STUDENT GOVERNMENT

BY-LAWS

SECTION 405 NO. 02

Last Amended April 21, 2014

SUBJECT: Special Elections

BY-LAW BODY

1. Election Qualifications
   1. Qualifications of Candidates
      a. A student that is eligible to run for a Student Government Office shall be a Student in Good Standing, as defined below.
      b. A student must provide proof of enrollment in their elected constituency when they file for candidacy.
   2. Student in Good Standing
      a. Student in Good Standing shall be defined as a fee-paying person who is enrolled in at least six (6) semester hours, not on disciplinary or academic probation, and maintains a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.
      b. All Senators and Student Government Executives are required to maintain the Student in Good Standing status.
         1. Failure to maintain Student in Good Standing status shall result in dismissal from Student Government.
         2. The Student in Good Standing status shall be verified at the start of each semester.
         3. Senators who do not meet the requirements of the Student in Good Standing shall receive written notification from the President of the Senate prior to the first Senate meeting of the semester.
   3. An individual is not officially considered a candidate for office until the Student Government administrative assistant has verified the candidate’s eligibility.
      a. Within three days of receipt of a Statement of Candidacy the Student Government administrative assistant shall determine the eligibility of the candidate and will notify any candidate not meeting election qualifications.
   4. No candidates will be allowed to file after the filing deadline.
II. Process

1. Determining Vacancies
   1. Vacancies in the Student Senate shall be determined by the first Senate meeting of each semester. The Student Body shall be notified of all open Senate seats immediately following the first Senate meeting of each semester.

2. Filing for Special Elections
   1. To be considered for an open Senate position, the candidate must submit and sign a statement of candidacy. The deadline for submission of statement of candidacy shall be the Friday following the second Monday of classes.

III. Interview

1. The Special Elections Committee shall arrange for each candidate to be interviewed by the committee.
   a. Each college and school shall elect one Senator to serve on the Special Elections Committee. The President of the Senate shall be the chair of this committee and will retain his/her vote. The Student Government Advisor shall sit on the committee but be granted no vote.
   b. In the case that no member from a college or school is available for the committee, the members of that college or school shall appoint another voting member of Senate to the committee. If a college or school has no seats filled, the chair of the committee shall appoint another voting member of Senate to the committee.

2. The Special Elections Committee shall prepare a standardized set of questions to be asked of each candidate.
   a. These questions shall be approved unanimously by the committee.

3. Upon completion of each candidate interview, candidates will be scored by the voting members of the committee. Discussion may occur prior to voting. Each voting member of the committee shall score the candidates on a scale of zero to fifty. Scoring shall be collected by the Chairperson and averaged.

4. Upon completion of the interview of all candidates for each college or school, the scores of all the candidates shall be ranked, and the top scores shall be the committee’s recommendation to fill the vacant seats. The committee shall only recommend as many candidates as there are vacant positions.
   a. If the average score between a candidate receiving a position and a candidate not receiving a position is within 5 points of one another, all candidates within that range will be given the opportunity to speak in front of Senate where an election will occur in accordance with the Student Government Standing Rules of Order.
   b. If there are fewer candidates than there are vacant positions, a vote will be taken determining whether or not to recommend the candidate for a senator position. It shall take 2/3 of the voting committee members present in order to recommend a candidate for a Senate position.

III. Confirmation
1. Upon recommendation of the Special Elections Committee, all recommended candidates shall appear before the Student Senate for confirmation.
   a. Upon a majority of votes by the Student Senate, the recommended candidates shall be appointed. All Senators selected through the Special Elections process shall serve until the first day of May following their appointment.
2. Upon rejection of the committee’s recommendation by the Student Senate, a new Special Elections Committee shall be formed.
   a. The Student Government President shall appoint a new Chairperson from current Senate membership and five Student Senators.
   b. No member who previously served on the Selection Committee shall be considered for the new Selection Committee.
3. The new Selection Committee shall conduct new interviews in accordance with Student Government by-laws.

IV. Results
1. The Special Elections Committee shall submit their results no later than the third Student Senate meeting of the semester.
2. Upon rejection by the Student Senate of the committee’s recommendations, a new deadline will be selected by the Student Government Vice-President and the new Selection Committee Chairperson.

V. Selection Contest
1. Not later than five days after announcement of the results by the Special Elections Committee, any candidate or student may challenge the results of the Selection Committee by petitioning the All-University Judicial Board.
2. The All-University Judicial Board shall hold an open hearing to evaluate any and all selection changes.
   a. At the hearing all parties challenging the selection results will be given an opportunity to present evidence/witnesses to support their position.
   b. The Special Elections Committee must be present to provide information pertaining to the selection process.
3. The All-University Judicial Board shall have the authority to order all materials and records relating to the contested selection process brought before it. In addition, the All-University Judicial Board shall have the authority to call witnesses to testify on the integrity of the selection process.
4. The All-University Judicial Board shall have the sole authority to determine the legality of the selection process. If the court finds sufficient cause to cast doubt on the selection process, the All-University Judicial Board shall call for a new Selection Committee to be formed and new interviews to be conducted.
5. The All-University Judicial Board shall be the final authority in all Special Elections Senator selection process matters and shall have the authority to determine the methods of its proceedings.

VI. Vacancies
1. Any unfilled position that is vacated by resignation or removal shall not be filled until the next Special Election.