and request the dissemination of election information in their communications.

²This information must include the following: (1) the dates of the candidate registration period; (2) the dates of open campaign period; (3) all the dates, times, and locations of pre-registration information sessions; (4) all the dates, times, and locations of candidate meetings following the registration period; and (5) the date of the election.

³The Chair shall first announce these dates in front of the Senate.

§ 406. Information sessions

Within ten class days prior to the beginning of the candidate registration period, the Commission shall hold at least one election information session providing information to potential candidates of the Student Government election. The Commission shall provide information on each office's functions and operations, as well as the opportunities to get involved and any necessary qualifications.

§ 407. Publicity event

Within five class days of the beginning of candidate registration, the Commission shall hold at least one public event to publicize the upcoming elections. This event is expected to be held in the Student Union, the Quadrangle, or Free Speech Plaza.

CHAPTER 6. ELECTION PROCEDURES

§ 501. Registration period

¹The Commission shall establish a registration period, during which candidates may register for the elections. The length of the registration period shall be six class days.

²No individual accountable to this title may create or make available any website, social media account, social media post, or other internet campaign tool prior to twelve class days before the candidate registration period except for Grad Gold, a standing ticket which has already been established.

³After the initial three class days of the registration period, the Chair shall publish a list of individuals correctly registered. Any individual who incorrectly registered in the initial three class days may reregister. Filers must be informed by the Election Commissioner by email if and why their filing submission was insufficient, and list must be emailed at the same time it is posted on the Student Government office door.

§ 502. Candidate registration form

¹By the first official day of the registration period, the Commission shall make available an official candidate registration form. Candidates must register by properly completing the candidate registration form and submitting a copy of the form to the Commission prior to the conclusion of the registration period. Candidates may choose to submit their registration materials either online or via paper forms but can only choose one method of submission for all materials.

²Included on the registration form shall be a section dedicated to, first presenting the names of all the tickets who have registered for the election, then offering (in as unbiased a manner as possible) the “About the Tickets” information from every ticket that provided such information on their ticket registration form before the registration period, and lastly provides point of contact information for each ticket.

³Also included should be a brief description of the function of Student Government tickets, stating the ability of candidates to run independently, and noting that if a candidate would like to join a ticket, they should contact the ticket’s point of contact and discuss their interest with the ticket.

§ 503. Validation

Within five class days of the conclusion of the registration period, the Commission shall determine the validity of each candidate’s online or paper registration form. Any properly completed and submitted form must be deemed valid, and any form not properly completed or submitted must be deemed invalid. The Commission shall notify all candidates of the status of their registration via email once validation is complete. This email shall include the date and time of any candidate meeting(s).

§ 504. Extended candidate registration

¹The Commission may allow the online or paper registration of additional candidates after the close of the official registration period.

²Only races in which there are fewer candidates running than contested seats; in other words, races with empty ballot slots available; may be granted extended online or paper registration. In races in which there are an equal or greater number of candidates than are seats, the Commission will not permit extended candidate registration.

³The Commission shall set the expiration date of the extended registration period no less than ten class days before the start of the election. The Commission

may deny any candidate the right to submit a ballot statement if the deadline for submission has already passed.

⁴All candidates registered after the close of the official registration period are subject to the same requirements and regulations listed in § 501 except that candidates may submit the official online or paper candidate registration form after the close of candidate registration. Within five class days of the reception of the official candidate registration form, the Commission shall determine the validity of each online or paper registration form. Any properly completed and submitted form must be deemed valid, and any form not properly completed or submitted in accordance with Commission rules must be deemed invalid. The Commission shall notify all candidates of the status of their registration via email once validation is complete.

⁵All candidates who register after the close of the official registration period who did not attend an official candidate information meeting must attend a supplemental candidate information meeting hosted by the Commission based on the content of the candidate information meetings. Candidates may not send an authorized agent in their place unless given permission to do so by the Commission. The candidate must inform the Commission of their designee before the commencement of the meeting. Candidates who fail to meet with the Commission may be denied registration and ballot placement. The Commission may set a deadline at its discretion before which the supplemental candidate information meeting must be completed.

§ 505. Announcement of registered candidates

Once the candidate registration and validation processes are complete, the Commission shall publish on its website a list of registered candidates by name and by office sought and shall distribute this list to any media outlets who request it.

§ 506. Candidate meeting

¹After the candidate registration process is complete, but before the commencement of the campaign period, at least one official candidate meeting must be held for any student registered to run for an elected position. Notice of the date, time, and location of any candidate meeting(s) must be sent via email to each registered candidate. In order to be eligible for the election, each candidate must physically or virtually attend an official candidate meeting.

²If a candidate is unable to attend, they may send an authorized agent in their place. No two candidates may utilize the same authorized agent. The candidate must inform the Commission of their designated authorized agent before the commencement of the candidate meeting. If a candidate is not able to find an authorized agent, they must send an excuse to the Commission who will decide the validity of the excuse. Candidates for President and Vice President may not use authorized agents.

³If an extenuating circumstance as determined by the Commission occurs on the night of a meeting which causes a candidate to be unable to attend, the

candidate must provide a written excuse to the Chair within three class days of the mandatory scheduled meeting. In any case where the candidate becomes excused, alternate arrangements shall be made for the candidate. Current office holders do not have to attend a candidate meeting if they are seeking re-election in the office they currently hold.

⁴The Commission shall distribute an election manual to candidates at the candidate meeting. The manual may be distributed digitally. The manual may not be used in place of this title, nor serve as a reference in any official capacity. The manual shall include the expectations of candidate conduct and the relevant deadlines and timeline of an election.

§ 507. Campaign period

The campaign period shall begin at least five class days following the first candidate meeting, so long as all candidate eligibility has been verified. The campaign period must end when the voting period is terminated and shall last five class days. If the voting period ends on the morning of a class day, that class day must be calculated in the five class days. Election Day must begin on a Thursday.

§ 508. Permitted activities

¹During the campaign period, and only during this period, candidates may distribute campaign materials in accordance with all the rules and regulations outlined in this title.

²The Commission may hold official campaign events during the campaign period. The Commission has full discretion to determine the format of these events so long as they are open to the public and accessible to all.

³Public forums (i.e. debates, student organization town halls, etc.) independent of the Election Commission's events, may be organized and hosted by student clubs and organizations so long as all registered presidential and vice-presidential candidates are invited to participate (with at least five class days' notice) and so long as reasonable attempts to advertise the event are made and the event is open to the public and accessible to all.

§ 509. General election results

Regardless of complaints pending before the Election Court or appeals pending before the University Court, the unofficial results of the general election shall be announced by the Chair in an appropriate campus location and uploaded to the Student Government website, three class days after the voting period closes. Released results shall include the names of any candidates on the official ballot who withdrew or were disqualified, the names of those candidates deemed elected, and the number of votes for each candidate at each round of tabulation. Should such results be changed due to judgments on complaints or appeals prior to results becoming final, these notices shall be updated accordingly.

§ 510. Validation of general election results

If no complaints or appeals are filed by the end of the day two class days after the voting period closes, all general election results shall be deemed final. The end of the day refers to 11:59:59 p.m. If any complaints or appeals are pending, certification shall be deemed final upon the conclusion of such cases.

§ 511. Special elections

If the Election Court determines that the action of the Election Commission, any person, or any organization has cast a reasonable doubt on the fair outcome of an election, it may order that particular election to be held again. The election will adhere to the specific rules of a special election. The rules of a special election shall be formulated by the Election Court.

CHAPTER 7. VOTING

§ 601. Ballots

¹Candidates shall appear on the ballot randomized, if possible, on each ballot. If the ability to randomize each ballot is not possible, then names should appear in the order that the candidates submit their applications. Presidential and vice-presidential candidates shall not be voted on separately; they shall be listed together. Ticket affiliation shall be listed next to the names of each candidate registered with a ticket.

²Ballots shall instruct voters to rank the candidates they support in order of preference, with “1” being the highest/most preferred. Voters may rank as many or as few candidates as they wish. Ballot instructions shall include a statement expressing the following idea to voters: “One does not hurt the chances of higher-ranked candidates by ranking additional candidates.” No write-in votes for candidates shall be allowed, and no space for write-ins shall be provided.

§ 602. Tied and skipped preferences

Tied preferences and skipped preferences shall not be allowed, and the online ballot shall prevent the submission of such rankings while informing the voter of the error. If such prevention is not possible for technical reasons, the Commission shall include language in the ballot instructions warning voters that duplicate rankings are not allowed and could result in the voiding of some or all their rankings. In the case of a tied preference, if more than one of the tied candidates still survive at that point in the tabulation, the ballot shall be exhausted at that point, even if other candidates have been ranked. In the case of skipped rankings, lower preferences shall be moved up to fill the skipped preference.

§ 603. Voting identification

Each member of the Student Body as defined by the Student Government Constitution shall be entitled to vote in each race for which the Constitution and all provisions derived therefrom entitle them to vote. The list of members of the

Student Body shall be provided from the University and not altered by the Commission.

§ 604. Online voting

¹Students may vote from any voting apparatus with access to the internet using the official University online program dedicated for voting by the Commission. The Commission will be responsible for ensuring that all voters meet the requirements to vote in the election. Any vote submitted by someone ineligible to vote in a given election will not be counted, but no penalty shall be levied against the voter, candidate, or ticket unless a clear intent to deceive or corrupt the election can be demonstrated. Any alleged violation of the Student Code of Conduct or any other University policy will be referred to the Office for Student Advocacy & Accountability for further action.

²Voting shall be open for a total of one and a half days: opening at 7:30:00 a.m. on day one and closing at 4:30:00 p.m. on day two.

§ 605. Voting application

The format and structure used for online voting must be approved by the Election Commission and its ex-officio member.

§ 606. Voting stations and locations

No organized voting stations or locations shall be allowed except those administered by the Commission. The Chair shall list the locations of Commission administered voting stations outside of the Student Government offices prior to any election. If necessary, the Commission shall establish and operate on-campus voting stations on election days. Such voting stations shall have at least one Commissioner present at all times.

§ 607. Votes to win general election

¹A candidate who is unopposed when the general election results are deemed final shall be automatically elected. In order to win the general election, an opposed candidate must receive a percentage threshold of the vote or be among the surviving candidates when the total number of already elected and surviving candidates is equal to the number of seats up for election.

²The vote threshold required to win outright is determined by calculating the Droop quota, defined as $(V/[S+1])+1$, where V is the total number of valid votes, S is the total number of available seats, and the quotient is rounded down to the nearest integer.

§ 608. Single-seat races vote tabulation

¹Each voter's first-preference candidate receives one vote. If, at the end of any round of tabulation, a candidate obtains a majority of votes from non-exhausted ballots, the candidate shall be deemed elected, and tabulation shall be complete. If, at the end of a round of tabulation, no candidate has reached a majority, the last-

place candidate and any candidate for whom it is mathematically impossible to be elected given all plausible sequences of vote transfer from eliminated candidates shall be eliminated and ineligible to receive additional votes. In the case of doubt, there shall be a presumption towards election being mathematically possible.

²An eliminated candidate's votes shall be transferred at full value to each voter's highest-ranked non-eliminated candidate. If all of a voter's ranked candidates are eliminated, that ballot shall be deemed "exhausted," and further vote transfers from that ballot shall not be counted for any surviving candidate.

§ 609. Multiple-seat races

¹Each voter's first-preference candidate receives one vote. The vote threshold shall be calculated once votes are counted in the first round of tabulation. Once calculated for a particular multiple-seat election, the vote threshold shall not be reduced on account of exhausted ballots. If, at the end of any round of tabulation, a candidate obtains the vote threshold, the candidate shall be deemed elected, and they shall be ineligible to receive additional votes in further rounds of tabulation. An elected candidate's votes shall be transferred to each voter's highest-ranked non-eliminated candidate not already elected at a value of $V(C-T)/C$, where V is the value of each vote when the candidate was elected, C is the candidate's vote-total when elected, and T is the vote threshold.

²In calculating the number of votes to be transferred, if truncation is necessary for technical reasons, any resulting fraction shall be truncated at six decimal places. If, at the end of a round of tabulation, no candidate has reached the vote threshold, the last-place candidate and any candidate for whom it is mathematically impossible to be elected given all plausible sequences of vote transfer from eliminated candidates shall be eliminated and ineligible to receive additional votes. In the case of doubt, there shall be a presumption towards election being mathematically possible.

³An eliminated candidate's votes shall be transferred at present value to each voter's highest-ranked non-eliminated candidate not already elected. If all of a voter's ranked candidates are eliminated or already elected, that ballot shall be deemed exhausted, and further vote transfers from that ballot shall not be counted for any surviving candidate.

⁴The tabulation is complete if all seats have been filled by candidates meeting the vote threshold, or the combined number of surviving and already elected candidates is equal to the number of seats contested.

§ 610. Ties

If a tie prevents the elimination of a candidate (for example, a tie for last place or the last seat to be elected after all transfers from eliminated and already-elected candidates have been completed), the candidate(s) with more votes in the most recent round of tabulation where there was a difference between the affected candidates shall advance. If the candidates are tied in all previous rounds, a special

election will incur bound by special case rules mandated and defined by the Commission.

CHAPTER 8. PETITIONS AND REFERENDA

§ 701. Procedure for filing petitions

A petition is the device whereby a constitutional amendment, a matter affecting a student self-assessed fee, or a recall of an elected Student Government officer is placed on the ballot as provided by the Constitution. The procedural steps to be followed are: the submission of the petition with the Commission; the collection of signatures by the proponents; and the submission of the signatures to the President, recipient, or proposed recipient of a self-assessed student fee.

§ 702. Petition submission

Prior to a petition being circulated for collection of signatures, it must be registered with the Commission. Submission is accomplished by filing a copy of the petition with the Commission. If the Commission obtains a proposed amendment to the Student Government Constitution, a full copy of the text of the amendment must be filed at this time.

§ 703. Time limits for and verification of collected signatures

A signed petition must be submitted to the President upon receiving the needed number of signatures as described in article II section 2 of the Student Government Constitution within twenty class days of its registration. The President shall immediately transmit any petition received to the Commission. The Commission shall verify the sufficiency of the petition within five class days of submission. The Commission shall verify as valid only those signatures which: contain the name of the student with the date of the signature in the handwriting of the signer and the student's University identification number; belong to a Student Body member as defined by the Constitution as of the date of submission; for a matter affecting a student assessed fee, are members of the group assessed or to be assessed; and were actually collected after registration of the petition and before the submission deadline.

§ 704. Petition election dates and ballot

The Commission shall set a tentative election date within three class days of submission. If the petition is verified as sufficient, a final election date shall be set within one day of verification. If no final date is set, the tentative election date shall be the final election date. Within one class day of the final election date being determined, the Commission shall announce the polling times for the election and announce the official ballot, which shall contain a clear, short, accurate question with a positive, favoring the petition. Voting stations shall be the same as those used for the fall and spring general elections. If the petition is verified as sufficient,

a final election shall occur concurrent with the next planned general election, on the ballot of either the fall or spring election.

§ 705. Persons considered as candidates

The following persons shall be considered as candidates and have full responsibilities as such: the person who submits the petition; in a recall petition, the person who is the target of the recall; in a petition seeking to amend the Constitution, the person who submits the petition; in a petition to levy, amend, repeal, or otherwise regulate a student self-assessed fee, the recipient or proposed recipient; in a referendum concerning self-assessed student fees, the group or entity receiving funds from the proposed referendum; and in a referendum concerning any other matter, the individual who submits the referendum or the individual serving as lead author of the legislation which calls for the referendum.

§ 706. Referendum submission

The procedures for submitting a referendum shall be as follows: submission of the referendum to the Commission from the Senate after approval or submission of a petition signed by ten percent of the membership of the Student Body presented to the President.

§ 707. Candidates of a petition or referendum

The benefiting group or entity shall register a representative to serve as a liaison for matters dealing with the Commission. The name of said person must be submitted to the Chair of the Commission by the same methods of that of a ticket representative.

§ 708. Titling and describing a referendum

The Commission shall title the referendum for the ballot, with the consent of the recipients, and shall place the name of said referendum on the ballot. If a title cannot be agreed upon, the referendum shall be named according to its legislative number given by the Senate. For a referendum regarding self-assessed student fees, it must include the name of the fee and the proposed cost for students. For a referendum concerning any other matter, it must include the title of the referendum and an unbiased description of the two possible outcomes written by the Commission and approved by the appropriate University Administrator.

CHAPTER 9. CAMPAIGNING RULES AND REGULATIONS

§ 801. Purpose

These campaign rules and regulations are hereby established to: (1) ensure the fairness and integrity of every election, (2) provide each candidate with a reasonable opportunity to disseminate their message to the public, (3) promote the interest and participation of the Student Body in the elections process and (4) restrict only that activity which is meant to advance or inhibit a candidacy, or

which tends towards that end, but not that activity which is by nature neutral, impartial, and lacking in effect.

§ 802. Endorsements

¹If an individual or group chooses to endorse a candidate, the candidate shall be held responsible for all activities of the endorsing individual or group in regard to activities which are intended to advance or inhibit a candidacy or tends towards that end.

²No Student Government entity shall endorse any candidate or ticket. Student Government entities shall not display any campaign materials in any office, meeting, or event space. Executive and legislative officers of the Student Government may endorse candidates and tickets so long as the endorsement includes a disclaimer that dissociates the office from the endorsement. Judicial officers of the Student Government shall not endorse any candidate or ticket. Election Commissioners shall not endorse any candidate or ticket.

§ 803. General election spending limits

¹Four-thousand dollars shall be the total expenditure limit of any registered ticket. One hundred dollars shall be the expenditure limit for any non-ticket affiliated candidate running for a Senate or College Council seat.

²No more than 25% of the total expenditure limit may be spent on perishables.

§ 804. Special election spending limits

The expenditure limit for any candidate or ticket for any special election called due to an unbreakable tie shall be one-half of the limits stated for the general election per candidate contesting the special election.

§ 805. Referendum spending limits

Referenda shall have a maximum spending limit of ten cents per student for coordinated expenditures based on fourteenth day enrollment numbers. The referendum representative is responsible for submitting expenditure reports to the Chair of the Commission at the same time as all other candidates.

§ 806. Financial expenditure reports

¹For each election, each candidate listed on the ballot, including those who are running unopposed or spend no money, shall submit a financial expenditure report (FER) to the Commission.

²The Commission shall make available an official FER form before the commencement of the campaign period.

³The FER must list all goods and services acquired by the candidate which were intended to advance or inhibit a candidacy or which tend towards that end.

⁴Any good or service purchased by the candidate for their campaign must be reported at the actual value expended by the candidate for a given good or service.

⁵Candidates shall attach receipts to the FER to prove the actual value of each good or service purchased. All receipts must be in their complete, original format. It is a candidate's responsibility to obtain a physical receipt for items for which they are not given an electronic receipt. It is unacceptable for a receipt to appear in a torn or unreadable format. If the Commission requests such, the candidate shall provide the original receipts in person.

§ 807. Donation reports

For each election, each candidate listed on the ballot, including those who are running unopposed or receive no donations, shall submit a donation report (DR) to the Commission.

²The Commission shall make available an official DR form before the commencement of the campaign period.

³The DR must list the name of each donor, the amount of money or good or service donated, and the date the donation was made.

§ 808. Reporting requirements

All candidates must submit an FER and a DR by the end of the day one class day following the election. The end of the day refers to 11:59:59 p.m.

§ 809. Unlawful distribution of campaign material

¹No candidate or authorized agent thereof may distribute or make available any campaign material prior to the commencement of the campaign period.

²No candidate or authorized agent thereof may distribute or make available any campaign material within any University Building during the campaign period unless distribution takes place at an official ticket meeting or the ticket obtains permission from the building coordinator.

³No candidate or authorized agent thereof may distribute any campaign material against the will of the intended recipient once the intended recipient has communicated their unwillingness to receive the material.

⁴No candidate or authorized agent thereof may distribute or make available any campaign material in zones which are designated as restricted by the Commission.

§ 810. Unlawful use of electronic communications

¹No candidate or authorized agent thereof may use University-provided electronic mail, website, or communications platform (e.g. Moodle, Slack, Outlook) as an instrument of campaigning. Candidates and authorized agents may use University-provided Wi-Fi as an instrument of campaigning.

²No candidate or authorized agent thereof may use the image or name of another student or student organization in any photo or video constituting campaign material without first obtaining the verbal or written consent of the student or student organization.

§ 811. Disruption of a University function

¹No candidate or authorized agent thereof may, in the course of campaigning, disrupt any academic function of the University.

²For the purposes of this section, the term “function” should be interpreted broadly.

§ 812. Destruction of campaign material

No candidate or authorized agent thereof may deface, destroy, or remove any campaign material belonging to another candidate.

§ 813. False statements

No candidate or authorized agent thereof may in any matter within the jurisdiction of the Election Court, knowingly and willfully: (1) falsify, conceal, or otherwise cover up by any trick, scheme or devise a material fact; (2) make any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation; or (3) create or use any false writing or document, knowing that the writing or document contains any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry.

§ 814. Obstruction

¹No candidate or authorized agent thereof may engage in disorderly, contemptuous, or insolent behavior so as to interrupt or delay a meeting of the Commission or event put on by the Commission.

²No candidate or authorized agent thereof may engage in behavior intended to disrupt, interrupt, or obstruct any Commissioner in the pursuit of their official duties.

³No candidate may camp or stay overnight at any location on the University’s campus during the campaign period. Campaigning will be allowed between 7:30:00 a.m. and 4:30:00 p.m. local time each day. Candidates will have one hour after the campaign period to vacate their materials from their campaign site. Students parked in cars overnight at a campaign location will be considered in violation of this rule. This provision does not apply to on-campus Residence Halls for the limited purpose that students must be permitted to reside in their on-campus housing.

§ 815. Impersonation

No candidate or authorized agent thereof may falsely assume the identity of or pretend to be: (1) a Commissioner, (2) another candidate; or (3) any other individual acting under the authority of the Student Government.

§ 816. Bribery

¹No candidate or authorized agent thereof may confer, or offer to confer, any benefit upon any officer of the Student Government with the understanding that the benefit will influence that officer of the Student Government in the discharge of their official duties.

²No candidate or authorized agent thereof may confer, or offer to confer, any benefit upon any enrolled student not holding an office of the Student Government with the understanding that the benefit will influence that enrolled student if the benefit holds more than a de minimis value upon that enrolled student.

§ 817. Tampering

No candidate or authorized agent thereof may engage in the: (1) attempting to induce or affect a person to avoid a proceeding or to give a false statement, knowing that a person may be a person of interest in a proceeding of the Election Court; (2) willfully concealing, removing, or destroying any official record, report, form or other document in the custody of the Commission or Election Court; and (3) attempting to enter or infiltrate any system that tabulates votes in any election.

§ 818. Failure to comply

All candidates and authorized agents thereof shall comply with the rules and regulations of the Constitution and all provisions derived therefrom.

§ 819. Attempt

¹All rules and regulations which restrict the conduct of a candidate and authorized agents thereof also restrict the attempted conduct of a candidate and authorized agents thereof.

²Failure to succeed in an attempt to violate any rule or regulation may not constitute a valid defense of an individual's conduct.

§ 820. Authorized agent liability

¹Each candidate may be held liable for all actions carried out by their authorized agents.

²Wherever this title, the Commission, the Election Court, or the University Court restricts the actions of a candidate, so too are the actions of any authorized agents thereof restricted.

§ 821. Sentencing

¹For each count of this title that a candidate or authorized agent thereof is found in violation of by the Election Court, they shall receive:

Two penalties per violation of § 501.

Two penalties per 0-4.99% over the spending limits set by §§ 803-805.

Three penalties per 5-9.99% over the spending limits set by §§ 803-805.

Four penalties per 10-14.99% over the spending limits set by §§ 803-805.

Six penalties per 15-100% over the spending limits set by §§ 803-805.

Two penalty per item missing a receipt or other form of proof in § 806.

Two penalty per violation of § 809.

Two penalties per violation of § 810.

Three penalties per violation of § 811.

Two penalties per violation of § 812.

Six penalties per violation of § 813.
Six penalties per violation of § 814.
Six penalties per violation of § 815.
Six penalties per violation of § 816.
Six penalties per violation of § 817.
Two penalties per violation of § 818.
One penalty per violation of § 819.

²For those violations of this title not listed, the Election Court may use their discretion in granting relief to plaintiffs.

§ 822. Penalties on ballot

¹All candidates sentenced to a penalty, but not disqualified from an election, shall have their penalty totals featured on the ballot alongside their candidacy. Along with their total penalty number shall be a delineation of which provisions were violated.

²For penalties that are distributed within a day of or during the election period, the Commission shall attempt to feature such on the ballot but cannot guarantee the featuring of such penalties due to their untimely distribution.

§ 823. Disqualification

Any candidate who accumulates six or more penalties during a given election period shall be disqualified by the Election Court. Such an order removes the candidate from the ballot, invalidates their election to office, and renders the candidate ineligible to be elected to any office or participate on behalf of any candidate as a staff member or volunteer for the academic year in which they were disqualified.