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S05RS SGB No. 7 (Election Code)

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STUDENT SENATE

S05RS

SGB No. 7

BY: SENATORS CARPENTER, M ANDERSON, SPEAKER PRO-TEMPORE LOBIANCO,
AND SENATORS MELANCON AND STAPLES

A BILL

TO AMEND SEVERAL PORTIONS OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE IN AN
EFFORT TO CLARIFY VAGUE LANGUAGE

PARAGRAPH 1: WHEREAS, THE FOLLOWING ARE CHANGES THAT WILL CLARIFY
VAGUE LANGUAGE AND AMBIGUOUS PROVISIONS IN THE STUDENT
GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE, AND

PARAGRAPH 2: WHEREAS, CORRECTIONS SHOULD BE MADE TO USE THE
APPROPRIATE LETTER AND/OR NUMBER IN THE CASES OF
AMENDMENTS WHICH DISRUPT THE ORDERING OF LETTERS AND
NUMBERS IN THE ELECTION CODE.

PARAGRAPH 3: THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED THAT THE STUDENT
GOVERNMENT OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND
AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE DOES
HEREBY AMEND THESE SECTIONS OF ARTICLE ONE (I) OF THE
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Election Code; accountability

Every person who files for an office elected under the
authority of the Student Government Constitution and Bylaws
shall receive a copy of this Election Code **at the time of filing**.
All candidates and their volunteers shall be responsible for
knowing its contents. ~~A copy of the Election Code shall be given
to prospective candidates at the time of filing. All questions about
the Code shall be addressed to the Commissioner of Elections. A
representative from each ticket, or those running independently,
shall attend a mandatory meeting prior to active campaigning. **All
questions about the Code shall be addressed to the
Commissioner of Elections.**~~

Section 6. Election Board; appeals

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

Section 8. Candidate Qualifications

A qualified student is any full-time student that is in good
academic standing and is not currently under disciplinary action
with the University. For any non-At-Large position

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(representing one academic area), a candidate must be enrolled at the time of filing in the college which he/she is seeking to represent.

PARAGRAPH 4: BE IT FURTHER ENACTED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE DOES HEREBY AMEND THESE SECTIONS OF ARTICLE TWO (II) OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

Section 2. Commissioner of Elections; powers and responsibilities

The Commissioner of Elections shall have the following powers and responsibilities:

* * *

D. To have **the** authority to ~~expa~~end such funds as are appropriated to the Board's use, with the consent of the Board;

* * *

G. ~~To request a list of all full-time students from the office of the Registrar fifteen (15) class days prior to absentee voting and attain the list ten (10) class days prior to absentee voting;~~

H. Members of the Election Board shall remain politically neutral and shall be removed if they express any form of support for a particular candidate at any time. **All election personnel on election day shall remain politically neutral while working polls.**

Section 5. Election personnel

B. A list of all poll workers shall be ~~comprised~~ **compiled** and made available to the candidates three (3) class days prior to any election.

PARAGRAPH 5: BE IT FURTHER ENACTED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE DOES HEREBY AMEND THESE SECTIONS OF ARTICLE THREE (III) OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Order of Events

- F Posting of ~~sample ballot~~ **qualified candidates** and appeals
- G. Active campaigning
- H. **Posting of official ballot**

Section 2. Selection of election-related dates and deadlines

Bold Underline: Addition
~~Strikethrough:~~ Removal

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The Election Board shall be in charge of setting all dates of the election-related events listed in Section 1 of this Article subject to any further provisions of the Election Code. All deadlines and dates that are relative to filing, campaigning, and election days for the Fall and Spring Student Government Elections shall be declared by the Commissioner of Elections no later than the last official day of classes of the semester previous to the election in question. The election time frame shall span thirty (30) class days beginning with the first day of filing, and ending two class days after the final election results have been announced. Once dates have been set, the Commissioner will deliver this information to the ~~campus newspaper~~ **student media**, the Student Body President, the Speaker of the Student Senate, and the Chief Justice of the University Court.

Section 3. Announcement of elections

A. The Commissioner of Elections shall:

2. Purchase an advertisement of at least one quarter (1/4) page in size to appear in the “~~Reveille~~” **official campus newspaper** at least three (3) class days prior to the opening of the filing period for the Fall and Spring elections.

Section 5. Mandatory meetings

A. Senate Meetings

~~During the forty-two (42) days prior to the election~~ **After the close of filing**, each candidate for the office of Student Senate shall be required to attend one entire meeting of the Student Senate. They shall sign in at the beginning of the meeting and out at the end with the Speaker or his/her appointed representative. There should be allowed time after the completion of the meeting to answer any questions those candidates may have about the Student Senate. In the event that candidates are unable to attend a regular meeting of the Student Senate, the Speaker shall specify through the Commissioner of Elections an alternate informational meeting for the candidate to attend. ~~A copy of the Election Code shall be given to prospective candidates at the time of filing. All questions about the Code shall be addressed to the Commissioner of Elections.~~

Section 8. General Election

A. Fall election

The General Election for the Student Senators elected in the Fall and for members of the ~~Recreational Sports Management~~

157 ~~Council~~ **University Court elected in the Fall** shall be held each
158 year beginning no sooner than the 20th day of class and ending no
159 later than the 55th day of class in a semester.

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161 B. Spring election

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163 The General Election for Student Body President, Student
164 Body Vice President, ~~Athletic Council~~, Union Governing Board,
165 the appropriate Student Senators, College Council officers, and
166 University Court shall be held no sooner than the 20th day of class
167 and ending no later than the 55th day of class in a semester.

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169 **PARAGRAPH 6:** BE IT FURTHER ENACTED THAT THE STUDENT
170 GOVERNMENT OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND
171 AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE DOES
172 HEREBY AMEND THESE SECTIONS OF ARTICLE FOUR (IV) OF THE
173 STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

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175 **Section 2.** Campaigning; on campus; rules and regulations

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177 A. Active campaigning is:

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179 1. Distributing campaign materials other than private
180 distribution to immediate campaign staff;
181 2. Posting any campaign materials;
182 3. Soliciting the vote of any LSU student;
183 4. Wearing apparel **explicitly** reflecting one's candidacy or
184 ticket affiliation; and/or,
185 5. ~~Announcement of potential candidacy including ticket~~
186 ~~name in a public forum.~~
187 5. **Announcing or discussing potential candidacy and/or**
188 **ticket name in print, broadcast, or any other media;**
189 6. **Seeking endorsement or voter support for a campaign**
190 **at an official meeting of a registered student**
191 **organization; and,**
192 7. **Announcement of potential candidacy, including ticket**
193 **name, in a public forum.**

194
195 B. Active campaigning does not include:

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197 1. ~~Discussion among individuals and/or groups, including~~
198 ~~solicited emails, concerning issues and ticket formation~~
199 ~~prior to active campaigning. However, soliciting votes~~
200 ~~prior to active campaigning is prohibited, and will result in~~
201 ~~disciplinary action from the Election Board.~~
202 1. **Designing, ordering, or receiving campaign materials**
203 **and private distribution to immediate campaign staff;**
204 **or**
205 2. **Private discussions, not at an official meeting of a**
206 **registered student organization, including individual**

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solicited emails, concerning candidacy, prospective candidacy, or ticket formation; or

- C. Members of a **private** listserve are considered willful participants and therefore may receive any email concerning candidacy, ticket issues, and information prior to active campaigning, ~~and may receive e-mails soliciting votes during the active campaigning period only.~~

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

Section 3. Campaigning; prohibited methods

The following methods of campaigning may not be used:

- * * *
- B. Loudspeakers, sirens, or other noisemakers ~~(except at rallies not on Election Day)~~
- * * *
- F. Sending potential voters unsolicited ~~e-mail~~ **electronic messages** at any time; and/or
- G. Sending ~~e-mail~~ **electronic messages** specifically asking for a vote is prohibited prior to active campaigning.

Section 5. Endorsements

Any student organization 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 provisional status with the University and that it has the prior approval of the candidate to be endorsed.

PARAGRAPH 7: BE IT FURTHER ENACTED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE DOES HEREBY AMEND SECTION FIVE (5) OF ARTICLE FIVE (V) OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

Section 5. Expenditure reports; General Election

All candidates are required to submit expenditure reports **and receipts** on forms provided by the Board at the time of filing and these reports shall be public record after the election. Candidates shall sign their reports and certify that they are accurate and complete under penalty of disqualification. The expenditure report is due by 8:00 a.m. the day after the General Election.

258 **PARAGRAPH 8:** BE IT FURTHER ENACTED THAT THE STUDENT
259 GOVERNMENT OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND
260 AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE DOES
261 HEREBY AMEND THESE SECTIONS OF ARTICLE SEVEN (VII) OF THE
262 STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE TO READ AS FOLLOWS:
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264 **Section 2.** Ballot; samples displayed
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266 The Commissioner shall post sample ballots outside the
267 Student Government Executive Office and purchase a “one time”
268 ad in the ~~Reveille~~ **official campus newspaper** displaying the
269 sample ballot, two (2) class days prior to any General or Run-off
270 Election. The wording and layout of these sample ballots shall be
271 the same as those used on Election Day.
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273 **Section 3.** Withdrawal
274

275 If a candidate wishes to withdraw from an election, he/she
276 must do so by a meeting with the Commissioner, in person,
277 presenting a valid picture ID, and giving the Commissioner a
278 written, signed statement of his/her withdrawal. No person may
279 withdraw from an election five (5) class days prior to an election
280 ~~after the sample ballots for that election have been posted.~~ Should
281 a withdrawn candidate’s name be inadvertently placed on the
282 ballot, he/she shall be considered to have never withdrawn and to
283 be thus eligible to win the election.
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285 **PARAGRAPH 9:** BE IT FURTHER ENACTED THAT THE STUDENT
286 GOVERNMENT OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND
287 AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE DOES
288 HEREBY AMEND SECTION ONE (1) OF ARTICLE EIGHT (VIII) OF THE
289 STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE TO READ AS FOLLOWS:
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291 **Section 1.** Complaints; time limits
292

293 Complaints ~~of~~ **regarding** violations of Election Code
294 provisions must be submitted in writing to the **Election Board**
295 **through the** Commissioner of Elections ~~and the defendant(s) by~~
296 ~~4:30 p.m.~~ within ~~two~~ **five (5)** class days of the alleged violation.
297 The Board will then, by the end of the ~~next~~ **first** class day **after**
298 **submission of said complaint**, decide what action shall be taken
299 as a result of the complaint and notify both parties of said action
300 ~~at least twenty four (24) hours prior to any hearing.~~ A copy **of the**
301 **Election Board’s decision** shall be submitted to the Student Body
302 President and the Speaker of the Student Senate.
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304 **PARAGRAPH 10:** BE IT FURTHER ENACTED THAT THE STUDENT
305 GOVERNMENT OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AND
306 AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE DOES
307 HEREBY AMEND SECTION TWO (2) OF ARTICLE THIRTEEN (XIII) OF

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THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTION CODE TO READ AS
FOLLOWS:

SECTION 2. Student Senate Seats; vacancy

~~If a Senate seat becomes vacant during a semester, then the College Council shall appoint someone to serve the remainder of the term. Any seats with a half (1/2) term or more remaining that are vacant at 4:30 p.m. on the Friday before filing begins shall be elected as a half (1/2) term Senate seat in the upcoming election.~~

If a vacancy occurs on the Student Senate, it may be filled immediately by the respective college council by a majority vote of its members. The seat shall then be up for election during the next regularly scheduled campus wide election as a half (1/2) term Senate seat, regardless of how long is left remaining on the term. A person may only be appointed once by a college council to fill a Senate vacancy.

PARAGRAPH 11: 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:

BRANDON M. SMITH, SPEAKER

BRAD GOLSON, PRESIDENT

DATE

DATE