

Lamar University SGA Election Rules

I. Purpose

This document establishes the rules and regulations governing the SGA election process, effective upon approval by the Student Senate. This policy shall be the highest binding authority on the election. The Office of Student Engagement shall serve as the administrators of the election.

Ignorance of the Election Rules shall not be an acceptable defense in response to any offence committed in any election under this code; either by the candidates themselves, their workers, or the election regulatory bodies, as defined by this code.

A. Application

1) Candidate Obligations

All candidates for office shall:

- i. Completely fill out the application form
- ii. Attend all of the mandatory candidate meetings
- iii. Follow all University and SGA policies

B. Mandatory candidate meetings

Meetings which are conducted under the discretion of the Ex-Officio Advisor

C. Election commission advisor

The Chief Student Affairs Officer and Ex-Officio Advisor to the Student Government Association (SGA) or ~~his~~ designee shall be the Election Commission Advisor. He or she shall serve as ex-officio with voice, but not vote, in all Election Commission meetings.

II. Definitions and Clarifications

A. Bribery

Offering or promising any eligible voter a monetary incentive, a gift of any financial value, or promise of an appointed position within the SGA, for the purpose of inducing said person to vote or refrain from voting for or against any candidate. These items include, but are not limited to, money, giveaways, and food products. Items not considered bribery include campaign buttons, stickers or printed brochures/flyers/business cards. Any Candidate or Representative of a Candidate found guilty of bribery shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Commission.

B. Misrepresentation

Communicating information that the communicator either knows to be false or misleading, or upon reasonable efforts could know to be false or misleading, to any

voter other than the person that the information is about for the purpose of inducing any person to vote or refrain from voting and/or to undermine proper

- 2) **Chairperson**
The sitting SGA Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall serve as Chairman of the Election Commission. Given the circumstance that the SGA Chief Justice of the Supreme Court chooses to run in an election, he/she shall forfeit his/her participation in the Election Commission. The new Chairman shall be appointed by the President with a 2/3 vote by the Senate.
- 3) **Selection Process**
Members will be composed of remaining members of the Supreme Court of the Student Government Association. The remaining vacant positions are appointed by the Chairman of the Election Commission and must be confirmed by 2/3 vote in the Senate. The ~~Office~~ ~~Advisor~~ is responsible for the election process. The ~~Office~~ ~~Advisor~~ can remove a member who is deemed to have a conflict of interest in the election. Appointments must be confirmed by 2/3 vote in the Senate.
- 4) **Vacancies**
The Chairman of the Election Commission shall have the power to appoint temporary commissioners from the Student Body to replace members who for some reason cannot fulfill their duties as approved by the Senate with a 2/3 vote.
- 5) **Supreme Court Justice Ineligibility**
In the case that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court either plans on being a candidate or campaign staff member in the election, he/she must relinquish his/her appointment duties. A replacement must be appointed by the President of SGA and approved by the Senate with a 2/3 vote.

D. **Powers**

The Election Commission shall have the power to:

- 1) Interpret and uphold the policies and provisions of documents affecting the election process.
- 2) Recommend to the ~~Office~~ ~~Advisor~~ or appointed advisor sanctions of any candidate based on a violation of election rules or regulations on or off campus. Sanctions may range from warnings to disqualifications.

Additionally, the Chairman of the Election Commission shall:

- 1) Serve as the voice of the Election Commission, but not shall not determine Election Commission policy.
- 2) Interpret the parliamentary rules with regards to the Election Commission as set for in the By-laws.

E. Ex-Officio Advisor Duties

- 1) Maintaining records of candidates, including the finance report and campaign team documents.
- 2) Design Ballot. Ballot will be categorized by office names will be drawn by the Ex-Officio advisor in alphabetical order.
- 3) Filing a statement signed by the candidate indicating knowledge of agreement to comply with all election rules and regulations.
- 4) Advertising SGA elections and establishing/ensuring that deadlines for applications are publicly announced in advance.

F. Election Chairman Duties

- 1) Representing the SGA in any dispute arising with a candidate regarding SGA elections
 - i. Ensuring public awareness of the election
 - ii. Maintaining the integrity of all those involved in the elections process through confidentiality
 - iii. Preside over Election Commission meetings

G. Candidate Affiliation

No Election Commission member may campaign, serve as a campaign staff member, give or take bribes, or commit sabotage. Any Election Commission member found guilty of any of these shall be removed from the Election Commission by action of the Election Commission Advisor.

H. Meetings

Meeting may be called by the Chairman. A quorum of simple majority must be established for decision to be binding.

- 1) Filing a statement signed by the candidate indicating knowledge of agreement to comply with all election rules and regulations.
- 2) Advertising SGA elections and establishing/ensuring that deadlines for applications are publicly announced in advance

4 All university-wide elections may use media for campaigning, accordance with the restrictions of this code.

5 The use of sidewalk chalk is prohibited.

6 Candidates shall have 1 week to remove, delete and/or clean up on campus all campaigning material.

N. Reporting Requirements: Should any candidate or student be made aware of or witness any violation committed by any candidate, they are to report the violation to the Chair of the Election Commission. The Election Commission may compel any candidate or campaign worker, to appear before the Board and/or to provide documentation as necessary for each case.

V. Appeals

In order to maintain the highest degree of impartiality and fairness, all SGA elections appeals shall be handled by the SGA Advisor, Chief Student Engagement Officer and Ex-Officio Advisor or his/her designee.

O. Campaign Grievances

Appeals of the election results must be made within 24 hours of the posting of the results. Unless appealed, election results shall become legally binding 24 hours after they are publicly announced.

- 1) Appeals shall be made directly to the Chief Student Engagement Officer and Ex-Officio Advisor or his/her designee through The HUB (online portal Document Elections Appeals)
- 2) Chief Student Engagement Officer and Ex-Officio Advisor or his/her designee will review the appeal and decision will be final.

P. Application

- 1) Candidate Obligations
All candidates for office shall:
 - i. Completely fill out the application form
 - ii. Attend all of the mandatory candidate meetings
 - iii. Complete and submit the Campaign Candidate Form prior to Mandatory Election Rules meeting.
 - iv. Complete and submit Finance Report Form by 5 pm one day after the election results are posted.
 - v. Follow all University and SGA Policies

Q.

have been verified. A candidate may request an alternative means of notification before the close of the polls. Election results will be made public through The Hub and the University Press will be contacted within 24 hours of certification of election results.

1) Certification

After the polls have been closed for 24 hours without any pending appeals, the Chief Student Affairs Officer and ~~Ex~~ Officio Advisor or his/her designee must certify the final results of the election.

R. Run-off Elections

In the event that no candidate receives more than 50% of the total votes cast before the designated closure of the elections ~~poll~~ any contested office, a run-