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F13RS SGB No. 6 (Election Code)

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3 **STUDENT SENATE**

4 **F13RS**

5 **SGB No. 6**

6 **BY: SPEAKER GRASHOFF, SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE SCHWARTZENBURG, SENATOR**
7 **DEBLIEUX**

8
9
10 **A BILL**

11 **TO AMEND THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE**

12
13 **PARAGRAPH 1:** WHEREAS, THE TEMPORARY STUDENT GOVERNMENT
14 DOCUMENTS REVISION COMMITTEE HAS PROPOSED THE
15 FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS TO THE SG ELECTION CODE, AND;

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17 **PARAGRAPH 2:** WHEREAS, THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS ASSURE THE FAIREST
18 ELECTION POSSIBLE, AND;

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20 **PARAGRAPH 3:** WHEREAS, THE GOAL OF THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS IS TO
21 ALLEVIATE SOME STRINGENT AND UNNECESSARY REGULATIONS
22 OF LSU ELECTIONS, AND ;

23
24 **PARAGRAPH 4:** WHEREAS, THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE SHALL
25 READ AS FOLLOWS:

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27
28 **Article I**

29 **Purpose and Intent**

30 **Section 1. Purpose**

31
32 This code shall provide for the rules and conduct of all LSU Student Government
33 Elections.

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35 **Section 2. Equal Protection**

36
37 This code is intended to ensure that each candidate is afforded an opportunity for
38 election equal to that of any other candidate for that office.

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40 **Section 3. Accountability of the Election Code**

41
42 All interested, potential, and filed-candidates, tickets, their affiliated staff, and
43 volunteers shall be held responsible to the contents of this code.

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46 **ARTICLE II**

47 **Governance of Elections**

48
49 **Section 1. Governing Body**

- 51 A. Student Government Elections shall be governed and facilitated by the Election
52 Board
53 a. This Election Board shall be advised by and report solely to the Student
54 Government Advisor.
55

56 **Section 2. Election Board**
57

- 58 A. Appointments to the Election Board
59 a. As stated in Article V, Section 4B of the Student Government
60 Constitution, there shall be at least seven (7) members of the Election
61 Board.
62 b. All members of the Election Board shall be appointed by the Student
63 Body President and approved by the Senate.
64 c. Members shall serve a term of one (1) academic year and shall be
65 appointed during the Spring Organizational Session of Senate.
66 d. If a vacancy occurs on the Election Board, the seat must be appointed by
67 the Student Body President and approved by the Senate.
68 i. This appointment shall serve the remainder of the vacant term to
69 which he/she was appointed.
70 B. Responsibilities of the Election Board
71 a. To govern and facilitate all Student Government elections;
72 b. To remain neutral and unbiased in all elections;
73 i. No member of the Election Board shall help, assist, serve on, or
74 campaign for any Student Government campaign, ticket, or
75 candidate.
76 c. To be responsible for educating candidates;
77 i. Hosting a minimum of one informational meeting to inform all
78 potential candidates of tickets, their structure, function and
79 responsibilities before the first week of the election timeline.
80 d. To disqualify any candidate if he/she meets any of the criteria for
81 automatic disqualification;
82 e. To remain in constant contact with the Student Government Advisor;
83 f. To work with the Student Government communications staff to ensure
84 high voter turnout;
85 g. To reach out to students to raise awareness on potential candidacy and
86 elections;
87 h. To hold voting stations on campus during election days; and
88 i. To attend all meetings of the election board
89 i. Three (3) unexcused absences for election board meetings shall
90 result in automatic removal from the Election Board.
91 j. Members of the Election Board shall not be involved in any other
92 capacity within Student Government.
93 i. Election Board members wishing to seek another office within
94 Student government must resign immediately before seeking the
95 new office.
96 C. Quorum
97 a. The Election Board shall not conduct business without the presence of a
98 quorum.
99 b. A quorum of the Election Board shall consist of the presence of a simple
100 (1/2) majority of its members including the Commissioner of Elections. In

101 the absence of the Commissioner of Elections, quorum shall consist of
102 the presence of two-thirds (2/3) of its membership.
103

104 **Section 3. Election Board Officers**

105 106 A. Commissioner of Elections

107 a. Appointment and Vacancies

- 108 i. The Commissioner of Elections shall be appointed by the Student
109 Body President and approved by the Senate.
- 110 ii. The Commissioner of Elections shall serve a term of one (1) academic
111 year and shall be appointed during the Spring Organizational Session
112 of Senate.
- 113 iii. In the event of a vacancy of the Commissioner of Elections, the Vice
114 Commissioner shall become the Commissioner of Elections and the
115 Election Board shall elect a new Vice Commissioner of Elections
116 amongst remaining members of Election Board. The Student Body
117 President shall then appoint a new Election Board member to be
118 approved by the Senate.

119 b. Responsibilities

- 120 i. To serve as the Chairman of the Election Board and to supervise all
121 election personnel;
- 122 ii. To remain impartial to any candidates or tickets participating in any
123 election;
- 124 iii. To execute the provisions of the Student Government Constitution
125 relative to elections and all provisions of this Election Code;
- 126 iv. To have the authority to expend such funds as appropriated to the
127 Election Board's use, with their majority (1/2) vote;
- 128 v. To meet with the Information Technology Services (ITS) and establish
129 guidelines for online voting procedure a minimum of one (1) month
130 prior to filing;
- 131 vi. To submit a calendar with the days of the election time frame two
132 (2) weeks prior to the first day of filing to the Student Senate;
 - 133 1. This calendar shall be kept between the Commissioner of
134 Elections, the Election Board, and the appropriate adviser(s)
135 until the Student Senate has been informed.
- 136 vii. To issue a report to the Student Senate each week during the
137 election time frame;
- 138 viii. To administer special elections;
- 139 ix. To ensure that the Board presents a defense if any of their decisions
140 are appealed or if a complaint is filed against the Board; and
- 141 x. To submit a report to the Student Government Advisor at the end of
142 each Fall, Spring, and Special election.
 - 143 1. This report shall contain a review of the election, positive and
144 negative aspects of the election, ideas to improve the
145 following elections, performance of the members of the
146 Election Board, and any other comments.
- 147 xi. To transmit all votes for the disqualification of a candidate or ticket
148 to the Clerk of Court.

149 c. Accountability of Commissioner

- 150 i. The Commissioner of Elections shall be responsible for upholding the
151 Election Code and executing all decisions of the Election Board.

- 152 ii. The Election Board may overrule any action of the Commissioner of
153 Elections by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting.
154 iii. Should the Commissioner of Elections fail to uphold his/her
155 responsibilities, he/she shall be removed from office by the Student
156 Body President with approval of a two-thirds vote of the Senate
157 present and voting.
158 iv. Commissioner of Elections shall report to the Student Government
159 Advisor and shall be subject to removal by the Student Body
160 President.
- 161 B. Vice Commissioner of Elections
- 162 a. Appointment and Vacancies
- 163 i. The Vice Commissioner of Elections shall be appointed by the
164 Student Body President and approved by the Senate.
- 165 ii. The Vice Commissioner shall serve a term of one (1) academic year
166 and shall be appointed during the Spring Organizational Session of
167 Senate.
- 168 iii. In the event of a vacancy of the Vice Commissioner, the Election
169 Board shall elect a new Vice Commissioner amongst remaining
170 members of the Election Board.
- 171 b. Responsibilities
- 172 i. To serve as the Vice Chairman of the Election Board;
- 173 ii. To serve at the discretion of the Commissioner;
- 174 iii. To assist the Commissioner in his/her duties;
- 175 iv. To serve as the Commissioner of Elections in the absence of a
176 Commissioner;
- 177 v. To remain impartial to any candidates or tickets participating in any
178 election.
- 179 C. Election Board Secretary
- 180 a. Appointment
- 181 i. One member of the Election Board shall be elected by the members
182 of the Board to serve as the Secretary.
- 183 b. Responsibilities
- 184 i. To keep minutes during all meetings; and
185
186

187 ARTICLE III

188 Election Timetable

189 Section 1. Order of Events

190

191 The election time frame shall consist of five (5) consecutive or non-consecutive
192 academic weeks. If the election consists of non-consecutive academic weeks, it may
193 not exceed seven (7) academic weeks and may not deviate from the weekly order of
194 events as prescribed below beginning no sooner than the third (3rd) week of class in
195 a semester and ending no later than the twelfth (12th) academic week of class in a
196 semester. The order of events for any campus-wide election, not including special
197 elections and the elections for the consideration of a referendum brought by
198 petition or constitutional amendment, shall be as follows:
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201

202 Week 1: Monday & Tuesday: Pre-filing, Election Informational Meeting(s)
203 Wednesday-Friday: Filing Period
204 Week 2: Monday: Posting of Qualified Candidates
205 Tuesday-Friday: Mandatory Meeting and Ticket Registration
206 Week 3: Monday-Friday: Active Campaigning
207 Week 4: Monday: General Election
208 Tuesday: Financial and monetary contribution reports filed
209 Wednesday: Complaints Due and General Election Results
210 Thursday: Validation of General Election Results
211 Thursday – Friday: Active Campaigning for run-off election
212 Week 5: Monday: Run-off Election
213 Tuesday: Financial and monetary contribution reports filed
214 Wednesday: Complaints Due and Run-off Election Results
215 Thursday: Validation of Run-off Election results
216
217

218 **Section 2. Selection of Election-Related Dates and Deadlines**
219

- 220 A. The Election Board shall be in charge of setting all dates of the election-
221 related events listed in Section 1 of this Article subject to any further
222 provisions of the Election Code. All deadlines and dates that are relative to
223 filing, campaigning, and election days for the Fall and Spring Student
224 Government Elections shall be declared by the Commissioner of Elections no
225 later than the second (2nd) academic week of the semester of the election in
226 question.
- 227 B. The election time frame shall consist of five (5) academic weeks beginning
228 with the first day of pre-qualifying, and ending two (2) class days after the
229 final election results have been announced.
- 230 C. Once the dates have been set and publicly announced before the Student
231 Senate, the Commissioner of Elections will immediately deliver this
232 information to Student Media, the Student Body President, the Speaker of
233 the Student Senate, and the Chief Justice of the University Court.
234

235 **Section 3. Announcement of Elections**
236

- 237 A. The Commissioner of Elections shall:
- 238 1. Issue a press release to be posted on the Student Government
239 website at least five (5) class days prior to the opening of the
240 pre-filing period for the Fall and Spring elections; and,
 - 241 2. Issue appropriate widespread campus announcements, which
242 may include but not be limited to broadcast emails, a letter to
243 the editor, or advertisements in the campus newspaper at least
244 three (3) class days prior to the opening of the pre-filing period
245 for the Fall and Spring elections.
- 246 B. The announcement shall list the following:
- 247 1. Positions to be filled in the election;
 - 248 2. Dates for the opening and closing of both pre-filing and
249 filing;
 - 250 3. Time and place that a person may pre-file and file for office;
 - 251 4. Dates of the General Election and any run-off; and,
 - 252 5. Name and contact information of the Commissioner of

253 **Elections.**

- 254 C. The Commissioner of Elections shall hold at least two (2) Potential Candidate
255 Informational Meetings for any and all interested students before the pre-filing period

256 opens. These meetings must be advertised to the Student Body. The purpose of these
257 meetings is to give a simple explanation of Student Government, the responsibilities of
258 each branch, an overview of campaigning and campaigning practices, and a general
259 election timeline in order to increase interest in positions and reach out to more
260 potential candidates.

261
262 **Section 4. Election Informational Meetings**

263
264 The Commissioner of Elections shall hold Election Informational Meetings during the
265 week of pre-file, filing, and qualifying. The purpose of these meeting will be to provide a
266 simple explanation of basic campaigning guidelines, and a general election timeline, in
267 hopes of fully educating all prospective candidates on basic election practices. This
268 meeting is not mandatory for prospective candidates, and at least two shall be offered
269 per semester. Copies of this Election Code shall be made available to prospective
270 candidates at these meetings.

271
272
273 **Section 5. Pre-Filing**

- 274
275 A. A student shall have the option to pre-file for an election to ensure he/she
276 meets all stipulations outlined in Section 7 of this Article for the sought
277 office before the period of filing begins. Students who have pre-filed will be
278 emailed about their status prior to the beginning of the filing period and be
279 given the opportunity to automatically file as a registered candidate;
280 students who are deemed unqualified for the seat he or she had intended
281 to register for will be notified and be given the opportunity to file for a
282 different position for which they are qualified during the filing period.
- 283 B. A two (2) day class period for pre-filing shall be opened on the first
284 academic week of the election timeframe.
- 285 C. Each student choosing to pre-file must submit a Pre-Filing Form to the
286 Election Board on these two (2) class days from 9:00AM until 4:30PM. This
287 form may be turned in to the Elections Board by the student interested in
288 filing for office. This form shall include:
- 289 1. The student's name;
 - 290 2. The student's LSU identification number;
 - 291 3. The Academic Area in which the student is enrolled;
 - 292 4. The office sought.
- 293 D. An Election Board member shall inquire the student filing if they are
294 interested in forming a ticket.
- 295 a. If the student then indicates their interest in registering a ticket
296 through pre-filing, a member of the Election Board shall contact
297 them by the end of filing to inform them of how a ticket can be
298 formed.
 - 299 b. This information shall not be shared with anyone other than the
300 Election Board.
- 301 E. The Commissioner of Elections shall deliver these reports to the Student
302 Government Advisor, who shall process the requests and notify the
303 Commissioner of Elections of the results no later than the first (1st) day of
304 filing.
- 305 F. The Commissioner of Elections shall post these results outside the Student
306 Government Executive Office, the Senate Office, and the Student
307 Government website as soon as it is received and no later than the first (1st)
308 day of filing.
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Section 6. Filing

- A. A person shall file as a candidate by:
 - 1. Filing his/her intention for candidacy, in person, by completing registration with the Election Board during the filing period; and,
 - a. No one may file on behalf of a student that is not himself/herself.
 - b. Official LSU picture ID must be presented at the time of filing.
 - 2. Verifying his/her eligibility by the Election Board.
- B. A three (3) 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 Election Board for the office he/she seeks from 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. during these days.
- C. Once a student has filed for a certain office or race, he/she is 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 President/Vice President candidates and is as follows:
 - 1. Candidates for Student Body 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 Student Body 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 Commissioner of Elections, and this replacement candidate must be qualified by the Commissioner of Elections by 4:30 P.M. on the fifth (5th) 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.
- D. In the event that a candidate wishes to refile for a different position, the most recent filing form will be considered valid.
- E. If a candidate successfully pre-files for a position, he or she is automatically filed for that position and, therefore, does not have to file during the designated filing period.
- F. Any student may request from the Election Board the name of any other student(s) who has already filed for candidacy for any position.

Section 7. Qualifying

- A. Candidate Eligibility
 - 1. A qualified student is any full-time student that is in accordance with all Campus Life mandated requirements for officers of recognized campus organizations.
 - 2. For all Senate and College Council positions a candidate must be enrolled at the time of filing in the college which he/she is seeking to represent, with the exception of the Graduate School or LSU School of Veterinary Medicine.

- 364 a. Students seeking a Senate or College Council position in
365 the Graduate or LSU School of Veterinary Medicine
366 must have applied and received provisional or full
367 acceptance prior to the filing process of the election in
368 question in order to run for that position.
- 369 b. Proper acceptance documentation must be presented
370 to the Student Government Commissioner of Elections
371 at the time of filing to ensure candidate eligibility.
- 372 3. If any clerical errors arise on behalf of the University, the
373 Commissioner of Elections shall consult the University Registrar
374 and approve members to run in their appropriate college or for
375 their desired position on a case-by-case basis.
- 376 4. No senator can file or run for another seat within the LSU
377 Student Senate until the final semester of their current term
378 unless proof of change of college can be presented to the
379 Commissioner of Elections. Proof of college must be provided by
380 the University Registrar.
- 381 B. After the closing of the filing period, the Commissioner of Elections shall submit
382 the appropriate information for each potential candidate to the Student
383 Government Advisor for verification.
- 384 C. If a student has pre-filed with the Election Board as outlined in Section 4 of this
385 Article, the Commissioner of Elections shall not submit their information for
386 verification, and shall list those students as eligible.
- 387 D. Once the Student Government Advisor reports back to the Commissioner of
388 Elections, he/she shall report to the Election Board with a listing of filed
389 candidates, and whether or not each is qualified.
- 390 E. After any amendments and final approval by the Election Board, the official list
391 of qualified candidates will be posted outside of the Student Government
392 Executive Office, Student Senate Office, and the Student Government website.
393 This shall occur no later than noon (12:00PM) on the second (2nd) class
394 following the closing of the filing period. Appeals to the qualifying of candidates
395 may be filed during this time.
- 396 1. The Commissioner of Elections shall notify all candidates who
397 fail to qualify and give reason for disqualification.
- 398 2. Appeals pertaining to academics and discipline should be
399 addressed to the Student Government Advisor.
- 400 3. All other appeals should be made to the Commissioner of
401 Elections and the Election Board.

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405 **Section 8. Mandatory Meetings**

406
407 All candidates, excluding those running for re-election for the office currently
408 held, must attend a meeting appropriate to the office they are pursuing. These
409 meetings are for the explicit purpose of informing the candidates of their
410 potential duties, responsibilities, and expectations. All meetings will be held on
411 the (2nd) week of the election timeline and a copy of this Election Code shall be
412 made available to all candidates in attendance.

413
414 1. Executive Staff Meeting

415 All candidates running for President or Vice President
416 must attend one (1) Executive Staff Meeting. At the
417 conclusion of this meeting, the President and Vice

418 President shall provide a basic explanation of their
419 positions to the candidates.
420 2. College Council Informational Meeting
421 All candidates running for a College Council position
422 must attend one (1) College Council Informational
423 Meeting. This meeting shall be conducted by the
424 chairman of the College Council Presidents Commission
425 or his/her designee and should provide an explanation
426 of basic College Council practices, such as holding
427 meetings, expending funds, contacting administrators,
428 and appointing vacancies.
429 3. Senate Procedure Instruction Course
430 All candidates running for the Student Senate must
431 attend one (1) Senate Procedure Instruction Course.
432 This meeting shall be conducted by the Senate staff and
433 volunteer Senators and should be run as a “mock”
434 Senate meeting, providing exemplification of the
435 meeting agenda items and explanations of
436 parliamentary procedure. Senatorial duties will also be
437 outlined at this meeting.
438

- 439 A. Each of these meetings is to be attended by either the Commissioner of
440 Elections or a member of the Election Board to ensure that the candidate stays
441 for the meeting’s entirety. Upon arrival, candidates must sign in with the
442 Commissioner of Elections or member of the Election Board and also present a
443 valid form of picture identification.
444 B. In the event that candidates are unable to attend one of the mandatory
445 scheduled instructional courses or meetings, the candidate must notify the
446 Commissioner of Elections before their mandatory scheduled meeting. If an
447 extenuating circumstance as determined by the Election Board occurs on the
448 night of a meeting which causes a candidate to be unable to attend, the
449 candidate must provide a written excuse to the Commissioner of Elections
450 within two (2) class days of the mandatory scheduled meeting. In any case
451 where the candidate becomes excused, the appropriate meeting chair shall
452 work with the Commissioner of Elections to determine alternate arrangements
453 for the candidate. Multiple meetings can be held if deemed necessary.
454 C. There should be ample time during a meeting to answer any questions
455 candidates may have about their potential positions.
456 D. If a candidate does not attend their appropriate meeting, they will be
457 disqualified and therefore no longer considered a candidate.
458

459 **Section 9. Ticket Registration**

- 460
461 A. Each ticket shall select a Ticket Representative who shall serve as the liaison
462 between the Election Board, the Commissioner of Elections, and the organized
463 ticket.
464 B. The Ticket Representative's duties shall be to provide the Commissioner of
465 Elections with the ticket name and entire ticket roster no later than one (1)
466 academic week after the end of filing in order to register the ticket with the
467 Election Board.
468

469 **Section 10. Campaigning**

- 470
471 A. There shall be no Active campaigning until the third week of the election timetable.

- 472 a. Active Campaigning is defined in Article VI of this code,
473 B. Passive campaigning may be done at any point before or during this election
474 timetable and shall not be restricted to any timeline.
475 a. Passive campaigning is defined in Article VI of this code.
476
477

478 **Section 11. General Election**

- 479
480 A. Fall election
481 The General Election for the appropriate Student Senators shall be held each
482 year on the Monday of the fourth (4th) academic week of the election time
483 frame.
484 B. Spring election
485 The General Election for the Student Body President, Student Body Vice
486 President, the appropriate Student Senators, College Council officers, shall be
487 held each year on the Monday of the fourth (4th) academic week of the election
488 time frame.
489

490 **Section 12. General Election Results**

491
492 Regardless of complaints or appeals, the unofficial results of the General Election shall
493 be announced by the Commissioner of Elections in an appropriate campus location after
494 4:30 P.M. on the Wednesday after the General Election.
495

496 **Section 13. Validation of General Election Results**

497
498 If no complaints or appeals are registered by 4:30 P.M on the Wednesday of the fourth
499 (4th) academic week of the election time frame, all election results shall be deemed
500 final.
501

502 **Section 14. Run-off Election**

- 503
504 A. Except as otherwise provided in this Election Code, if no candidate in the General
505 Election receives a plurality of votes of the votes cast, the two (2) candidates receiving
506 the highest number of votes in said election shall be in a Run-off Election.
507 B. The Run-off Election shall be held on the Monday and Tuesday of the fifth (5th)
508 academic week of the election time frame.
509 C. Provisions for ties are included in Article IV of this code.
510

511 **Section 15. Run-off Election Results**

512
513 Regardless of complaints or appeals, the unofficial results of the Run-off Election shall
514 be announced by the Commissioner of Elections in an appropriate campus location after
515 4:30 P.M. on the Wednesday after the Run-off Election.
516
517

518 **Section 16. Validation of Run-off Election Results**

519
520 If no complaints or appeals are registered by 4:30 P.M on the Wednesday of the fourth
521 (4th) academic week of the election time frame, all election results shall be deemed
522 final.
523
524

ARTICLE IV

Voting

525

526

527

528 **Section 1. Ballots**

529

530 A. Candidates shall appear on the ballot in a randomly generated order
531 determined by the Election Board.

532 1. Student Body President and Vice President shall not be voted on
533 separately; they shall be listed together.

534 2. Ticket affiliation shall be listed next to the names of each
535 candidate registered with a ticket.

536 3. Independent candidates shall be noted as "Independent."
537

538 **Section 2. Voting Identification**

539

540 Each member of the Student Body as defined by the Student Government Constitution
541 shall be entitled to vote in each race for which the Student Body Constitution, Bylaws, or
542 other applicable rules entitles him/her to vote.

543

544 **Section 3. Voting Requirements**

545

546 An eligible voter must agree to the LSU computer use policy and the Code of Student
547 Conduct in order to access the voting application upon login to "myLSU."

548 **Section 4. Online voting**

549

550 Students may vote from any voting apparatus with access to the internet using
551 "myLSU," or voting stations provided by the Election Board.

552

553 **Section 5. Voting Times**

554

555 The voting application on Election Day, including referendum-only elections, shall be
556 accessible from 12:01 A.M. until 11:59 P.M.
557

558 **Section 6. Voting application**

559

560 Format and structure used by the Information Technology Services (ITS) for online
561 voting must be approved by the Election Board.
562

563 **Section 7. Voting Stations and Locations**

564

565 A. A voting location, except public computer labs, shall be defined as a voting
566 apparatus provided by the Election Board and used by an individual other than
567 the owner.

568 B. No organized voting locations shall be allowed except those administered by the
569 Election Board.

- 570 C. The Commissioner of Elections shall list the locations of Election Board
571 administered voting locations outside of the Student Government Office three
572 (3) class days prior to any election.
- 573 D. The Election Board shall establish and operate at least two (2) on-campus voting
574 stations from 7:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. on Election Days. These voting stations
575 shall have at least one (1) member of the Election Board present at all times.
576

577 **Section 8. Votes to Win General Election**
578

- 579 A. In order to win the General Election, a candidate must receive a plurality of
580 votes in addition to meeting a percentage threshold of the total vote.
581 1. For example, if there are two (2) seats available, a candidate
582 would need to get more than twenty five percent (25%), a
583 plurality of votes, to win outright.
- 584 B. The vote threshold required to win is determined by dividing one hundred (100)
585 by the number of seats available, and then dividing that number by two (2).
586 C. If more candidates reach the percentage threshold needed than there are seats
587 open, then the candidate(s) that receive the highest number of votes shall be
588 declared the winner(s).
589 1. For example, if three (3) people are running for two (2) seats
590 and all three (3) attain the plurality of votes needed, then the
591 two (2) candidates with the most votes are the winners in the
592 General Election.
- 593 D. If a candidate is disqualified after the ballot is finalized, any vote cast for that
594 candidate will still be tallied in the total votes used to determine the plurality of
595 votes.
596
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599

600 **Section 9. Determination of Run-off Election**
601

- 602 A. If all seats are not filled in the General Election, then for each remaining seat the
603 next two highest vote recipients will run in the Run-off Election.
604 1. For example, if four seats are contested and only two contested
605 receive a plurality of votes plus one, then the remaining two
606 seats will be determined by placing the next four highest vote
607 recipients in the run-off elections.
- 608 B. The winner(s) of the Run-off Election shall be determined by whoever receives
609 the most votes regardless of percentages. The only exception to this rule is
610 listed in Article IV, Section 10, of this code.
611

612 **Section 10. Ties**
613

614 Ties shall be handled as follows:
615

- 616 A. If there are only two (2) candidates in the General Election and the election
617 results in a tie, then the election shall be rerun in the Run-off Election.
- 618 B. If a tie occurs in the General Election that affects which candidates will proceed
619 to the Run-off Election, all tied candidates in question will proceed.
- 620 C. If a Run-off Election results in a tie, then the tied candidate who received the
621 most votes in the General Election shall be the winner.

622 D. If a Run-off Election results in a tie, and the tied candidates received the same
623 number of votes in the General Election, then the Election Board shall conduct a
624 special election between the tied candidates.
625
626

627 **Section 11. Voter and Petition Fraud**
628

- 629 A. Voter fraud shall be considered casting a ballot on behalf of any individual other
630 than yourself.
- 631 B. Petition fraud shall be considered signing a petition on behalf of any individual
632 other than yourself.
- 633 C. Candidates found guilty of voter and/or petition fraud by the Election Board will
634 be subject to:
- 635 1. Disqualification and/or
 - 636 2. A report filed with the Student Government Advisor-of such
637 action for review of potential violations of the Student Code of
638 Conduct.
- 639 D. Non-candidate students or groups found guilty of voter and/or petition fraud by
640 the Election Board will be reported to the Student Government Advisor for
641 review of potential violations of the Student Code of Conduct.
- 642 E. Elections containing fraud shall be examined by the Election Board, and subject
643 to appeal, and said action must be submitted in writing or by e-mail to all
644 candidates involved within eight (8) hours of said action.
- 645 F. Appeals to an Election Board decision regarding voter and/or petition fraud will
646 be made directly to the University Court.

647
648 **ARTICLE V**
649 **Tickets**

650
651
652 **Section 1. Definition of Ticket**
653

- 654 A. A ticket is recognized by this Election Code as an affiliation of candidates and
655 staff members who group together to organize campaigning for an election.
- 656 1. Tickets are not required to have a Presidential/Vice Presidential
657 candidate(s).
 - 658 2. A ticket may not register more candidates than seats available
659 in the given election.
 - 660 3. The ticket representative must transmit a list of staff members
661 and candidates upon registering with the Election Board. These
662 individuals shall be held responsible for this code as per Article
663 I, Section 3.
 - 664 4. Candidates cannot be listed on multiple tickets.
 - 665 5. Tickets must account for the total amount of expenditures as
666 defined in Article VII.
 - 667 6. Tickets as a whole may be held responsible to infractions of this
668 code, except in cases where only particular candidates or
669 volunteers have been found to be in violation of this code.
670

671
672 **Section 2. Ticket Organization and Preparation**
673

- 674 A. Ticket organization can include, but is not limited to the following stages:
675 1. Private discussions of prospective candidacy and ticket
676 formation;
677 2. Selecting and forming a campaign staff; and,
678 3. Brainstorming ideas, strategies, slogans, and colors.
679 B. Ticket preparation can include, but is not limited to the following stages:
680 1. Collecting financial contributions;
681 2. Holding campaign staff meetings;
682 3. Sharing platform ideas and issues with the campaign staff;
683 4. Recruiting candidates;
684 5. Reserving rooms for ticket meetings;
685 6. Holding initial ticket meetings with candidates affiliated with
686 the ticket; and,
687 7. Designing, ordering, or receiving campaign materials.
688
689

690 **Section 3. Ticket Registration**

691
692 Ticket Representative shall provide the Commissioner of Elections with the ticket name and
693 entire ticket roster, including staff, no later than one (1) academic week after the end of filing in
694 order to register the ticket with the Election Board. Candidates registered with a ticket will
695 waive responsibility for submitting individual financial forms and instead be included in the
696 ticket financial form.
697

698 **Section 4. Non-Recognized Tickets**

- 699 A. Only a ticket that is registered and recognized by the Election Board as a ticket
700 may operate as such.
701 B. Any group or affiliation of candidates that act as a ticket without being
702 recognized as such, and utilize the privileges granted to a ticket, primarily those
703 of collective finances and commonly recognized materials and organization, will
704 be held in violation and subject to penalties from the Election Board.
705 1. Collective finances shall be defined as, but not limited to, two or
706 more candidates and/or tickets jointly expending monetary
707 contributions that were originally give to separate candidates or
708 tickets.
709 2. Commonly recognized materials shall be defined as, but not
710 limited to, two or more candidates and/or tickets jointly
711 producing campaign materials that do not clearly identify each
712 individual or candidate as members of the separate tickets
713 originally denoted at the time of ticket registration.
714
715
716

717 **ARTICLE VI**
718 **Campaigning Practices**

719 **Section 1. Definition of Campaigning**

- 720
721 A. Campaigning is any activity by a candidate or ticket member that is intended or
722 likely to affect how a voter casts a ballot. This includes the placement of any
723 signs or the like on display and the solicitation of the vote of any LSU student.

- 724 B. For the purposes of this Election Code, campaigning shall be divided into passive
725 and active campaigning.
726 1. Passive campaigning includes but is not limited to:
727 a. Announcing or discussing potential candidacy and/or
728 ticket name in print, broadcast, public forum, or any
729 other media;
730 b. Seeking endorsement (excluding financial contributions)
731 or voter support for a campaign at an official meeting of
732 a registered student organization;
733 c. Wearing apparel, buttons, stickers, and/or similar items
734 explicitly reflecting an affiliation with a candidate or
735 ticket;
736 d. Posting signage;
737 e. Disseminating any campaign material via social media;
738 2. Active campaigning includes but is not limited to:
739 a. Distributing campaign materials (other than private
740 distribution to campaign staff, as designated in Article V
741 Section 1, and affiliated candidates) to potential voters.

742 **Section 2. On-Campus Campaigning Rules and Regulations**

- 743
744 A. Campaigning does not include reporting by media outlets of any referendum,
745 petition, recall, or constitutional amendment.
746 B. List-Serves and E-Mails
747 1. Before and during campaigning, members of a private campaign
748 list-serve run by candidates or campaign staff, including and
749 limited to staff, volunteers, and candidates, are considered
750 willful participants and therefore may receive any email
751 concerning candidacy, ticket issues, and other information.
752 2. During passive and active campaigning, the leader of any
753 student organization, whose organization is not affiliated with
754 Student Government and is registered with the University, may
755 be contacted by any candidate or ticket affiliate for the sole
756 purpose of requesting to speak at that organization's meeting to
757 seek its endorsement.
758
759 C. Social Media
760 1. Social Media shall be defined as any web-based or mobile-based
761 applications that use highly accessible and communication
762 techniques for social interaction.
763 2. Social Media may be used by any campaign.
764
765 D. Prohibition on Interference with Education
766 1. Campaigning must not interfere with the educational life of the
767 University. This includes but is not limited to the posting of
768 campaign signs and/or posters in classrooms, and writing on
769 chalkboards or similar devices.
770 2. No campaigning shall be allowed inside any University building
771 or within twenty (20) feet of any entrance to a University
772 building.
773 a. Specifically exempt are candidate and ticket
774 organizational meetings and meetings of

775 registered student organizations, or events
776 authorized by a building coordinator.
777 3. Active Campaigning within twenty (20) feet of the Quadrangle is
778 prohibited except during Election Day.

779 **Section 3. Prohibited Methods of Campaigning**

780
781 The following methods of campaigning may not be used:

- 782
- 783 A. Decorating any vehicle without the express consent of the owner;
- 784 B. Any method that violates university or state policy, including those concerning
785 mass e-mail;
- 786 C. Sending potential voters unsolicited electronic messages through Moodle or
787 Simplicity;
- 788 D. Utilizing the Student Government logo or any logo of any organization that has
789 not explicitly endorsed a candidate or ticket;
- 790 E. Any method that uses a voting apparatus or interferes with a person using a
791 voting apparatus;
- 792 F. Actively campaigning within twenty (20) feet of an Election Board Polling
793 Station;
- 794 G. Actively campaigning within or twenty (20) feet from the entrance of a
795 University Building.
- 796
- 797

798 **Section 4. Campaigning Ethics**

- 799
- 800 A. Candidates are expected to conduct themselves in an ethically appropriate
801 manner in accordance with Student Government documents and the Student
802 Code of Conduct, University Policies, and local and state law.
- 803 B. A candidate or volunteer may under no circumstances intentionally interfere
804 with the campaign of another candidate in any way, including but not limited to
805 the destruction of campaign materials.
- 806 C. Anything offered to affect the students' vote must clearly display ticket or
807 candidate affiliation.
- 808 D. No student shall make any threat to any voter to affect the students' vote.

809 **Section 5. Endorsements**

- 810
- 811 A. Any student organization, excluding Student Government affiliated
812 organizations, that is registered with the University may publicly endorse any
813 candidate and/or ticket for office that it has the prior approval of the candidate
814 to be endorsed.
- 815 B. Any Student Government affiliated organization, including Student Government
816 itself, shall not publicly endorse any candidate or ticket.
 - 817 1. A Student Government affiliated organization shall be defined as
818 any registered student organization that includes one or more
819 members appointed by or elected to said organization through
820 Student Government.
 - 821 2. Student Government affiliated organizations, including Student
822 Government itself, cannot publicly endorse nor display any
823 campaign materials including but not limited to office, work, and
824 meeting spaces.

825 C. Candidates or tickets cannot receive any financial contributions from any
826 student organization.

827 **Section 6. Campaigning on Election Day**

828

829 A. On Election Day, there shall be no active campaigning whatsoever inside of any
830 public computer lab. Voters may bring push cards into public computer labs for
831 the purpose of voting only.

832 B. On Election Day, there shall be no campaigning whatsoever within twenty (20)
833 feet of any Election Board administered voting location. All signs and other
834 materials must be removed from the restricted areas by the Election Board
835 before the polls open on Election Day.

836 **Section 7. Litter**

837

838 Intentional littering of campaign materials of any kind by a candidate or ticket affiliate
839 shall be prohibited.

840

841

ARTICLE VII Spending Limits

842

843

844 **Section 1. Definitions of Financial Terms**

845 A. Monetary Contributions are funds provided to a candidate or any ticket affiliate
846 for use in the election or use in any way furthering that candidate's campaign

847 B. Expenses are spending incurred by any candidate or any ticket affiliate for use in
848 the election or use in any way furthering that candidate's campaign or soliciting
849 votes.

850 C. Donations are goods and/or services utilized by any candidate or ticket affiliate
851 for use in the election or use in any way furthering that candidate's campaign.

852 1. Funds used to purchase these items must not originate from
853 monetary contributions or be purchased by any candidate,
854 campaign staff member, or ticket affiliate for the express
855 purpose of campaigning

856 2. All donations shall be valued and reported at no less than 60%
857 of the MSRP of that good or service had it been purchased. This
858 can be verified through the vendor by the Election Board, who
859 will retain the power to investigate donations and purchases
860 made by candidates or tickets.

861 3. Items purchased with a discount will be recorded in the
862 candidate's financial report with the discount included. (The
863 candidate does not have to record the item purchased at a
864 greater value than the value paid.)

865 4. Any discount greater than 40% off MSRP will not be accepted.
866 (The candidate is advised to research the product value before
867 accepting a discount.)

868 a. Bulk pricing will not be considered a discount.

869

870 D. Items that are borrowed must be accounted for by candidates and tickets in the
871 expense documents, but it shall not be expensed and shall not count toward a
872 candidate's spending limits or total expenditures.

873 1. Borrowed items must be reusable.

- 874 a. Borrowed items cannot include consumable items or items
875 that can expire such as pushcards, stickers, or buttons
876 2. Examples of borrowed items can include but are not limited to tents
877 and tables.
878 E. Total Expenditures are the summation of expenses and donations of which shall
879 not exceed the ticket spending limit which is calculated based on Article VII,
880 Section 2 of this document.
881 1. The Election Board reserves the right to revalue an expense or
882 donation in response to a discrepancy and/or complaint that
883 the good or service is not reported at its fair market value. The
884 Election Board must submit three (3) reasonable price
885 references from merchants in estimating the value of any
886 contested reported price.
887
888

889 **Section 2. General Election Spending Limits for Tickets**

- 890
891 A. Three thousand dollars (\$3,000) shall be the total expenditure limit of any
892 President/Vice President pair.
893 B. Seventy-five dollars (\$75) shall be the expenditure limit for any candidate
894 running for a Senate or College Council position.
895 C. Expenditure limits for tickets shall be based on the total expenditures of
896 individuals involved with a particular ticket who are opposed in their election, as
897 stipulated in Section 7 of this Article.
898

899 **Section 3. General Election Spending Limits for Independent Candidates**

- 900
901 A. Four thousand dollars (\$4,000) shall be the combined expenditure limit of any
902 President/Vice President pair.
903 B. Three hundred dollars (\$300) shall be the expenditure limit for any candidate
904 running for a Senate or College Council position.
905

906 **Section 4. Run-off Election Spending Limits**

907
908 The expenditure limit for the Run-off Election of any candidate or ticket shall be one-
909 half of the limits stated for the General Election.
910

911 **Section 5. General Election and Run-off Financial and Monetary Contribution Reports**

- 912
913 A. All independent candidates and tickets are required to submit financial reports
914 provided by the Election Board.
915 B. There shall be a financial form specifically for the use of tickets and independent
916 candidates, which shall include:
917 1. All monetary contributions made to the ticket or independent
918 candidate, including candidate fees for tickets;
919 2. All donations;
920 3. All borrowed items, which shall be expensed as having no cost;
921 4. All expenses incurred.
922 C. All ticket representatives must submit the following:
923 1. Ticket financial report;
924 2. All receipts and other proofs of purchase, including but not
925 limited to invoices, for expenses incurred;
926 3. An inventory of all borrowed, which shall be expensed as having
927 no cost;

- 928 4. Financial reports for each candidate are to be listed on the
929 Financial Sheet for the Ticket. This shall include individual
930 candidate contributions and individual expenditures.
931
- 932 E. All independent candidates must submit a financial report and all receipts for
933 expenses incurred.
- 934 F. These reports shall be public record immediately after submission to the
935 Election Board. Candidates must sign their reports in the required places and
936 certify that they are accurate and complete.
- 937 G. The financial and monetary contribution reports are due by 10:00 A.M. the day
938 after the Election Day.
939

940 **Section 6. Expenditures for Unopposed Candidates**

- 941
- 942 A. Candidates who are unopposed at the posting of the list of qualified candidates
943 are not allowed to spend any money campaigning.
- 944 B. These candidates are still required to file monetary contribution reports if they
945 are a registered member of a ticket.
- 946 C. If an unopposed candidate gives money to be part of a ticket, that money shall
947 be considered a monetary contribution. After a candidate is informed that
948 he/she is unopposed, that candidate shall expend no more money. The
949 expenditure limits for unopposed candidates shall not be counted towards the
950 total expenditure limit of a ticket.
- 951 D. The expenditure limits for candidates who become unopposed after the initial
952 posting of the list of qualified candidates shall be counted toward the total
953 expenditure limit of a ticket.
954

955 **Section 8. Single Candidate and Ticket Expenditures**

- 956
- 957 A. Money expended and reported for a candidate is applicable only for the
958 campaign of that candidate. Money expended and reported for a
959 President/Vice President pair are applicable only for the campaign of that pair.
- 960 B. Registered tickets shall be exempt from Subsection A of this Section.
961

962 **Section 9. Spending Limits for a Referendum**

- 963
- 964 A. Referenda shall have a maximum spending limit of ten cents (\$0.10) per student
965 for coordinated expenditures based on fourteenth (14th) day enrollment
966 numbers.
- 967 B. The Referendum Representative (outlined in the following Article) is responsible
968 for submitting expenditure reports to the Commissioner of Elections at the
969 same time as all other candidates.
970

973 **ARTICLE VIII**

974 **Appeals, Complaints, Petitions, and Referenda**

975

976

977 **Section 1. Appeals to the Election Board**

978

979 Any decision of the Election Board may be appealed to the Judicial Branch of the
980 Student Government, as stipulated in the Student Government Constitution.

981 **Section 2. Procedure for Filing Complaints**

982

983 A complaint concerning irregularities in the conduct of an election by the Election Board
984 or a candidate may be brought by any LSU student.

985

986 A. Complaints regarding violations of Election Code provisions must be submitted
987 in writing to the Commissioner of Elections by 4:30 P.M. within two (2) class
988 days of the alleged violation.

989 B. No complaint shall be filed after 4:30 P.M. on the Wednesday after the General
990 and Runoff election.

991

992 C. The Election Board may also file complaints concerning irregularities in the
993 conduct of an election.

994 1. If the Commissioner of Elections files a complaint, then the Election
995 board within themselves will vote for an acting chair.

996

997 D. Election results shall be deemed final at 4:30PM one (1) class day after their
998 announcement. No complaints may be filed after the election results have been
999 finalized.

1000

1001 **Section 3. Complaints and Burden of Proof**

1002

1003 The person making the complaint shall have the burden of proving the alleged violation
1004 by supplying compelling evidence.

1005

1006 **Section 4. Procedure for Processing a Complaint**

1007

1008 A complaint brought to the Election Board, will follow this procedure:

1009

1010 A. A Student filing a complaint will fill out a complaint form issued by the
1011 Commissioner of Elections detailing the time, place and nature of the alleged
1012 violation.
1013 a. A signature of the student filing the complaint must be included in order for
1014 the complaint document to be considered valid.

1015

1016 B. The respondent to the complaint will be notified immediately upon receipt of said
1017 complaint by the Commissioner of Elections. The subject will then have 12 hours to
1018 submit a response.

1019 C. All complaints pertaining solely to the Election Code will be reviewed by the Election
1020 Board. Any complaint citing further governing documents shall be immediately
1021 forwarded to the Clerk of Court of the University Court by the Commissioner of
1022 Elections.

1023

1024 D. The Election Board will review complaints based solely on what is included in the
1025 documents presented in letters A and B of this section.

1025

1026 E. The Commissioner of Elections is responsible for accepting all complaints.

1026 **Section 5. Special Election**

1027

1028 A. If the University Court determines that the action(s) of the Election Board, any
1029 person, or any organization has cast a reasonable doubt on the fair outcome of
1030 an election, it may order that particular election to be held again.

1031

1031 B. The election will adhere to the specific rules of a Special Election

1032 1. The rules of a Special Election shall be formulated by the
1033 University Court.

1034 **Section 6. Rulings & Notification of the Complainant and Defendant**

1035
1036 Once a complaint has been processed, both parties should be notified before the trial
1037 takes place in order not to interfere with due process. After a complaint has been ruled
1038 on, the Judicial Branch shall take immediate action to notify the complainant and
1039 defendant in writing within two (2) hours of its ruling.

1040 **Section 7. Procedure for Filing Petitions**

1041
1042 A. A petition is the device whereby a constitutional amendment, a matter affecting
1043 a student self-assessed fee, or a recall of an elected officer is placed on the
1044 ballot as provided by the Student Government Constitution. The procedural
1045 steps to be followed are:
1046
1047 1. Submission of the petition with the Election Board or the Office of the
1048 Dean of Students;
1049 2. Collection of signatures by the proponents; and,
1050 3. Submission of the signatures to the Student Body President, recipient,
1051 or proposed recipient of the self-assessed student fee or the entity
1052 considered a candidate under Article X, Section 8.

1053 **Section 8. Petition Submission**

1054
1055 Prior to a petition being circulated for collection of signatures, it must be registered with
1056 the Election Board.
1057
1058 A. Submission is accomplished by filing a copy of the petition with the Election
1059 Board in the Student Government office.
1060 B. If the Election Board obtains a proposed amendment to the Student
1061 Government Constitution under the guidelines of Article X of the Student
1062 Government Constitution, a full copy of the text of the amendment must be
1063 filed at this time also.

1064 **Section 9. Time Limits for and Verification of Collected Signatures**

1065
1066 A. A signed petition must be submitted to the Student Body President within
1067 twenty-eight (28) consecutive calendar days of its registration. The President
1068 shall immediately transmit any petition received to the Election Board.
1069 B. In a petition to levy, amend, repeal, or otherwise regulate a self-assessed
1070 student fee, the twenty-eight (28) consecutive calendar days prior to the
1071 beginning of campaigning of any Fall or Spring General Election shall be the only
1072 days for petitioners in this category to collect signatures.
1073 C. During these twenty-eight (28) consecutive calendar days, the petitioners may
1074 campaign for signatures only.
1075 D. The Election Board shall verify the sufficiency of the petition within seven (7)
1076 calendar days of submission. The Election Board shall verify as valid only those
1077 signatures which:
1078 1. Contain the name of the student with the date of the signature
1079 in the handwriting of the signer and the student's "myLSU"
1080 login ID;

- 1081
1082
1083
1084
1085
1086
2. Are Student Body members as defined by the Constitution as of the date of submission;
 3. For a matter affecting a student assessed fee, are members of the group assessed or to be assessed; and,
 4. Were actually collected after registration of the petition and before the submission deadline.

1087 **Section 10. Election Dates & Ballot**

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1089
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1099
- A. The board shall set a tentative election date within three (3) days of submission.
 - B. If the petition is verified as sufficient, a final election date shall be set within one (1) day of verification. If no final date is set, the tentative election date shall be the final election date.
 - C. Within one (1) day of the final election date being determined, the Board 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. Polling places shall be the same as those used for the Fall and Spring elections.

1100 **Section 11. Election Code Applies to Petition Campaign**

1101
1102 Except as expressly provided in this Article, all other provisions of this Code apply to the
1103 petition campaign.
1104

1105 **Section 12. Persons Considered as Candidates**

- 1106
1107 The following persons shall be considered as candidates and have full responsibilities as
1108 such:
1109
- A. The person who submits the petition;
 - B. In a recall petition, the person who is the target of the recall;
 - C. In a petition seeking to amend the Constitution, the person who submits the petition;
 - D. In a petition to levy, amend, repeal, or otherwise regulate a student self-assessed fee, the recipient or proposed recipient; or,
 - E. In a referendum concerning self-assessed student fees, the group or entity receiving funds from the proposed referendum; or,
 - F. 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.

1122 **Section 13. Referendum Submission**

- 1123
1124 The procedures for submitting a referendum shall be as follows:
1125
- A. Submission of the referendum to the Election Board from the Student Senate after approval; or,
 - B. Submission of a petition signed by ten percent (10%) of the membership of the Student Body presented to the Student Body President.

1131 **Section 14. Regulations for Candidates of a Petition or Referendum**

1132

- 1133 A. The proposed recipient shall be held to the same regulations and sanctions as
1134 candidates for office mentioned in Articles IV & IX of this code.
1135 B. The benefiting group or entity shall register a representative to serve as a
1136 Liaison for matters dealing with the Election Board. The name of said person
1137 must be submitted to the Commissioner of Elections by the same methods of
1138 the Ticket Representative discussed in Article III, Section 7 of this Code.
1139

1140 **Section 15. Titling and Describing a Referendum**
1141

- 1142 A. The Election Board shall title the referendum for the ballot, with the consent of
1143 the recipients, and shall place the name of said referendum on the ballot.
1144 B. If a title cannot be agreed upon, the referendum shall be named according to its
1145 legislative number given by the Senate.
1146 C. For a referendum regarding self-assessed student fees, it must include the name
1147 of the fee and the proposed cost for students.
1148 D. For a referendum concerning any other matter, it must include the title of the
1149 referendum and an unbiased description of the two possible outcomes written
1150 by the Election Board and approved by the appropriate adviser(s).
1151

1152 **ARTICLE IX**

1153 **Penalties for Violations**
1154

1155 **Section 1. Penalties for Candidates and Tickets**
1156

1157 Penalties issued by the Election Board shall be limited to the following scale:

- 1158 A. Minor infractions, resulting in private censure and/or self-imposed sanctions
1159 made by the defendant and agreed upon by the Board, for actions that shall
1160 include but not be limited to:
1161 i. Littering;
1162 B. Infractions, resulting in spending limit and/or other sanctions, for actions that
1163 shall include but not be limited to:
1164 i. Actively campaigning within 20 feet of an Election Board Polling
1165 Station or entrance of a University Building;
1166 ii. Utilizing the Student Government logo or any logo of an
1167 organization that has not explicitly endorsed a candidate or ticket;
1168 C. Major infractions, resulting in the suspension of campaign activities and/or
1169 public censure, for actions that shall include but not be limited to:
1170 i. Failure to submit financial documents on time but by 4:30 P.M. on
1171 the day after the Election;
1172 ii. Any actions intended to interfere with the campaign activities of
1173 any other candidate or ticket;
1174 iii. Decorating any car without the express consent of the owner
1175 D. Infractions that merit disqualification, for actions that shall include but not be
1176 limited to:
1177 i. Failure to fully disclose financial activities of a campaign;
1178 ii. Any method that violates university or state policy;
1179 iii. Any actions that violate the Student Code of Conduct and require
1180 action on the part of the Dean of Students;
1181 iv. Any actions that may be considered electioneering or voter fraud;
1182 v. Any expenditures that exceed specified spending limits by 5% of
1183 total spending limit or \$50, whichever is lower;

- 1184 vi. Failure to complete filing process, including unexcused absence for
1185 a mandatory candidate meeting;
1186 vii. Failure to comply with a penalty.
1187 E. Candidates penalized for infractions committed after the General Election shall
1188 have those penalties applied during the Runoff Election or Runoff election
1189 campaigning period when applicable.

1190
1191 **Section 2. Rights of the Candidates and Tickets**

1192
1193 Any candidate or ticket brought before the Election Board and issued a penalty may
1194 seek to appeal the decision before the Student Government University Court.
1195

1196

1197

ARTICLE X Miscellaneous Rules

1198

1199

1200

1201 **Section 1. Prohibition of Multiple Candidacy**

1202

1203 No person may be a candidate for more than one (1) office established under, or elected
1204 under the authority of, the Student Government Constitution.

1205 **Section 2. Withdrawal from the Election**

1206

- 1207 A. If a candidate wishes to withdraw from an election, he or she must do so by
1208 meeting with the Commissioner of the Elections, in person, presenting a valid
1209 picture ID, and giving the Commissioner a written, signed statement of his or
1210 her withdrawal.
1211 B. Should a withdrawn candidate's name remain on the ballot, he or she shall be
1212 considered to still have withdrawn and to be thus ineligible to win the election.
1213 The position will be awarded to the candidate with the highest votes excluding
1214 the ineligible candidate. The votes for the ineligible candidate shall not count
1215 toward the plurality of votes calculation.

1216

1217 **Section 3. Electing Student Senate Seats**

1218

- 1219 A. Student Senate seats shall be divided in half after apportionment in which one-
1220 half (1/2) of the seats available in a college shall go up for elections in the Fall
1221 and the other half (1/2) shall be up for election in the Spring. In the case of an
1222 odd number of seats, one more shall be elected in the Spring.

- 1223 B. Students will be able to vote for as many candidates as there are seats
1224 allocated.

1225

1226 **Section 4. Change of Apportionment of the Student Senate**

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1228 If apportionment causes an academic area to have more or less Senate seats than it
1229 previously had, the seat(s) will be added or removed, as the particular case calls for.

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- 1231 A. In the event that seats are removed, any Senators whose seats have been
1232 discontinued shall be allowed to serve out their regular terms.
1233 B. In the event that a seat(s) is added, it shall be placed on the Spring election
1234 ballot, either as a full term or a half (1/2) term, whichever will balance

1235 apportionment. If a seat is placed on the Spring election ballot as a half (1/2)
1236 term, it shall subsequently be placed as a full term on the Fall election ballot.

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1239 **Section 5. Amendments to the Election Code and Effective Dates**

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1241 A. As provided by the Student Government Constitution (Article VIII, Section 4), the
1242 Election Code shall be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Student Senate
1243 present and voting.

1244 1. Such amendments shall not go into effect until one (1) semester following
1245 passage, not including the Summer Semester.

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1248 **PARAGRAPH 5:** THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE LOUISIANA
1249 STATE UNIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURAL AND
1250 MECHANICAL COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE THAT THE
1251 LSU STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE BE AMENDED TO
1252 REFLECT THE CHANGES ABOVE.

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1254 **PARAGRAPH 6:** THIS BILL SHALL BE ENROLLED UPON PASSAGE BY A TWO-THIRDS
1255 (2/3) VOTE OF THE LSU STUDENT SENATE AND SIGNATURE BY
1256 THE PRESIDENT, UPON LAPSE OF TIME FOR PRESIDENTIAL
1257 ACTION, OR IF VETOED BY THE PRESIDENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY
1258 APPROVED BY THE SENATE, ON THE DATE OF SUCH APPROVAL.

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1260 **PARAGRAPH 7:** FURTHERMORE, THESE AMENDMENTS SHALL TAKE EFFECT AT
1261 THE BEGINNING OF SPRING 2014 AS STATED IN THE STUDENT
1262 GOVERNMENT CONSTITUTION (ARTICLE VIII, SECTION 4).

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1281 **APPROVED:**

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1284 _____
1285 **ALEX GRASHOFF**
1286 **SPEAKER OF THE SENATE**

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1287 **DATE:** _____

1283 _____
1284 **JOHN S. WOODARD**
1285 **STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT**

1286 _____
1287 **DATE:** _____