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Fall 2013

### F13RS SGB No. 6 (Election Code)

Alex Grashoff

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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;

16  
17 PARAGRAPH 2: WHEREAS, THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS ASSURE THE FAIREST  
18 ELECTION POSSIBLE, AND;

19  
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:  
26  
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.  
34

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.  
39

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.  
44  
45

46 ARTICLE II

47 Governance of Elections

48  
49 Section 1. Governing Body  
50

- 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

### Election Timetable

188  
189  
190

191           **Section 1.           Order of Events**

192

193           The election time frame shall consist of five (5) consecutive or non-consecutive  
194           academic weeks. If the election consists of non-consecutive academic weeks, it may  
195           not exceed seven (7) academic weeks and may not deviate from the weekly order of  
196           events as prescribed below beginning no sooner than the third (3rd) week of class in  
197           a semester and ending no later than the twelfth (12th) academic week of class in a  
198           semester. The order of events for any campus-wide election, not including special  
199           elections and the elections for the consideration of a referendum brought by  
200           petition or constitutional amendment, shall be as follows:  
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 (2<sup>nd</sup>) 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 (1<sup>st</sup>) 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 (1<sup>st</sup>)  
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 (5<sup>th</sup>) 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.
- 402
- 403
- 404

## 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 (2<sup>nd</sup>) 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 (4<sup>th</sup>) 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 (4<sup>th</sup>) 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 (4<sup>th</sup>) 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 (5<sup>th</sup>)  
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 (4<sup>th</sup>) 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

597

598

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 (14<sup>th</sup>) 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  
971  
972

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 b. No anonymous complaints will be viewed.

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

1025 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 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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1096  
1097  
1098  
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**  
**Penalties for Violations**  
1153

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**  
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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.  
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## ARTICLE X Miscellaneous Rules

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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**  
1227

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.  
1230

- 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.

1237  
1238

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

1240

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.

1246

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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.

1253

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.

1259

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**

1286

1287 **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

1283 \_\_\_\_\_  
1284 **JOHN S. WOODARD**  
1285 **STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT**

1286 \_\_\_\_\_  
1287 **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_