The Election Statutes
of the
Student Government
of the
College of Liberal Arts
of
Drew University

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Election Statutes

ARTICLE I: NAME

A. This document shall be known and may be cited as the Drew University Student Government Election Statutes. This document may be herein referred to as the Election Statutes.

ARTICLE II: THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

A. All Student Government elections shall be conducted and overseen by the Elections Committee, herein established and referred to as the EC.

B. Membership

1. The EC shall be composed of the Senior Class Senators and a Senate approved Elections Chair.
2. The Attorney General and Student Government Advisor shall serve in an advisory capacity and shall have no vote.
3. No candidate seeking office or anyone who publicly supports a candidate seeking office may sit on the EC.
4. Barring a conflict of interest, all Student Government Senators and members of the EC are required to sit at the polls during an election.

C. Responsibilities

1. The Constitution of the Student Government grants the EC the ability to conduct elections. All candidates seeking election to the Student Government must observe the Student Government Constitution and the SG Election Statutes.
2. Make Election Statutes available to every member of the Drew University community via the Student Government Website.
3. Attach a copy of the Election Statutes to all nominating petitions.
4. Send proposed Student Government constitutional amendments over email to all students at least one (1) week prior to the referendum and post the proposed changes on the Student Government website.
5. Oversee the conduct of campaigns by responding to complaints (submitted on the approved complaint form) made by any member of the Drew community, including sending an announcement to the student body explaining how to submit a complaint, including the time frame and procedure for dealing with one.
6. Act in an advisory capacity regarding these Election Statutes by responding to any questions submitted in writing or orally and keeping a record of all interactions. Prior to an election, the EC may charge the Elections Chair and the Attorney General with the authority to respond to minor violations without convening the full EC. The Chair and AG must notify the EC of the complaint and the outcome.
7. The Attorney General and Student Government Advisor play a role in overseeing the
ARTICLE III: ELECTIONS

A. The EC shall hold three regular elections during the academic year: a Senatorial Election in the spring to elect Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Class senators, a Senatorial Election in the fall to elect First year senators, and a General Election in the late fall to elect the Student Government President, Vice President, and Chairs of SOAB and B&A.

1. All upper class Senators shall be elected by the end of the academic year to hold office in the upcoming academic year. An election will be held within the first four weeks of the academic year to determine freshman senators.

2. The General Election will be held one week before the last day of classes during the fall semester.

B. Upon certification of a question by the Attorney General, by petition or at the direction of the Senate, the EC shall conduct all referendum, and special elections. This rule applies to the Student Government and all clubs and organizations that request the EC’s services.

1. If at any time during the year the Attorney General certifies that a referendum or special election is necessary, the EC shall hold such election within the next three weeks. If the General Election for the Student Government is scheduled to be held within the next six (6) weeks, that election shall be used. This rule applies to the Student Government and all clubs and organizations that request the EC’s services.

ARTICLE IV: NOMINATIONS, PETITIONS, AND CANDIDACY REQUIREMENTS

A. Nominations for all offices must be made by petition.

B. All nominating petitions must be submitted to the Elections Chair at least eight (8) days before the election.

C. All candidates' names (first and last) shall appear on the ballot as they appear on the valid nominating petitions.

D. Only candidates are allowed to hold the petition in their possession and collect signatures for their petitions. Candidates for the offices of President and Vice President shall file a nominating petition as a ticket. No candidate or write-in candidate may have more than one running mate.

E. Candidates who are involved in an approved Drew off-campus educational program may identify one proxy to collect signatures for them. Both the candidate and the proxy must sign the petition before signatures are collected and both parties must abide by the statutes.

F. Candidates must sign the petition before collecting any signatures. Once a candidate’s signature has been placed on a petition, the candidate is considered a public candidate and is therefore responsible for abiding by these Election Statutes and any other rules regarding elections established by the EC or the Student Government. Any student who declares their candidacy in public, either verbally or in writing, are also considered to be a public candidate.

G. Each petition must be signed by 10% of the office’s constituency. The exact number of signatures needed will be determined by the EC and will be printed on the nominating petitions.

H. Upon submission of petitions to the EC, all petitions will be sent by the Elections Chair to the Dean of Students to ensure that each candidate is in good standing. Good standing is defined as maintaining a 2.3 cumulative GPA and not being on probation for student conduct, or any other, reasons.

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I. In the event that the number of candidates for the individual offices of President, SOAB Chair, or B&A Chair exceeds three (3), a primary election shall be held at least two (2) academic days prior to the general election. The three nominees receiving the highest vote totals per seat shall be candidates in the general election. In the event that one of the top three (3) candidates receiving votes during the primary is a write-in candidate, his/her name shall be placed on the ballot for the general election and he/she will become a candidate. When a primary election is held, there shall be no write in candidates during the general election.

J. If a candidate or ticket drops out, for whatever reason, after the primary but before the final election, the ticket or candidate who received the next highest number of votes in the primary will be placed on the ballot.

K. No student may run for, or hold an office elected solely within a class if he or she is not a member of the respective constituency. A student’s class is determined by their expected year of graduation.

L. Candidates’ Meeting
   1. The EC Chair shall conduct a meeting for all candidates at least seven (7) days prior to the election. In the event that an election must be redone, for any reason, a second candidates’ meeting is not necessary unless determined so by the EC Chair.
   2. All candidates are required to attend this meeting. In the event that a candidate cannot attend, that candidate must notify the EC Chair of absence at least 48 hours prior to meeting. If candidates are not able to meet during an acceptable time frame, all campaigning must be withheld until all candidates have been made aware of statutes.
   3. Candidates’ positions on the ballot shall be determined by lottery at this meeting. In the event that an election must be redone, for any reason, the ballot position will be the same.
   4. Write-in candidates who are actively campaigning for office are considered public candidates pursuant to Article IV, Section F of these Statutes and are advised to meet with the EC Chair or another member of the EC to review these Election Statutes. Active campaigning, whether conducted by a write-in candidate or a petition-nominated candidate, must be conducted in accordance with these Election Statutes.

M. Any student actively campaigning for another student will be held responsible for the Election Statutes. The EC provides the Statutes to every member of the Drew Community and can therefore hold them accountable to the Statutes. Should a violation of the Statutes be committed by a student actively campaigning for a candidate, that candidate can be held responsible for the student’s actions.

ARTICLE V: CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS

A. Any issue found to have a significant impact on the electoral process that is not covered by these Election Statutes shall be considered by the EC and is subject to any EC ruling regarding legality and penalty. Upon Senate approval, such issues shall subsequently be addressed through amendments to these Election Statutes.

B. Questions regarding rules shall be handled in this way:
   1. If any candidate is unsure as to whether a particular action is covered by the Election Statutes or if the Election Statutes do not directly address a particular action or issue, the candidate may submit a formal question in writing to the EC for a ruling. Such formal questions will be ruled on and all candidates must be notified of said ruling within 24 hours of submission.
   2. Because a candidate is subject to all EC rules once they start collecting signatures, it is
advised that any questionable actions be halted and asked about. If a candidate is unsure if an action is legal but continues to do said action before hearing back from the EC, they can still be held accountable for the action if it is found to be unfair or in violation of the Statutes.

C. Traditional forms of campaign material (signs, posters, flyers) and modern forms of campaign materials (electronic postings) are both legal.
   1. All forms of campaigning may not begin until the Candidate's Meeting is held.
   2. Traditional forms of campaigning material can be used in an unlimited manner in the residence halls, in accordance with the University’s posting policy. However, traditional forms of campaigning in public areas are restricted by Article V, Section D.
   3. In regards to electronic campaign materials, any public electronic space that is actively accessed by others (AIM Profile, personal webpage, Facebook Profile, etc.) are considered to be acceptable areas for campaign information.
   4. Classwide emails and Google Calendar invite are not acceptable forms of campaigning and will result in a warning.

D. A single, minor violation of the following statutes, based on a preponderance of evidence, will result in a warning issued by the EC against the accused candidate. At the discretion of the EC, a minor, fitting punishment may be imposed upon the candidate responsible. After the warning is issued, any further violations will result in ineligibility to hold office.
   1. Posters and/or other forms of publicity may be placed on trees: however, they may not be stapled or nailed.
   2. No posters, flyers, and/or other forms of publicity (including, but not limited to, t-shirts, hats, or other portable signs/posters/flyers/clothing) may be placed in or on the Ehinger Center.
   3. Each candidate/ticket is allowed to place posters in the appropriate poster policing areas, as per Daniels Dictionary.
   4. No candidate, write-in candidate, or person who publicly supports a candidate may distribute or make use of any literature, poster, or other publicity printed off-campus for the expressed use of campaigning.
   5. No posters, flyers, or other campaign materials posted by a candidate can cover or intentionally interfere with the visibility of another candidate’s posters, flyers or other campaign material.

E. Any violation of the following statutes will result in automatic ineligibility to hold office. The violation will be determined at the discretion of the EC and must be proved with clear and convincing evidence.
   1. For any candidate, write-in candidate, or person who publicly supports a candidate to deface campaign material.
   2. For any candidate, write-in candidate or person who publicly supports a candidate to use any campus figure, organization, or any other campus-oriented material for campaign purposes without the express written permission of said figure, organization, etc.
   3. For any candidate, write-in candidate or person who publicly supports a candidate to deliberately and publicly misrepresent the record or the conduct of any candidate or any person immediately connected with the particular campaign in question.
   4. For any candidate, write-in candidate or person who publicly supports a candidate shall loiter and/or persistently attempt to influence voters at any voting stations, including hand held electronic devices. In this particular case, rather than ineligibility to hold office,

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the election will be invalidated and a reelection will be held.

5. For any candidate or write-in candidate to use Student Government or University funds, or purchase materials with those funds, which are not made available to all candidates and write-in candidates, for actual campaign expenses.

6. Candidate or write-in candidate are not permitted to collect contributions (i.e. monetary or material gifts).

7. For any candidate or write-in candidate to violate the financial limitations detailed in Article VI.

8. Voting by proxy is prohibited. If violated, rather than ineligibility to hold office, the election will be invalidated and a re-election will be held.

9. No candidate or person who has publicly committed his/her support to any given candidate may be involved in the election or assist in the ballot administration (including, but not limited to, the assigning of ballot placement, ballot building, ballot distribution, ballot counting, etc), including the use of electronic devices, or tabulation.

F. Physical polling stations shall be open from 8:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m. outside the Ehinger Center Patio and from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and 4:30 -7:00 p.m. in the Commons Concourse.

1. Electronic and mobile devices (i.e. iPads, iPhones, tablets, laptops, etc.) are considered physical polling stations.

2. Soliciting votes at any polling station will result in ineligibility to hold office.

G. In an electronic voting system, students may be asked to provide a Drew username and password. This process will be administered in place of showing a valid DrewCard.

H. The EC shall keep a complete list of all members of the electorate who are eligible to cast their ballots. The EC shall acquire this list no later than 24 hours prior to the opening of the polls on Election Day. In the case that a member of the electorate is a member of one class socially, but another academically, the EC shall determine that students year by their expected date of graduation, as per the registrar’s list provided to the EC. If that date is undecided, the student will be given the choice, but must submit their request in writing to the EC before Election Day.

I. The official medium used by which a vote is recorded shall be made available to all members of the electorate. Each ballot should clearly indicate the races in which each individual member of the electorate may vote.

J. The voting stations shall have only student government officials overseeing the physical polling stations. Members of SG can be barred from manning the polling stations by the EC Chair, if he/she deems there is a conflict of interest.

K. Election results shall be made public by posting them in the Commons or the Ehinger Center immediately upon the completion of the counting of ballots to the satisfaction of the Elections Chair and certification by the Attorney General. The Attorney General’s certification of the election indicates that the election has been conducted in accordance with the Election Statutes and the Constitution of the Student Government, and the results may be considered final and binding. The posted results may not be removed for 48 hours. The EC shall also send the election results via email to the entire Drew student body no later than 24 hours after the counting of the ballots to the satisfaction of the Chairperson and certification by the Attorney General. If the election results cannot be certified, the election is thereby invalidated. The EC shall inform the student body that the election of the invalidation and schedule a re-election to take place within 48 hours of coming to that decision.

L. The posters and publicity materials of all candidates and write-in candidates must be removed

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within 24 hours after the posting of the results. This is a common courtesy. In the case of a re-election or runoff election, failure to remove posters may jeopardize the candidate's position on the ballot. Further, failure to remove posters will jeopardize a winning candidate(s) timely swearing-in to office. However, this offense does not warrant disqualification.

M. All records of voting and financial statements must be kept by the EC and available to any student upon request.

ARTICLE VI: FINANCIAL LIMITATIONS

A. Candidates or write-in candidates for:
   a. Class senators may not spend more than $80.00 for actual campaign expenses.
   b. SOAB Chair and B&A Chair candidates may not spend more than $130.00 for actual campaign expenses.
   c. Presidential Tickets can spend up to $260.00 as a ticket for actual campaign expenses.

B. In the event of a primary, re-election, or runoff election, each candidate may spend an additional $25.00 for actual campaign expenses. Presidential tickets may spend an additional $70.00 in expenses. Candidates SOAB Chair and B&A Chair may spend an additional $50.00 in expenses.

C. Every candidate or write-in candidate who wins an election must submit a signed statement containing a complete list of all actual expenditures and contributions to the EC Chair. This must be done within 24 hours of the closing of the election polls. The EC reserves the right to request receipts to verify stated expenditures.

ARTICLE VII: COMPLAINTS AND CERTIFICATION OF RESULTS

A. No election results shall be declared final until all official ballots are received and counted.

B. In accordance with the Student Government Constitution, no election results shall be declared official until certified as such by the Attorney General and the Elections Chair.

C. All requests for action and interpretation of these Statutes shall first be referred to the Elections Chair or Attorney General. Referring to a Dean or member of the Student Government other than the Elections Chair or Attorney General first will be not be applicable as a reason for not following or interpreting a statute. Should this happen, the complaint will not be reviewed.

D. Election appeals and complaints shall be handled in the following fashion:
   a. Any member of the electorate may submit a formal complaint via the official complaint form if he or she believes a violation of the Election Statutes has occurred.
   b. A formal written complaint/charge must be submitted to the EC within 48 hours of the results being posted of the alleged violation occurrence. No complaints will be reviewed after this time frame, nor accepted/reviewed 48 hours after the certified results are posted. All complaints must be filled out on the approved complaint form which can be found on Student Governments website.
   c. The EC will meet within 24 hours of the complaint and vote by majority on how to handle the complaint. The chair will have a vote if there is a tie.
   d. The EC is considered the final authority in elections complaints and no other body or individual may make a ruling that contradicts or overrides a decision of the EC regarding an election complaint. The only exception to this is the Attorney General, who may overturn such a decision in the case of a procedural error on the part of the EC, pursuant to Article V, Section D2 of the Constitution.

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