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F05RS SGB No. 1 (Election Code Campaigning)

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STUDENT SENATE

F05RS

SGB No. 1

BY: SPEAKER STAPLES

A BILL

**TO AMEND SEVERAL PORTIONS OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE
CONCERNING CAMPAIGNING**

PARAGRAPH 1: WHEREAS, THE ELECTION CODE REVISION COMMITTEE WAS CREATED FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDING CHANGES IN THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE, AND

PARAGRAPH 2: WHEREAS, THE ELECTION CODE REVISION COMMITTEE HAS MET DILIGENTLY THROUGHOUT THIS SUMMER IN AN EFFORT TO ADDRESS CERTAIN MATTERS THAT HAVE ARISEN IN THE PAST ELECTIONS, AND

PARAGRAPH 3: WHEREAS, THE ELECTION CODE REVISION COMMITTEE HAS RECOMMENDED CHANGES IN THE MATTERS OF CAMPAIGNING AND CAMPAIGNING PRACTICES.

PARAGRAPH 4: THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE DOES HEREBY AMEND THESE SECTIONS OF ARTICLE FOUR (IV) OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE REGARDING CAMPAIGNING AND CAMPAIGNING PRACTICES TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

Article IV: Campaign Practices

Section 1. Campaigning; definition

Campaigning is any activity by a person that is intended or likely to encourage or discourage a voter to cast a ballot or to affect how he/she votes. This includes the placement of any signs or the like on display **and the solicitation of the vote of any LSU student. Two types of campaigning are recognized.**

A. Active Campaigning

Active Campaigning includes but is not limited to verbal and/or electronic solicitation of votes and the following:

- 1. Distributing campaign materials other than private distribution to immediate campaign staff (except as provided in Section 2 of this Article);**
- 2. Announcing or discussing potential candidacy and/or ticket name in print, broadcast, or any other media;**

3. Seeking endorsement or voter support for a campaign at an official meeting of a registered student organization; and,
4. Announcement of potential candidacy, including ticket name, in a public forum

B. Passive Campaigning

Passive Campaigning includes campaign paraphernalia in the immediate possession of or attached to an individual and the following:

1. Posting any campaign materials; and,
2. Wearing apparel, buttons, stickers, and/or similar items explicitly reflecting an affiliation with a candidate or ticket.

Section 2. Campaigning; on campus; rules and regulations

- A. Campaigning on campus must be conducted in compliance with all University rules. The only permissible places to post campaigning sign on-campus ~~is~~ **are on areas approved by Facility Services and the Office of Finance and Administrative Services** on bulletin boards, and a candidate's name may appear on only one sign per bulletin board. Campaign signs on bulletin boards must be no larger than 8.5 by 11 inches.

- Active Campaigning is: **(RELOCATED IN §1.A,B)**
- ~~1. Distributing campaign materials other than private distribution to immediate campaign staff;~~
 - ~~2. Posting any campaign materials;~~
 - ~~3. Soliciting the vote of any LSU student;~~
 - ~~4. Wearing apparel explicitly reflecting one's candidacy or ticket affiliation; and/or,~~
 - ~~5. Announcing or discussing potential candidacy and/or ticket name in print, broadcast, or any other media;~~
 - ~~6. Seeking endorsement or voter support for a campaign at an official meeting of a registered student organization; and,~~
 - ~~7. Announcement of potential candidacy, including ticket name, in a public forum.~~

- B. ~~Active~~ Campaigning does not include:
1. Designing, ordering, or receiving campaign materials and private distribution to immediate campaign staff; or
 2. Private discussions concerning candidacy, prospective candidacy, or ticket formation; or
 3. **Reporting by media outlets of any referendum, petition, recall, or constitutional amendment.**

- C. Members of a private list-serve are considered willful participants and therefore may receive any email concerning candidacy, ticket issues, and information prior to active campaigning.

- D. During active campaigning, members of any list-serves are considered willful participants and may receive emails soliciting votes.

E. Prohibition on Interference with Education

1. There shall be no active campaigning within ten (10) feet of any entrance to an academic building.
2. Campaigning must not interfere with the educational life of the university. This includes the posting of campaign signs and/or posters in classrooms, unless the classroom is approved by Facility Services and the Office of Finance and Administrative Services.
3. Candidates may not write on chalkboards or similar devices or otherwise actively campaign within a classroom.

F. Prohibition on Interference with Non-Academic Buildings

- 1. No active campaigning shall be allowed inside a University building or within ten (10) feet of any entrance to a University building.**
- 2. Specifically exempt are candidate and ticket organizational meetings and meetings of registered student organizations, or events authorized by building coordinator.**

Section 3. Campaigning; prohibited methods

The following methods of campaigning may not be used:

- A. Aircraft
- B. Loudspeakers, sirens, or other noisemakers
- ~~C. Advertising on any radio, newspaper or television medium;~~
- C. Decorating any car without the express consent of the owner;
- D. Any method that violates university or state policy concerning mass e-mail;
- E. Sending potential voters unsolicited electronic messages at any time; and/or
- F. Sending electronic messages specifically asking for a vote is prohibited prior to active campaigning.
- G. Any method using animals, **except consenting humans.**

Section 4 Use of Voting Apparatuses

Definition

A voting apparatus is defined as an electronic device with internet access with voting capability.

Campaigning

There shall be no active campaigning from or toward any individual while in direct operational possession of a voting apparatus.

Section 5 Polling Stations and Locations

A. Definition

A polling location, except public computer labs, shall be defined as a voting apparatus used by an individual other than the owner located within fifty (50) feet of each other.

B. Authorized Polling Locations

No polling locations shall be allowed except those administered by the Election Board.

C. Locations of Polling Locations

The Commissioner of Elections shall list the locations of Election Board administered polling locations outside the Student Government Executive Office three (3) class days prior to any election.

Section 6. Campaigning; ~~intimidation of voters~~ **ethics**

A. General Conduct

Candidates are expected to conduct themselves in an ethically appropriate manner in accordance with Student Government documents and the Student Code of Conduct.

B. Campaign Interference

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. Bribery and Threats

No person shall offer anything tangible of value or make any threat to any voter to affect the student's vote. The term "anything of value" does not encompass distribution of campaign materials of negligible value such as buttons.

Section 7. 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 providing that it is not on any type of probationary or provisionary status with the University and that it has the prior approval of the candidate to be endorsed.
- ~~B. 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 or a student organization that reserves a position for a Student Government official.~~
- C. **Student Government affiliated organizations should they decide to display campaign paraphernalia must provide equal posting opportunity to all candidates and or tickets which request such opportunity.**

Section 8. Campaigning on Election Day

- A. On Election Day there shall be no active campaigning whatsoever, as defined in Sect. 1 and 2. of this Article, inside of any public computer lab. All signs and other material must be removed from the public computer labs before the polls open on Election Day. Voters may bring push cards into public computer labs for the purpose of voting only.
- B. **On Election Day, there shall be no campaigning whatsoever within fifty (50) feet of any Election Board administered polling location. All signs and other materials must be removed from the restricted areas by the election board before the polls open on Election Day.**

Section 9. Litter

Littering of campaign material of any kind shall be prohibited.

PARAGRAPH 5: THIS BILL SHALL TAKE EFFECT 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.

APPROVED:

BO STAPLES, SPEAKER

DATE

MICHELLE GIEG, PRESIDENT

DATE