

TITLE VI. ELECTIONS

CHAPTER 1. GENERAL MATTERS

§ 1. Purpose

This title shall provide for the rules and conduct of all Student Government elections.

§ 2. Equal protection

This title is intended to ensure that each candidate is afforded an opportunity for election equal to that of any other candidate for that office.

§ 3. Accountability

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

§ 4. 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.

§ 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 from an election

If a candidate wishes to withdraw from an election, they must do so by meeting with the Chair of the Election Commission in person presenting a valid picture identification and give the Commissioner a written, signed statement of their withdrawal. Should a withdrawn candidate's name remain on the ballot, they shall be considered to still have withdrawn and thus be ineligible to win the election. 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. GOVERNANCE OF ELECTIONS

§ 101. Governing body

Student Government elections shall be governed and facilitated by the Election Commission. This Election Commission shall be advised by and report solely to the University Administrator tasked with overseeing elections.

§ 102. Membership and election of leadership

The Commission shall be composed of five voting Commissioners and one non-voting University Administrator. The Commission shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair by a majority of Commissioners present and voting. The election of the Chair shall be administered by the Chief Justice. The election of the Vice Chair shall be administered by the Chair.

§ 103. Appointments to the Commission

All members of the Election Commission shall be appointed by the President and approved by two-thirds of the Senate present and voting. Commissioners shall serve a term concurrent to that of the President and Vice President. If a vacancy occurs on the Election Commission, the seat must be filled. Such an appointee shall serve the remainder of the vacant term to which they were appointed.

§ 104. Responsibilities of the Commission

The responsibilities of the Commission shall be: to govern and facilitate all Student Government elections; to remain neutral and unbiased in all elections; to educate candidates; to host at least one informational meeting to inform all potential candidates of tickets before the first week of the election timeline; to disqualify any candidate if they meet any of the criteria for automatic disqualification; to remain in constant contact with the appropriate University Administrator; and to attend all meetings of the Election Commission.

§ 105. Restrictions on activities

No Commissioners shall help, assist, serve on, or campaign for any Student Government campaign, ticket, or candidate. Commissioners shall not serve on any other Student Government entity. Commissioners wishing to seek another office within the Student Government must resign immediately before seeking the new office.

§ 106. Removal

Three unexcused absences from Election Commission meetings shall result in automatic removal from the Election Commission.

§ 107. Quorum

The Election Commission shall not conduct business without the presence of a quorum. A quorum of the Election Commission shall consist of the presence of a simple majority of Commissioners.

§ 108. Appointment and vacancies of the Chair

A Chair shall be elected by the Commission from among the Commissioners. The Chair shall serve a term of one year concurrent with the other Commissioners. 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 the two-thirds of the Senate present and voting.

§ 109. Responsibilities of the Chair

The responsibilities of the Chair include but are not limited: to supervise all election personnel; to execute the provisions of the Student Government Constitution relative to elections and all provisions of this title; to expend such funds as appropriated to the Election Commission's use, with the approval of the Commission by simple majority vote; to submit a calendar with the days of the election timeframe at least two weeks prior to the first day of filing to the Senate; to issue a report to the Senate each week during the election timeframe; to administer Special Elections; to submit a report to the appropriate University Administrator at the end of each Fall, Spring, and Special Election.

§ 110. Accountability of the Chair

The Chair shall be responsible for upholding this title and executing all decisions of the Commission. The Commission may overrule any action of the Chair by a two-thirds vote of Commissioners present and voting.

§ 111. Appointment and vacancies of the Vice Chair

The Vice Chair shall be elected by the Commission from among the Commissioners. 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.

§ 112. Responsibilities of the Vice Chair

The responsibilities of the Chair include but are not limited: to serve at the discretion of the Chair; to assist the Chair in their duties; to serve as the Chair in

the absence of a Chair; to incorporate plans for election outreach; to plan a debate between all presidential and vice presidential candidates during active campaigning in the Spring Election.

§ 113. Appointment and responsibilities of the Secretary

One Commissioner shall be elected by a majority of the other Commissioners present and voting to serve as the Secretary. The Secretary shall take minutes and maintain the records of the Commission.

CHAPTER 3. ELECTION TIMEFRAME

§ 201. Order of events

The election timeframe shall consist of five consecutive or non-consecutive academic weeks. If the election consists of non-consecutive academic weeks, it may not exceed nine academic weeks and may not deviate from the weekly order of events as prescribed below beginning no sooner than the third week of class in a semester and ending no later than the twelfth academic week of class in a semester. Non-consecutive weeks may only be used to avoid weeks shortened by University holidays or affected by emergency conditions declared by the University. The order of events for any campus-wide election, not including Special Elections and elections not held concurrently with a Spring or Fall General Election for the consideration of a referendum brought by petition or constitutional amendment, shall be as follows:

- Week 1: Monday: Ticket heads may begin registering ticket names
 Monday & Tuesday: Pre-filing, election informational meetings
 Wednesday-Friday: Filing period

- Week 2: Monday: Posting of qualified candidates
 Tuesday-Friday: Mandatory meeting and ticket registration
 Friday: Deadline for tickets to register ticket names and candidate rosters
 Friday: Deadline for Senate submission and signature verification by Election Commission for inclusion of recall, petition, and referendum questions on ballot

- Week 3: Off week

- Week 4: Thursday-Friday: Active campaigning

- Week 5: Monday-Tuesday: Active campaigning continues
 Wednesday: General Election
 Thursday: Financial and monetary contribution reports filed
 Friday: Complaints due and General Election results

Week 6: Monday: Validation of General Election results

§ 202. Selection of election-related dates and deadlines

The Commission shall be in charge of setting all dates of the election-related events listed in the previous section subject to any further provisions of this title. The election timeframe shall consist of five academic weeks beginning with the first day of pre-qualifying and ending two class days after the final election results have been announced. Once the dates have been set and publicly announced before the Senate, the Chair will immediately deliver this information to the President, Speaker, and Chief Justice.

§ 203. Announcement of elections

¹The Chair shall issue a press release to be posted on the Student Government website at least five class days prior to the opening of the pre-filing period for the Fall and Spring Elections and issue appropriate widespread campus announcements or advertisements in the campus newspaper at least three class days prior to the opening of the pre-filing period for the Fall and Spring Elections.

²The announcement shall list the following: the positions to be filled in the election; the dates for the opening and closing of both pre-filing and filing; the time and place that a person may pre-file and file for office; the dates of the General Election; and the name and contact information of the Chair.

§ 204. Election informational meetings

The Chair shall hold at least two election informational meetings before or during the week of pre-filing, filing, and qualifying. The purpose of these meeting will be to provide a simple explanation of basic campaigning guidelines and an election timeline, in hopes of fully educating all prospective candidates on basic election practices. At least two of these meetings shall be offered per semester.

§ 205. Pre-filing

¹A student shall have the option to pre-file for an election to ensure they meet all stipulations for the sought office before the period of filing begins. Candidates who are deemed qualified will be filed and qualified unless the candidate returns during the filing period to file for a different position. Students who are deemed unqualified for the seat for which they had intended to register will be notified and be given the opportunity to file for a different position during the filing period. A two day class period for pre-filing shall be opened on the first academic week of the election timeframe.

²Each student choosing to pre-file must submit a pre-filing form to the Commission on these two class days from 12:00 a.m. on the first day until 4:30 p.m. on the second day. This form may be turned in to the Commission by the student interested in filing for office. This form shall include the student's bona fide name or preferred nickname, the student's University identification number, the Academic Area in which the student is enrolled, and the office sought.

³The Chair shall deliver the forms to the appropriate University Administrator, who shall process the forms and notify the Chair of the pre-filing results no later than the first day of filing. The Chair shall post such pre-filing results outside the Student Government offices and on the Student Government website as soon as they are received and no later than the first day of filing. After the first candidate has pre-filed, no changes may be made to the number of half-seats in the election due to resignation of a current Senator.

§ 206. Filing

¹A person shall file as a candidate by filing their intention for candidacy, by completing registration with the Commission during the filing period and verifying their eligibility with the Commission. No one may file on behalf of a student that is not themselves. Official University picture identification must be presented at the time of filing. If filing is done through an official University online platform, official University authentication methods shall suffice for this purpose.

²A three day class day period for filing shall be opened on the second academic week of the election timeframe. Any student may file an intention of candidacy form provided by the Commission for the office they seek from 12:00 a.m. on the first day to 4:30 p.m. on the final day.

³Once a student has filed for a certain office or race, they are able to refile for a different office or race as long as the filing period has not closed. A student may not be filed for more than one office or race at any one time. Once the filing period has closed, a student may not refile for a different office or race. The only exception applies to presidential and vice presidential candidates.

⁴Candidates for President and Vice President shall both be listed together on the ballot and identified as to which office each candidate seeks. If, after the close of filing, a candidate for President or Vice President has not qualified, has been disqualified, or has withdrawn, then the remaining candidate may submit the name of a replacement candidate to the Chair, and this replacement candidate must be qualified by the Chair by 4:30 p.m. on the fifth class day preceding the General Election. The remaining candidate will also have the discretion to refile as either President or Vice President upon selecting their replacement candidate.

⁵If a candidate successfully pre-files for a position, they are automatically filed for that position and, therefore, do not have to file during the designated filing period. Any student may request from the Election Commission the name of any other student(s) who has already filed for candidacy for any position.

§ 207. Collection of demographic data during pre-filing and filing

¹The pre-filing and filing forms shall include the collection of the following data with the candidate's consent: major, race, gender identity, academic classification, a true or false indicator of Student Government affiliation, as well as branch affiliation if applicable, and other organizations in which candidates are involved.

²Following the election, the Election Commission will release anonymous data on the demographics of the candidates filed and election winners, in addition to providing the data in writing to the Speaker, President, and Chief Justice. The data shall include the aforementioned statistics.

§208. Qualifying

¹A qualified student is any full-time student that is in accordance with all Campus Life mandated requirements for officers of recognized campus organizations. For all Senate and College Council positions, a candidate must be enrolled at the time of filing in the Academic Area which they are seeking to represent. No Senator can file or run for another seat within the Senate until the final semester of their current term unless proof of change of Academic Area can be presented to the Chair. Proof of Academic Area must be provided by the University Registrar.

²After the closing of the filing period, the Chair shall submit the appropriate information for each potential candidate to the appropriate University Administrator for verification. If a student has pre-filed with the Commission, the Chair shall not submit their information for verification, and shall list those students as eligible.

³The official list of qualified candidates will be posted outside of the Student Government offices and on the Student Government website. This shall occur no later than noon on the second class day following the closing of the filing period. Complaints to the qualifying or lack thereof of candidates may be filed during this time. The Chair shall notify all candidates who fail to qualify and give reason for disqualification. Complaints pertaining to failure to qualify shall be filed with the Election Court.

§ 209. Mandatory informational meetings

¹All candidates, excluding those running for reelection for the office currently held, must attend a meeting appropriate to the office they are pursuing. These meetings are for the explicit purpose of informing the candidates of their potential duties, responsibilities, and expectations. All meetings will be held on the second week of the election timeframe.

²Each of these meetings shall be attended by either the Chair or another Commissioner to ensure that each candidate stays for the meeting's entirety. Upon arrival, candidates must sign in with the Chair or a Commissioner and also present a valid form of picture identification. There should be ample time during a meeting to answer any questions candidates may have about their potential positions.

³In the event that candidates are unable to attend one of the mandatory scheduled informational meetings, the candidate must notify the Chair before their mandatory scheduled meeting. If 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 two class days of the mandatory scheduled meeting. In any case where the candidate becomes

excused, alternate arrangements shall be made for the candidate. Multiple meetings can be held if deemed necessary. If a candidate does not attend their appropriate meeting and fails to attend a makeup meeting, they will be disqualified and therefore no longer considered a candidate.

§ 210. Executive Staff Informational Meeting

All candidates running for President or Vice President must attend one Executive Staff Informational Meeting. At this meeting, the current President and Vice President shall provide a basic explanation of their positions to the candidates.

§ 211. College Council Informational Meeting

All candidates running for a College Council position must attend one College Council Informational Meeting. This meeting shall be conducted by the current Vice President or their designee and should provide an explanation of basic College Council practices.

§ 212. Senate Informational Meeting

All candidates running for Senate seats must attend one Senate Informational Meeting. At this meeting, the current Speaker and Speaker pro tempore shall provide a basic explanation of the duties of a Senator.

§ 213. Ticket registration

Each ticket shall select a ticket representative who shall serve as the liaison between the Commission and the organized ticket. The ticket representative's duties shall be to provide the Chair with the Ticket Registration Form the Monday of the first week of the election timeframe and confirm the entire ticket roster, including all staff, candidates, and volunteers no later than one academic week after the end of filing in order to register the ticket with the Commission. Ticket names shall appear as the name they are registered as on the ballot. Only ticket representatives may alter ticket names within this section. Ticket names may not incorporate any form of hate speech. This Code understands that hate speech is any abusive or threatening speech or writing that expresses prejudice against a particular group, especially, but not limited to on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation, or gender.

§ 214. Campaigning

There shall be no active campaigning until the Thursday of the fourth week of the election timeframe. Passive campaigning may be done at any point before or during this election timeframe and shall not be restricted to any timeframe.

§ 215. Fall General Election

The General Election for the appropriate Senators shall be held each year on the Wednesday and Thursday of the fifth academic week of the election timeframe from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.

§ 216. Spring General Election

The General Election for the President, Vice President, appropriate Senators, and College Councilmembers shall be held each year on the Wednesday and Thursday of the fifth academic week of the election timeframe from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m.

§ 217. General Election results

Regardless of complaints to the Election Court or appeals to 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, after 4:30 p.m. on the Friday after the General Election. 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.

§ 218. Validation of General Election results

If no complaints or appeals are registered by 4:30 p.m. on the Friday of the fifth academic week of the election timeframe, all General Election results shall be deemed final. If any complaints or appeals are pending, certification shall be deemed final upon the conclusion of such cases.

§ 219. 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 4. VOTING

§ 301. 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.

§ 302. Tied 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 of 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.

§ 303. 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.

§ 304. Online voting

Students may vote from any voting apparatus with access to the internet using the official University online program dedicated for voting by the Election Commission. The Election 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.

§ 305. Voting application

The format and structure used by Information Technology Services (ITS) for online voting must be approved by the Election Commission.

§ 306. Voting stations and locations

A voting station or location, except public computer labs, shall be defined as an electronic device that is a voting apparatus provided by the Election Commission and used by an individual other than the owner to access the official online ballot. No organized voting locations shall be allowed except those administered by the Election Commission. The Chair shall list the locations of Election Commission administered voting locations outside of the Student Government offices three class days 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.

§ 307. 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.

§ 308. 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.

§ 309. 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.

§ 310. 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, one candidate shall be chosen at random to be eliminated.

§ 311. Voter fraud

Voter fraud shall be casting a ballot on behalf of any individual other than oneself. Elections containing voter fraud shall be examined by the Election Court. Appeals to an Election Court judgment regarding voter fraud shall be appealed to the University Court.

CHAPTER 5. TICKETS

§ 401. Tickets

A ticket shall be recognized by this title. Tickets are not required to have a presidential or vice presidential candidate. A ticket may not register more candidates than seats available in the given election. The ticket representative must transmit a list of all staff members, volunteers, and candidates upon registering with the Commission. These individuals shall be held responsible for this title. Candidates cannot be listed on multiple tickets. Tickets must account for their total amount of expenditures. Tickets as a whole may be held responsible to infractions of this title.

§ 402. Ticket organization and preparation

¹Ticket organization can include but is not limited to the following stages: private discussions of prospective candidacy and ticket formation; selecting and forming a campaign staff; brainstorming ideas, strategies, slogans, and colors; collecting financial contributions; holding campaign staff meetings; sharing

platform ideas and issues with the campaign staff; reserving rooms for ticket meetings; and designing, ordering, or receiving campaign materials.

²Ticket preparation can include but is not limited to the following stages: recruiting candidates and holding initial ticket meetings with candidates affiliated with the ticket.

§ 403. Ticket registration

The ticket representative shall provide the Chair with the ticket name on the first Monday of the first week of the election timeframe. The ticket representative shall confirm the ticket's roster of candidates no later than one academic week after the end of filing. Candidates registered with a ticket will waive responsibility for submitting individual financial forms and instead be included in the ticket financial form.

§ 404. Non-recognized tickets

¹Only a ticket that is registered and recognized by the Commission as a ticket may operate as such. Any group or affiliation of candidates that act as a ticket without being recognized as such, and utilize the privileges granted to a ticket, primarily those of collective finances and commonly recognized materials and organization, will be held in violation and subject to penalties from the Election Court. Collective finances shall be defined as, but not limited to, two or more candidates or tickets jointly expending monetary contributions that were originally given to separate candidates or tickets. Commonly recognized materials shall be defined as, but not limited to, two or more candidates or tickets jointly producing campaign materials that do not clearly identify each individual or candidate as members of the separate tickets originally denoted at the time of ticket registration.

²This section shall not be construed to prohibit a ticket or candidate from endorsing or otherwise supporting other tickets or candidates, including endorsement of a specific order of candidate preferences, provided that the above restrictions on collective finances and commonly recognized materials are followed.

CHAPTER 6. CAMPAIGNING PRACTICES

§ 501. Definition of campaigning

¹Campaigning is any activity by a candidate or ticket member that is intended or likely to affect how a voter casts a ballot. This includes the placement of any signs or the like on display and the solicitation of the vote of any student. For the purposes of this title, campaigning shall be divided into passive and active campaigning.

²Passive campaigning includes but is not limited to: announcing or discussing potential candidacy or ticket name in print, broadcast, public forum, or any other media; wearing apparel, buttons, stickers, and similar items explicitly reflecting an affiliation with a candidate or ticket; posting signage; disseminating any campaign material via social media; and surveys and petitions limited to efforts to get student

feedback without highlighting individual initiatives or solicit any votes including asking people to like or follow them on social media and without any identification of the candidate or ticket who is conducting the survey or petition.

³Active campaigning includes but is not limited to: distributing campaign materials to potential voters (other than private distribution to campaign staff and affiliated candidates) and seeking endorsement or voter support (excluding financial contributions) for a campaign at an official meeting of a registered student organization (including candidate forums).

§ 502. List serves and emails

Before and during campaigning, members of a private campaign list serve run by candidates or campaign staff, including and limited to staff, volunteers, and candidates, are considered willful participants and therefore may receive any email concerning candidacy, ticket issues, and other information. During passive and active campaigning, the leader of any student organization, whose organization is not affiliated with Student Government and is registered with the University, may be contacted by any candidate or ticket affiliate for the sole purpose of requesting to speak at that organization's meeting to seek its endorsement.

§ 503. Prohibition on interference with education

Campaigning must not interfere with the educational life of the University. This includes but is not limited to the posting of campaign signs or posters in classrooms and writing on chalk boards or similar devices. No campaigning (except for wearing apparel, buttons, stickers, and similar items explicitly reflecting an affiliation with a candidate or ticket) shall be allowed inside any University building or within twenty feet of any entrance to a University building. Specifically exempt from this prohibition are candidate and ticket organizational meetings and meetings of registered student organizations, or events authorized by a building coordinator. Active campaigning within twenty feet of the Quadrangle is prohibited except on the day of an election.

§ 504. Prohibited methods of campaigning

The following methods of campaigning may not be used: decorating any vehicle without the express consent of the owner; any method that violates University policy, including those concerning mass email; sending potential voters unsolicited electronic messages through University-affiliated software; utilizing the Student Government logo or any logo of any organization that has not explicitly endorsed a candidate or ticket; any method that uses a voting apparatus or interferes with a person at a voting apparatus; actively campaigning within twenty feet of a Commission-sanctioned polling station; and utilizing the University name or any past or present University logo or trademark.

§ 505. Campaigning ethics

Candidates are expected to conduct themselves in an ethically appropriate manner in accordance with all authoritative documents of the Student Government; the Code of Student Conduct; University policy; and local, state, and federal law. No member of Student Government shall make undue use of office or use the resources of said office to benefit any candidate or ticket. A campaigner may under no circumstances intentionally interfere with the campaign of another candidate in any way, including but not limited to the destruction of campaign materials. Anything offered to affect a student's vote must clearly display ticket or candidate affiliation. No campaigner shall make any threat to any voter to affect the student's vote. All campaign activities on campus must be registered with Event Management and Campus Life. The registered event must list specifically what each day will entail.

§ 506. Endorsements

¹Any student organization, excluding any Student Government entity, that is registered with the University may publicly endorse any candidate or ticket for office so long as the organization has the prior approval of the candidate to be endorsed. Candidates or tickets cannot receive any financial contributions from any registered student organization.

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.

³University administration, faculty, or staff shall not publicly endorse any candidate or ticket.

§ 507. Campaigning on the day of an election

Voters may bring push cards into public computer labs for the purpose of voting only. There shall be no campaigning within twenty feet of any Commission-sanctioned voting station. All signs and other materials must be removed from the restricted areas by the Election Commission before the polls open on the day of an election.

§ 508. Litter

The intentional littering of any materials used by candidates or tickets during campaigning or other events shall be prohibited.

CHAPTER 7. SPENDING LIMITS

§601. Definitions of financial terms

Monetary contributions are funds provided to a candidate or any ticket affiliate for use in the election or use in any way furthering that candidate's campaign. Expenses are spending incurred by any candidate or any ticket affiliate for use in the election or use in any way furthering that candidate's campaign or soliciting votes. Donations are goods or services utilized by any candidate or ticket affiliate for use in the election or use in any way furthering that candidate's campaign.

§ 602. Discounts

Funds used to purchase these items must not originate from monetary contributions or be purchased by any candidate, campaign staff member, or ticket affiliate for the express purpose of campaigning. All donations shall be valued and reported at no less than sixty percent of the MSRP of that good or service had it been purchased. This value can be verified through the vendor by the Commission who will retain the power to investigate donations and purchases made by candidates or tickets. Items purchased with a discount shall be recorded in the candidate's financial report with the discount included. Any discount greater than forty percent off MSRP will not be accepted. Bulk pricing will not be considered a discount. The Election Court reserves the right to revalue an expense or donation in response to a complaint that the good or service is not reported at its fair market value.

§ 603. Borrowed items

Items that are borrowed must be accounted for by candidates and tickets in the expense documents, but it shall not be expensed and shall not count toward a candidate's spending limits or total expenditures. Borrowed items must be reusable. Borrowed items cannot include consumable items or items that can expire such as push cards, stickers, or buttons. Examples of borrowed items can include but are not limited to tents and tables.

§ 604. Total expenditures

Total expenditures are the summation of expenses and donations of which shall not exceed the ticket spending limit.

§ 605. General Election spending limits

Two-thousand dollars shall be the total expenditure limit of any presidential and vice presidential pair. One hundred dollars shall be the expenditure limit for any candidate running for a Senate or College Council seat. In the event an individual running for a Senate or College Council seat is on a ticket consisting of a presidential and vice presidential pair, their expenditure limit shall be fifty dollars. Expenditure limits for tickets shall be based on the total expenditures of individuals involved with a particular ticket. If a portion of a ticket is suspended, that ticket's spending limit shall be recalculated to contain remaining official ticket candidates. The new spending limit shall go into effect once the decision has officially been sent

to the affected ticket. Should the affected ticket have already exceeded their new spending limit on the date of receiving a decision by the Election Court, then they shall not be found liable for any financial violation unless there are further expenditures past the judgment.

§ 606. Tiebreaker 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.

§ 607. Financial reports

¹All independent candidates and tickets are required to submit financial reports provided by the Election Commission. There shall be a financial form specifically for the use of tickets and independent candidates, which shall include: all monetary contributions made to the ticket or independent candidate, including candidate fees for tickets; all donations; all borrowed items, which shall be expensed as having no cost; and all expenses incurred.

²All ticket representatives must submit the following: ticket financial report including contributions and expenditures for the ticket as a whole and individual candidates; all receipts and other proofs of purchase, including but not limited to invoices, for expenses incurred; and an inventory of all borrowed, which shall be expensed as having no cost. Candidates on a ticket shall not be required to submit separate financial reports. All independent candidates must submit a financial report and all receipts for expenses incurred. These reports shall be public record immediately after submission to the Election Court. Candidates must sign their reports in the required places and certify that they are accurate and complete. The financial and monetary contribution reports are due by 10:00 a.m. on the class day after the day of the election.

§ 608. Single candidate and ticket expenditures

Money expended and reported for a candidate is applicable only for the campaign of that candidate. Money expended and reported for a presidential and vice presidential pair are applicable only for the campaign of that pair. Registered tickets shall be exempt from this section.

§ 609. Spending limits for a referendum

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.

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 Election 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 Election Commission. Submission is accomplished by filing a copy of the petition with the Election Commission. If the Election 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 within twenty-eight consecutive calendar days of its registration. The President shall immediately transmit any petition received to the Election Commission. In a petition to levy, amend, repeal, or otherwise regulate a self-assessed student fee, the twenty-eight consecutive calendar days prior to the beginning of campaigning of any Fall or Spring General Election shall be the only days for petitioners in this category to collect signatures. During these twenty-eight consecutive calendar days, the petitioners may campaign for signatures only. The Election Commission shall verify the sufficiency of the petition within seven calendar days of submission. The Election 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 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 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.

§ 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 Election 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 Election Commission. The name of said person must be submitted to the Chair of the Commission by the same methods of a that of a ticket representative.

§ 708. Titling and describing a referendum

The Election 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 Election Commission and approved by the appropriate University Administrator.
