Spring 2015

S15RS SGB No. 5 (Amend Election Code)

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A BILL
TO AMEND THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE

PARAGRAPH 1: WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Elections has proposed changes based on the Spring 2015 elections; and

PARAGRAPH 2: WHEREAS, the following amendments assure the fairest election possible; and

PARAGRAPH 3: WHEREAS, the Student Government Election Code shall read as follows:

ARTICLE III
Election Timetable

Section 1. Order of Events
The election time frame shall consist of five (5) consecutive or non-consecutive academic weeks. If the election consists of non-consecutive academic weeks, it may not exceed seven (7) academic weeks and may not deviate from the weekly order of events as prescribed below beginning no sooner than the third (3rd) week of class in a semester and ending no later than the twelfth (12th) academic week of class in a semester. The order of events for any campus-wide election, not including special elections and the elections for the consideration of a referendum brought by petition or constitutional amendment, shall be as follows:

Week 1: Monday: Ticket heads will register the ticket name
Monday & Tuesday: Pre-filing, Election Informational Meeting(s)
Wednesday-Friday: Filing Period

Week 2: Monday: Posting of Qualified Candidates
Tuesday-Friday: Mandatory Meeting and Ticket Registration

Week 3: Monday-Friday: Active Campaigning

Week 4: Monday: General Election
Tuesday: Financial and monetary contribution reports filed
Wednesday: Complaints Due and General Election Results
Thursday: Validation of General Election Results
Thursday – Friday: Active Campaigning for run-off election

Week 5: Monday: Run-off Election
Tuesday: Financial and monetary contribution reports filed
Wednesday: Complaints Due and Run-off Election Results
Thursday: Validation of Run-off Election results

Section 5. Pre-Filing
A. A student shall have the option to pre-file for an election to ensure he/she meets all stipulations outlined in Section 7 of this Article for the sought office before the
period of filing begins. Students who have pre-filed will be emailed about their status prior to the beginning of the filing period and be given the opportunity to automatically file as a registered candidate. Students who are deemed qualified will be filed and qualified, unless the student returns during the filing period to file for a different position; students who are deemed unqualified for the seat he or she had intended to register for will be notified and be given the opportunity to file for a different position for which they are qualified during the filing period.

B. A two (2) day class period for pre-filing shall be opened on the first academic week of the election timeframe.

C. Each student choosing to pre-file must submit a Pre-Filing Form to the Election Board on these two (2) class days from 9:00AM until 4:30PM. This form may be turned in to the Elections Board by the student interested in filing for office. This form shall include:
   1. The student’s name;
   2. The student’s LSU identification number;
   3. The Academic Area in which the student is enrolled;
   4. The office sought;
   5. Ticket Affiliation, if any.

D. An Election Board member shall inquire the student filing if they are interested in forming a ticket.
   a. If the student then indicates their interest in registering a ticket through pre-filing, a member of the Election Board shall contact them by the end of filing to inform them of how a ticket can be formed.
   b. This information shall not be shared with anyone other than the Election Board.

E. The Commissioner of Elections shall deliver these reports to the Student Government Advisor, who shall process the requests and notify the Commissioner of Elections of the results no later than the first (1st) day of filing.

F. The Commissioner of Elections shall post these results outside the Student Government Executive Office, the Senate Office, and the Student Government website as soon as it is received and no later than the first (1st) day of filing.

G. 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.

Section 9. Ticket Registration

A. Each ticket shall select a Ticket Representative who shall serve as the liaison between the Election Board, the Commissioner of Elections, and the organized ticket.

B. The Ticket Representative’s duties shall be to provide the Commissioner of Elections with the eTicket name Registration Form the Monday of the first (1st) week of the election timeline and confirm the entire ticket roster no later than one (1) academic week after the end of filing in order to register the ticket with the Election Board.

Section 10. Campaigning

A. There shall be no Active campaigning until the third week of the election timetable.
   a. Active Campaigning is defined in Article VI of this code,

B. Passive campaigning may be done at any point before or during this election timetable and shall not be restricted to any timeline.
   a. Passive campaigning is defined in Article VI of this code.

Section 11. General Election

A. Fall election
   The General Election for the appropriate Student Senators shall be held each year on the Monday of the fourth (4th) academic week of the election timeframe.

B. Spring election
The General Election for the Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, the appropriate Student Senators, College Council officers, shall be held each year on the Monday of the fourth (4th) academic week of the election time frame.

Article IV
Voting

Section 3. Voting Requirements

An eligible voter must agree to the LSU computer use policy and the Code of Student Conduct in order to access the voting application upon login to “myLSU Moodle”

Section 4. Online Voting

Students may vote from any voting apparatus with access to the internet using “myLSU Moodle,” or voting stations provided by the Election Board.

ARTICLE V
Tickets

Section 3. Ticket Registration

Ticket Representative shall provide the Commissioner of Elections with the ticket name on the first Monday of the first (1st) week of the election timeline. Ticket Representative will confirm the ticket’s roster of candidates no later that one (1) academic week after the end of filing at this time. and entire ticket roster, including staff, no later than one (1) academic week after the end of filing in order to register the ticket with the Election Board. Candidates registered with a ticket will waive responsibility for submitting individual financial forms and instead be included in the ticket financial form.

ARTICLE VI
Campaigning Practices

Section 1. Definition of Campaigning

A. Campaigning 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 LSU student.

B. For the purposes of this Election Code, campaigning shall be divided into passive and active campaigning.

1. Passive campaigning includes but is not limited to:
   a. Announcing or discussing potential candidacy and/or ticket name in print, broadcast, public forum, or any other media;
   b. Seeking endorsement (excluding financial contributions) or voter support for a campaign at an official meeting of a registered student organization;
   c. Wearing apparel, buttons, stickers, and/or similar items explicitly reflecting an affiliation with a candidate or ticket;
   d. Disseminating any campaign material via social media;
   f. Surveys and petitions should be limited to efforts to get student feedback, not to highlight individual initiatives or solicit any votes including asking people to like or follow on social media.
2. Active campaigning includes but is not limited to:
   a. Distributing campaign materials (other than private distribution to campaign staff, as designated in Article V Section 1, and affiliated candidates) to potential voters;
   b. Posting signage

Section 3. Prohibited Methods of Campaigning

The following methods of campaigning may not be used:

A. Decorating any vehicle without the express consent of the owner;
B. Any method that violates university or state policy, including those concerning mass e-mail;
C. Sending potential voters unsolicited electronic messages through Moodle or Simplicity;
D. Utilizing the Student Government logo or any logo of any organization that has not explicitly endorsed a candidate or ticket;
E. Any method that uses a voting apparatus or interferes with a person using a voting apparatus;
F. Actively campaigning within twenty (20) feet of an Election Board Polling Station;
G. Actively campaigning within or twenty (20) feet from the entrance of a University Building.

1. The entrance to a University Building is defined as the entrance to a complex as a whole.
H. Utilizing the LSU name of any past or present LSU logo.

Section 4. Campaigning Ethics

A. Candidates are expected to conduct themselves in an ethically appropriate manner in accordance with Student Government documents and the Student Code of Conduct, University Policies, and local and state law.
B. A candidate or volunteer 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.
C. No student shall make any threat to any voter to affect the students’ vote.
D. No student shall make any threat to any voter to affect the students’ vote.
E. All campaign activities in and around the Union must be registered with Event Management and Campus Life. The registered event must list specifically what each day will entail.
F. All tickets must register through Campus Life as a student sponsored event.

Section 5. Endorsements

A. Any student organization, excluding Student Government affiliated organizations, that is registered with the University may publicly endorse any candidate and/or ticket for office that it has the prior approval of the candidate to be endorsed.
B. Any Student Government affiliated organization, including Student Government itself, shall not publicly endorse any candidate or ticket.
   1. A Student Government affiliated organization shall be defined as any registered student organization that includes one or more members appointed by or elected to said organization through Student Government.
   2. Student Government affiliated organizations, including Student Government itself, cannot publicly endorse nor display any campaign materials including but not limited to office, work, and meeting spaces.
C. Candidates or tickets cannot receive any financial contributions from any student organization.
D. LSU Staff, Faculty, or any teaching assistants may not publicly endorse any candidate or ticket while acting in their official capacity.
ARTICLE IX
Penalties for Violations

Section 1. Penalties for Candidates and Tickets

Penalties issued by the Election Board shall be limited to the following scale:

A. Minor infractions, resulting in private censure and/or self-imposed sanctions made by
   the defendant and agreed upon by the Board, for actions that shall include but not
   be limited to:
   i. Littering;
B. Infractions, resulting in spending limit and/or other sanctions, for actions that shall
   include but not be limited to:
   i. Actively campaigning within 20 feet of an Election Board Polling Station or
      entrance of a University Building;
   ii. Utilizing the Student Government logo or any logo of an organization that
      has not explicitly endorsed a candidate or ticket;
   iii. Utilizing any past or present LSU logo
C. Major infractions, resulting in the suspension of campaign activities and/or public
   censure, for actions that shall include but not be limited to:
   i. Failure to submit financial documents on time but by 4:30 P.M. on the day
      after the Election;
   ii. Any actions intended to interfere with the campaign activities of any other
      candidate or ticket;
   iii. Decorating any car without the express consent of the owner
D. Infractions that merit disqualification, for actions that shall include but not be limited to:
   iv. Failure to fully disclose financial activities of a campaign;
   v. Any method that violates university or state policy;
   vi. Any actions that violate the Student Code of Conduct and require action on
      the part of the Dean of Students;
   vii. Any actions that may be considered electioneering or voter fraud;
   viii. Any expenditures that exceed specified spending limits by 5% of total
      spending limit or $50, whichever is lower;
   ix. Failure to complete filing process, including unexcused absence for a
      mandatory candidate meeting;
   x. Failure to comply with a penalty.
E. Candidates penalized for infractions committed after the General Election shall have
   those penalties applied during the Runoff Election or Runoff election campaigning
   period when applicable.

PARAGRAPH 4: THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE LOUISIANA
STATE UNIVERSITY SENATE THAT THE STUDENT
GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE BE AMENDED TO REFLECT THE
CHANGES ABOVE.

PARAGRAPH 5: THIS BILL SHALL BE ENROLLED UPON PASSAGE BY A TWO-THIRDS
(2/3) VOTE OF THE LSU STUDENT SENATE AND SIGNATURE BY
THE PRESIDENT, UPON LAPSE OF TIME FOR PRESIDENTIAL
ACTION, OR IF VETOED BY THE PRESIDENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY
APPROVED BY THE SENATE, ON THE DATE OF SUCH APPROVAL.

PARAGRAPH 6: FURTHERMORE, THESE AMENDMENTS SHALL TAKE EFFECT AT
THE BEGINNING OF SPRING 2014 AS STATED IN THE STUDENT
GOVERNMENT CONSTITUTION (ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 4).
APPROVED:

_________________________ ________________

ADAM GRASHOFF CLAYTON TUFTS
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

DATE:____________________ DATE:____________________