

Undergraduate Student Government
Stony Brook University
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Alexander E. Dimitriyadi
Executive Vice President

Kirin Mahmud
President Pro Tempore

SENATE

ELECTION INTEGRITY ACT

An Act to ensure the integrity of elections of both the USG and the clubs and organizations it funds.

Be it enacted by the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Government,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

This Act may be cited as the “Election Integrity Act.”

SECTION 2. FINDINGS

The Senate finds that—

1. The USG Elections Board is an independent agency of the USG that serves to guarantee fair and honest elections.
2. The current Elections Board Bylaws are perhaps some of the most incoherent and contradictory laws ever produced by the Undergraduate Student Government;
3. The current Elections Board Bylaws have historically been challenged during every USG Elections Process;
4. Clubs and Organizations are a necessary aspect of Student Life and provide community here at Stony Brook University;
5. Clubs and Organizations provide leadership opportunities for students and every student should be given a fair opportunity to partake in these experiences;
6. Current Election Law does not hold USG funded organizations accountable to the method in which they conduct their elections;
7. The USG has a responsibility to oversee the expenditure of the Student Activity Fee and this includes ensuring Clubs and Organizations adhere to the policies of the USG in addition to conducting fair elections.

SECTION 3. REPEAL

This Act shall repeal the “Elections Board Bylaws.”

SECTION 4. ESTABLISHMENT

1. The attached Document titled “Election Board Bylaws” shall become the Bylaws of the Elections Board.
2. The attached Document titled “Undergraduate Student Government Election Campaign Laws Act” shall be enacted into law and shall be known as the “Undergraduate Student Government Election Campaign Laws Act.”
3. The attached Document titled “Undergraduate Student Government Funded Organization Election Laws Act” shall be enacted into law and shall be known as the “Undergraduate Student Government Funded Organization Election Laws Act.”

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall take effect immediately following the enactment of this Act.

Alexander E. Dimitriyadi
Executive Vice President

Date

Matthew H. Graham
President

Date

ELECTIONS BOARD BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. NAME

The agency shall be known as the “USG Elections Board.”

ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION

SECTION 1. STRUCTURE

1. The Elections Board shall contain no fewer than five members and no more than fifteen members.
2. The members of the Elections Board shall, from their own membership, elect a Chair.

SECTION 2. QUALIFICATIONS.

Members of the Elections Board shall be undergraduate students and must maintain a 2.5 GPA for the entirety of their term.

SECTION 3. APPOINTMENT

Any member of the Executive Council or Senate may make a nomination to the Elections Board. Confirmation of the nomination shall be made by an affirmative majority vote of the filled seats of the Senate.

SECTION 4. TERM OF APPOINTMENT

Elections Board members remain in Office while they are an undergraduates of Stony Brook University or until they resign, are incapacitated, fail to maintain the minimum grade point average, run for Office, or graduate.

SECTION 5. IMPEACHMENT AND REMOVAL

1. An Elections Board member may be impeached from the Elections Board for Material Violations of these Bylaws, the Constitution or for voting with bias to a political candidate or party.
2. Impeachment charges may originate in the Senate or the Elections Board.
 1. If the charges originate in the Senate, a three-fourths filled seats vote of the Senate shall be required to impeach an Elections Board member.

2. If the charges originate in the Elections Board, a three-fourths majority of the filled seats of the Elections board shall be required to impeach an Elections Board member.
3. Upon the impeachment of the Elections Board member, the USG Supreme Court shall have the sole power to remove the member by a three-fourths majority vote of the Court.

SECTION 6. DUTIES

1. The Chair shall—
 1. Oversee and coordinate the functions of the Elections Board;
 2. Create all necessary forms and paperwork;
 3. Ensure that there is an established grievance process for any election;
 4. Serve as the primary point of contact for the Elections Board;
 5. Organize meetings of the Elections Board, as necessary;
 6. Verify Petitions for the USG Elections;
 7. Hire and serve as the direct supervisor for all Elections Inspectors; and
 8. Train all members and Elections Inspectors in the necessary skills required to oversee and conduct fair and honest elections.
2. A member shall—
 1. Be readily available to attend meetings of the Elections Board as necessary;
 2. Verify Petitions for the USG Elections;
 3. Serve as an Elections Inspector as necessary; and
 4. Complete any task as assigned by the Chair.
3. An Elections Inspector shall—
 1. Oversee the Elections for funded organizations on behalf of the USG;
 2. Ensure that funded organizations are following their Constitution, democratic principles, USG Law and Robert's Rules of Order as it relates to the elections process; and

3. Count the ballots for the election along with a member of the general body who was not running for a position.
4. The Elections Board shall certify the results of all elections of the USG where it has jurisdiction.
 1. Results of the election shall not become official until certified by the Elections Board.
 2. Certification shall require an affirmative majority vote of the Elections Board.
 3. Certification must happen within seventy-two hours of an election's completion.
 4. If the vote by the Elections Board to certify an election fails, in which Executive Council and Senate Positions are concerned, it may be appealed to the USG Supreme Court.
 5. If the vote by the Elections Board to certify an election fails, in which a USG funded club or organization is concerned, it may be appealed to the USG Judicial Council or the USG Supreme Court.

ARTICLE III. CANDIDATE RIGHTS

No candidate, referendum campaign, party coalition, club, organization, party coalition, or student shall be denied the right to freedom of speech, or of the press; or of the right to peaceably assemble campaign supporters and volunteers, and to petition the USG for a redress of grievances in accordance with established grievance policies.

ARTICLE IV. JURISDICTION

The Elections Board shall have jurisdiction over all elections of the USG that are open to the Undergraduate Student Body, including that of funded clubs and organizations.

ARTICLE V. AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by an affirmative majority vote of the filled seats of the Senate. Such amendments shall be appended to the end and not inserted therein.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN LAWS ACT

An Act to establish consistent, coherent and fair Election Laws for the Undergraduate Student Government

Be it enacted by the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Government,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

This Act may be cited as the “Undergraduate Student Government Election Campaign Laws Act.”

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

1. **ELECTIONEERING** — The term “Electioneering” refers to the advocacy in written, oral or other fashion for or against a candidate for Office or a Referendum item while an Election for that Office or that referendum item is in progress.
2. **CAMPAIGN** — The Term “Campaign” refers to an organization that promotes a particular candidate or party coalition for election.
3. **SIGNATORY** — The term “Signatory” refers to the individual who has signed the petition of a candidate.

SECTION 3. ELECTIONS SCHEDULE

1. The Elections Board shall approve an Elections Schedule, subject to the requirements in this Act, by an affirmative majority vote.
2. Following approval, the Elections Board shall open up the schedule for feedback for forty-eight hours from the Undergraduate Student Body. Any undergraduate student may submit feedback for consideration by the Elections Board. The Elections Board must consider all feedback, where a vote shall be taken on whether to make the proposed changes. All modifications to the elections schedule shall be subject to an affirmative majority vote of the Elections Board.
 1. If no feedback is submitted or if the elections schedule is not modified, the schedule shall become the official elections schedule.

2. If any modifications are made to the original elections schedule, the Elections Board shall open up the revised schedule for feedback for a period of twenty-four hours. The Elections Board must consider all feedback, where a two-thirds affirmative vote is required to make any changes to the elections schedule. Following consideration of all feedback, this schedule becomes the official elections schedule.

SECTION 4. INFORMATION SESSION

1. An optional information session shall be held during “Campus Lifetime” by the Elections Board to explain the USG Elections Process and answer questions for the potential candidates.
2. The Information Session shall be designated as the beginning of the Elections Process.

SECTION 5. INTENT OF CANDIDACY

1. The Intent of Candidacy deadline shall be 4:00pm on the first Friday following the Information Session.
 1. If classes shall not be held at 4:00pm on the first Friday, whether scheduled or not, the deadline shall be pushed to the end of the next full business day.
2. A potential candidate must declare the position for which they intend to run before the deadline, or they shall be ineligible to run. Candidates may not change positions after the deadline, leaving only the option to withdraw from the Election.
3. Along with their declaration of candidacy, the Candidate must also submit—
 1. Their legal name
 2. Their Stony Brook University ID Number to verify that they meet the eligibility requirements according to the USG Constitution prior to being placed on the ballot;
 3. Contact Information, which includes, but is not limited to their full name, email address and telephone number so that they may be contacted as necessary;
 4. A platform statement;
 5. A signed statement acknowledging that they read the USG Elections Board Bylaws and all pertinent legislation regarding elections; and

6. A signed statement acknowledging that upon winning election, they will uphold the USG Constitution and its laws, and if during the fall election a current USG member is elected to a new position, they automatically resign their previous position.

SECTION 6. PETITION PROCESS

1. Petitions

1. Petitions shall contain at minimum, the USG Seal, name of the candidate, and the position that the candidate is running for.
2. Petition sheets may only contain fields for the following information:
 1. Name
 2. NetID
 3. Telephone Number
 4. Signature
3. Attached to any petition packet must be a copy of the candidate's platform statement.

2. Signature Collection

1. The petitioning process shall be open for a period of ten class days, closing at 4:00pm on the final day.
2. Six hundred signatures shall be required for each of the following positions:
 1. President
 2. Executive Vice-President
 3. Treasurer
3. Four hundred signatures shall be required for each of the following positions:
 1. Vice-President of Academic Affairs
 2. Vice-President of Clubs and Organizations
 3. Vice-President of Communications and Public Relations
 4. Vice-President of Student Life, Programming and Activities
4. One hundred signatures shall be required for each of the following positions:
 1. Senator
 2. Senior Class Representative
 3. Junior Class Representative
 4. Sophomore Class Representative

5. Freshman Class Representative

5. A petition sheet may not be distributed in a class without permission from the instructor and without making an announcement in front of the class to explain its purpose.
3. Petitions shall be validated by:
 1. Calling five percent of the phone numbers of signatories for Senate candidates and 10% of signatories for Executive Council candidates, with a successful validation shall be defined as calling a petitioner and asking them—
 1. “What is your name?”; and
 2. “Are you an undergraduate student at Stony Brook University?”with the answer for Question 1 matching the name listed on the petition sheet and the answer for Question 2 must be yes.
 2. If a number is not answered, it shall be not considered a successful or failed validation.
 3. If a number is listed as not being in service, it shall be considered a failed validation.
 4. All fields must be filled out or the line shall not be counted towards the required amount of signatures.
4. The results of the petition validation must be communicated to a candidate within forty-eight hours after their submission.
5. The final roster of candidates must be submitted to all candidates and posted on the USG website immediately after all petitions have been verified.

SECTION 7. CAMPAIGN

1. Public Financing
 1. Eighty-five dollars shall be made available to any of the following candidates for use during the election:
 1. President
 2. Executive Vice-President
 3. Treasurer

2. Sixty-five dollars shall be made available to any of the following candidates for use during the election:
 1. Vice-President of Academic Affairs
 2. Vice-President of Clubs and Organizations
 3. Vice-President of Communications and Public Relations
 4. Vice-President of Student Life, Programming and Activities
3. Forty dollars shall be made available to any of the following candidates for use during the election:
 4. Senator
 5. Senior Class Representative
 6. Junior Class Representative
 7. Sophomore Class Representative
 8. Freshman Class Representative
2. Private Financing
 1. No candidate shall be denied the right to take independent donations or to make expenditures using their own funds.
3. Finance Reporting
 1. All candidates must submit an accurate statement on behalf of their campaign to the Elections Board detailing all expenditures and donations within ten business days following the end of the election.
 1. Expenditures shall include, but not be limited to, Poster Printing, Campaign Apparel, SINC Site Quota and Campaign Payroll.
 2. The candidate shall sign the statement, thereby guaranteeing its accuracy.
 2. All candidates must submit receipts to the Elections Board to account for their campaign donations and expenditures.
 3. Failure to comply with this subsection shall make any candidate ineligible, at the discretion of the Elections Board—
 1. For the Office in which they were elected;
 2. To run for any Office in the future; and
 3. Hold any position within the USG.
4. Campus Marketing

1. Candidates and party coalitions are subject to the University requirements for advertising.
 2. A copy of all official campaign material should be submitted the Elections Board within twenty-four hours of first being posted.
5. Marketing on Online Social Networking Websites
1. Online content must be open to the public and accessible by any member of the Elections Board or rival campaigns. Membership for the website may not be construed as being in violation of this clause.
 2. URLs for any online presence of a campaign must be submitted to the Elections Board within 10 hours of its creation.
6. Campaign Staff
1. All Campaign staff must be declared with the Elections Board.
 2. Campaign staff may be authorized to handle any aspect of the petitioning or campaign process on behalf of a candidate unless otherwise noted.
7. Restrictions
1. Electioneering is forbidden within a one hundred foot radius of any—
 1. SINC Site;
 2. CoLA;
 3. Campus Residences Computing Lab;
 4. Departmental Computing Lab; or
 5. Any computing lab with 4 or more University owned computers.
 2. Electioneering for any candidate or party coalition is forbidden in any venue in which the USG is the principal proprietor. Such venues shall include, but are not be limited to, the USG Office Suite and any room in which the USG, or its subordinate Departments, Offices and Agencies, is listed on the lease or reservation.
 3. Any Officer or employee of the USG may not receive compensation from the Student Activity Fee for any time spent electioneering for any candidate or party coalition.
 4. No campaign may tear down, obstruct or damage any campaign materials of another campaign.

5. Other than the Student Activity Fee funds acquired through Public Financing as delineated in Section 7.1 of this Act, the Student Activity Fee may not be used for a campaign of any candidate or party coalition.

SECTION 8. PARTY COALITIONS

1. All Party Coalitions shall be granted a Charter by the Elections Board, upon submission of Bylaws for such Party Coalition, which shall expire at the end of the semester in which the Charter was granted.
2. The Bylaws of a Party Coalition must, at minimum, designate a Chair who shall be the principal officer of the organization.
3. All candidates shall not be denied to right to join a party coalition. A written intent to join a party coalition must be submitted with the signature of the party coalition chair and candidate.
4. The deadline for joining a party coalition is forty-eight hours after the final roster is released following the petitioning process.
5. Party Coalitions may require in their Bylaws, a certain percentage of Public Financing funds from its members. The USG will authorize these funds directly to the party coalition subject to its Bylaws.
6. Party Coalitions are subject to the same requirements as candidates as delineated in Section 7.3 – 7.8 of this Act.

SECTION 9. POLLING

1. Only members of the Undergraduate Student Government may vote.
2. Polling shall be open for a period of four business days, starting at noon on a Monday and ending at four on the following Friday.
3. All electronic voting must be conducted with an organization not affiliated with the USG or any candidates. The results must be emailed to the USG Administrative Director and all members of the Elections Board when voting has finished.
4. The platform statement of the candidate shall be linked to the candidate's name on the electronic ballot. A candidate may, if they wish, indicate on their platform statement if they are an incumbent seeking re-election, along with any applicable information on the candidate's participation in a party ticket.

SECTION 10. RUNOFF

A runoff election, as required by the Constitution under certain circumstances, shall be conducted in the same manner as required by Section 9 of this Act.

SECTION 11. MARKETING

1. The Office of Communications shall be responsible for all marketing and promotion of the USG Elections.
2. The USG or its subordinate Offices, Departments, or Agencies may not endorse any particular candidate or party coalition.

SECTION 12. VIOLATIONS

1. Jurisdiction
 1. The Elections Board shall have jurisdiction to rule on all issues that involve Candidates, Campaigns or Party Coalitions in elections for the USG that pertain to said elections.
2. Authorized Power
 1. The Elections Board shall have the inalienable right to issue warnings and disqualify candidates. To discharge said powers, the Elections Board have a vote in which a simple majority of the members of the Elections Board vote in favor of using such power.
3. Warnings
 1. A warning issued by the Elections Board shall serve as notification that the Candidate, Party Coalition or Referendum Campaign that they are in violation of this Act, the USG Constitution or other established legislation. If they shall not correct their behavior within ten hours of notification or as otherwise set by the Elections Board they shall be eligible for disqualification.
 1. A Candidate should be contacted at the email address and telephone number provided when they declared their intent of candidacy. The Elections Board shall keep records of the contact. It shall be the responsibility of the Candidate to check the provided contact points for messages from the Elections Board.
4. Disqualification
 1. The Elections Board may disqualify a Candidate without warning if they deem a violation by a Candidate, Party Coalition or Referendum Campaign

of this Act, the USG Constitution or other established legislation as especially heinous, subject to a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Elections Board.

2. The Elections Board may disqualify a Candidate by an affirmative majority vote if they have deliberately ignored a warning issued by the Elections Board.

5. Appeal

1. If the Elections Board has disqualified a Candidate, they may appeal to the USG Judiciary. Rulings by the Judiciary are final.

SECTION 13. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall take effect immediately following the enactment of this Act.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS ELECTION LAWS ACT

An Act to establish consistent, coherent and fair Election Laws for the Undergraduate Student Government

Be it enacted by the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Government,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

This Act may be cited as the “Undergraduate Student Government Funded Organizations Election Laws Act.”

SECTION 2. MANDATORY ELECTIONS INSPECTOR OVERSIGHT

Any funded club or organization with a budget of or over ten thousand dollars shall require an USG Elections Board Elections Inspector to oversee their election.

SECTION 3. ELECTIONS NOTIFICATION

1. Any funded club or organization must notify the USG Elections Board at least one week prior to the General Body Meeting in which the Election will be held.
2. Organizations that require an Elections Inspector must coordinate the election with the Elections Board in order to ensure an Elections Inspector will be in attendance.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall take effect on the first of January two thousand and eleven.