CHAPTER SIX

The ELECTIONS ACT

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ARTICLE I. ELECTIONS PROCEDURE

SECTION 1. Definitions

§6-1.1. Definitions. Within this Act, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) "General Election" refers to the initial election of candidates to Student Body Office within the Student Government Association.

(b) "Election Cycle" refers to the period of time from the opening of nominations to the certification of results of a conclusive General or Run-Off Election.

(c) "Class Day" refers to any weekday on which the University holds classes, during regular business hours.

(d) "Nominations Open" and "Nominations Close" refers to the beginning and end of the candidacy filing period, respectively.

(e) "Special Elections" shall be defined as any question or contest brought before the Student Body, outside of Fall or Spring General Elections.

(f) "Board of Elections" or "Board" refers to the entire entity responsible for the execution of Student Body Elections.

(g) The term "Candidate" refers to any registered student who has filed documents for election to Student Body Office or who has otherwise agreed to appear on the ballot. Unqualified candidates shall be considered candidates until such time as the Board of Elections has verified their ineligibility.

(h) "Filing for Office" shall be defined as a candidate submitting a Nomination form to the Board of Elections.

(i) "Candidates Meeting" refers to the meeting of all candidates for Student Body Office.

(j) "Simple Majority" is defined as 50 percent of the vote in any General, Run-Off, or Special Election, plus one additional vote.

(k) "Supporters" and "Staff" refer to any students who work to assist a candidate in the activities of campaigning.

(l) "Ticket" or "Campaign" refers to the candidates for President and Vice President of the Student Body, who are elected on a dual-ticket, pursuant to Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution of the Student Body, and their campaign organizations.

(m) "Campaigning" shall be defined as personal or non-personal efforts by or on behalf of a candidate for the purpose of soliciting votes for a candidate or campaign during a given election cycle.

(n) "Official Polling Station" and "Official Polling Area" shall be defined as any University-owned computer, or any University-operated computer lab. Personal laptops or electronic devices shall not be considered designated polling stations or areas.

(o) "Violation" refers to a violation by a candidate or campaign of the guidelines for campaigning set forth in this Act.

(p) "Declaration of Candidacy" refers to a candidate filing a Nomination form with the Board of Elections.

(q) "Posted Materials" shall be defined as any materials posted on bulletin boards by candidates, campaigns, staff or supporters, which shall comply with any and all posting regulations in effect for that particular board.

SECTION 2. Occurrence and Timelines of Elections

§6-1.2. Fall General Election. There shall be an election to be held each Fall Semester, to be known as the Fall General Election. During this Election, the Student Body shall vote for:

(a) At-Large Student Senators;
(b) Freshman At-Large Student Senators; and,
(c) Freshman Class President.

§6-1.3. Fall General Election Timeline.

(a) Nominations Open: At least 10 class days prior to the Candidates Meeting.
(b) Nominations Close: One class day prior to the Candidates Meeting.
(c) Candidates Meeting: Tuesday following Labor Day.
General Elections: Two weeks following the Candidates Meeting, for a period of time no less than two class days and no more than four class days.

Run-Off Elections: One week following the first day of Fall General Elections, for a period of time not to exceed 72 hours.

All calendar dates are to be followed as outlined in this act unless the Academic calendar for that given year prevents it, in which case the closest possible election calendar shall be followed, as determined by the Board.

§6-1.4. Spring General Election.
There shall be an election to be held each Spring Semester, to be known as the Spring General Election. During this Election, the Student Body shall vote for:

(a) President and Vice President of the Student Body; and
(b) Student Senators as outlined in the most recent Apportionment Act, except those Student Senators elected in the Fall as outlined in SGS §6-1.2(b).
(c) Senior Class President; and,
(d) Junior Class President; and,
(e) Sophomore Class President.

§6-1.5. Spring General Election Timeline.
(a) Nominations Open: At least 10 days prior to the Candidates Meeting.
(b) Nominations Close: One class day prior to the Candidates Meeting.
(c) Candidates Meeting: Tuesday prior to Spring Break.
(d) General Elections: Four weeks following the Candidates Meeting, for a period of time not less than two class days and no more than four class days.
(e) Run-Off Elections: One week following the first day of Spring General Elections, for a period of time not to exceed 72 hours.

§6-1.6. Special Elections.
Special Elections shall be ordered only by Student Senate Resolution. When ordering a Special Election, the Student Senate shall have the authority to determine the following:

(a) the date polls open;
(b) the questions to be placed on the ballot, consistent with the Qualifications for Candidacy as outlined in Article I, Section 3 of this Act;
(c) if needed for the contests on the ballot, the time and length of a filing period, not exceeding one week; and,
(d) if needed for the contests on the ballot, the time and location of a Candidates Meeting.

§6-1.7. Special Elections Timeline.
(a) General Elections: For a period of time not exceeding 72 hours day
(b) Run-Off Elections: For a period of time not exceeding 72 hours, one week following General Elections

SECTION 3. Qualifications for Candidacy

§6-1.8. Basic Qualifications for Office.
All candidates for any Student Body Office, in addition to meeting all General Qualifications for Student Government Officials outlined in SGS §1-1.3, must be enrolled in at least 12 undergraduate credit hours or six graduate credit hours, unless the candidate is in his or her final semester at the University and has met all requirements to graduate.

§6-1.9. Qualifications of Candidates for Student Body President.
Candidates for President of the Student Body must:

(a) have a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.75; and,
(b) have successfully completed or will successfully complete one year of full-time enrollment at the University by the conclusion of the semester in which elected; and,

(a) have served nine months by the start of a spring general election in SGA; which encompasses the legislative branch, executive branch, judicial branch, or class council.
§6-1.10. Qualifications of Candidates for Student Body Vice President.
Candidates for Vice President of the Student Body must:
(b) have a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.75; and,
(c) have successfully completed or will successfully complete at least one semester of full-time enrollment at the University.
(d) have served nine months by the start of a spring general election in SGA; which encompasses the legislative branch, executive branch, judicial branch, or class council.

§6-1.11. Qualifications of Candidates for Student Senate, At-Large.
Candidates for Student Senate, At-Large, must have successfully completed or will successfully complete one semester of full-time enrollment at the University by the conclusion of the semester in which elected.

§6-1.12. Qualifications of Candidates for Student Senate, Freshman At-Large.
Candidates for Student Senate, Freshman At-Large, must be enrolled in his or her first semester at the University.

§6-1.13. Qualifications of Candidates for Student Senate.
Candidates for Student Senate, as outlined in SGS §6-1.4(b), must be a enrolled within his or her respective College, in accordance with the most recent version of the Apportionment Act and verified by current information about academic major in Banner.

Candidates for Representative of the Resident Student Association must be:
(a) a member of the Resident Student Association; and,
(b) fulfill all qualifications for election as outlined in the Constitution of the Resident Student Association.

§6-1.15. Qualifications of Candidates for Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior Class President.
Candidates for Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior Class President must meet the Student Classification requirements for their respective classes, as defined by the Office of Academic Affairs. No Freshman shall be able to run for Senate-At-Large, only those who are second year or higher.

SECTION 4. Filing for Office

§6-1.16. Candidate Responsibilities.
A student desiring to become a candidate for Student Body Office, in addition to meeting the Qualifications for Candidacy as outlined in Article I, Section 3 of this Act, shall be responsible for complying with the following requirements:
(a) must file his or her nomination for Student Body Office with the Board of Elections in accordance with the General Election timelines set forth in Article I, Section 2 of this Act;
(b) must verify that his or her own candidacy filing is carried out completely and correctly;
(c) must attend the Candidates Meeting; and,
(d) must comply with any and all regulations contained within this Act.

§6-1.17. Board of Elections Responsibilities.
During any given election cycle, the Board of Elections shall be responsible for:
(a) publishing the names and offices from all verified Nomination forms, per SGS §6-1.20;
(b) notifying candidates of Nomination form receipt via the email address supplied on the form;
(c) working in co-ordination with the Dean of Students Office, invalidating the Nomination form of any candidate who supplies fictitious, misleading or incomplete information, or of any candidate who does not meet the
Qualifications for Candidacy as outlined in Article I, Section 3 of this Act;

(d) distributing a digital copy of this Act to each candidate within 24 hours after he or she files his or her nomination;

(e) notifying all candidates who submitted a Nomination form of the draft final ballot; and,

(f) correcting any errors in the draft final ballot within 12 hours of being notified that corrections are needed.

§6-1.18. Nomination Form.

There shall be a Nomination form made available by the Board of Elections to contain:

(a) a candidate's Student Identification Number and pertinent domicile information;

(b) the Office for which the candidate is being nominated;

(c) a Statement of Intent to be written by the candidate; and,

(d) other such information as the Board deems relevant and necessary.

§6-1.19. Reopening Nominations.

(a) If at the end of the Nomination period the number of qualified candidate's does not meet or exceed the number of contests, Nominations for that contest shall be reopened for an additional 48 hours during the regular school week.

(b) In the event one or more candidates for Student Body Office are disqualified as a result of noncompliance with regulations set forth by this Act and Nominations are closed, members of the Student Body shall be eligible for a period not to exceed 24 hours beginning the subsequent class day to file for the Office in which the disqualification(s) occurred.

§6-1.20. Announcement of Filings.

The Board of Elections shall publish the candidate names and Offices from each Nomination form within 24 hours of the close of Nominations, by which time the qualifications of all candidates must have been verified in conjunction with the Dean of Students Office. Pursuant to SGS §6-1.16, candidates shall be responsible for formally petitioning the Board for correction should any errors be found in the candidate's name or the office being sought. No additional candidates shall be announced after the Candidates Meeting, except in cases in which SGS §6-1.19 is applicable.

§6-1.21. Multiple Filings.

(a) Members of the Student Body shall be prohibited from seeking multiple Student Body Offices within the same election cycle, unless currently holding one of the Offices;

(b) Should an incumbent Officer win election to multiple offices, they shall occupy the higher office and vacate the lower;

(c) Upon the event of the vacancy of the lower office, the next highest vote-getting candidate shall be elected to the office; and,

(d) No incumbent candidate may seek election to more than one additional seat other than the one they currently occupy.

§6-1.22. Withdrawal from Candidacy.

Any candidate may file a written petition with the Board of Elections to withdraw their candidacy for Student Body Office. Such a petition must be filed with the Board by Noon on the Wednesday prior to the General Election. All such petitions shall be granted unless the Board finds that granting it would substantially impair a fair election.

SECTION 5. Balloting and Polling

§6-1.23. Final Ballot.

The Board of Elections shall publish a final ballot by Noon the Friday prior to General Elections, which shall contain the exact form of all questions and contests before the electorate, and all candidates for election to Student Body office. This ballot shall not be altered prior to or during General Elections. The Board shall prepare a draft of the final ballot, to be made available to the following individuals at least 24 hours prior to the publication of the final ballot:

(a) all candidates for Student Body Office;

(b) the President of the Student Body; and,

(c) the Chairman of the Publicity and Outreach Committee of the Student Senate.

Any corrections to the draft of the final ballot must be made prior to the publication of the final ballot.
§6-1.24. **Ballot Candidacy Format.**
The ballot shall contain each candidate's name and the Office they are seeking election to.
(a) Candidates' names shall appear on the ballot as they are registered with the University in alphabetical order by last name.
(b) Presidential tickets shall be listed on the ballot in alphabetical order by the presidential candidate's last name.
(c) Preferred names may appear on the ballot in conjunction with the candidate's registered name (i.e., John "Johnny" Doe), at the request of the candidate. Such a request must be made at the Candidates Meeting.

§6-1.25. **Ballot Specificity.**
All ballots shall be specific to a voter's College and classification.

§6-1.26. **Electronic Polling.**
Polling in General Elections shall be electronic, made available on the Student Government Association's website and shall open at 8:00 AM on the first day of General Elections, and shall close at 5:00 PM on the final day of General Elections. During Run-Off Elections, the voting webpage shall open at 8:00 AM, and shall close at 5:00 PM on the day elections are closed.

§6-1.27. **General Enfranchisement and Voter Eligibility.**
(a) All students enrolled at the University, as verified by the Office of the Registrar, shall be eligible to vote.
(b) In general, a voter shall be eligible to vote in races in which he or she has the correct standing and enrollment to run. For College-specific races, the voter shall be allowed to vote in the College of their current primary enrollment. For Class-specific races, the voter shall be allowed to vote only as he or she is classified by the Office of Academic Affairs.

SECTION 6. Determination of Winners

§6-1.28. **Single-Seat Winners.**
For any race in which only one position is available, the winner shall be the candidate who receives a simple majority of the votes cast. In the event that no candidate receives a simple majority of the vote, a run-off election shall be conducted. The top two candidates will be in the run-off. If there is a tie for the second seat, all three candidates will be in the run-off.

§6-1.29. **Multiple-Seat Winners.**
For any race in which more than one seat is available, the top vote-getting candidates shall be elected until all the available seats are filled. There will be a run-off only if there is a tie for the last seat. This section shall be applied to Student Senate seats, regardless of the number of seats available.

§6-1.30. **Run-Off Election.**
In the event that a Run-Off election is necessary, it shall be conducted under the same regulations as the preceding General Election.

§6-1.31. **Ballot Counting.**
Official ballot counting shall be completed electronically and shall be overseen by the Chairman of the Board of Elections, the Business and Technology Applications Analyst for Student Union, Activities, and Recreation, and the Dean of Students Office.

§6-1.32. **Election Results.**
All newly-elected Officers shall be notified of their election by the Chairman of Board of Elections at a time of his or her designation, not exceeding 48 hours following General or Run-Off Elections. A list shall be created following the end of the electronic vote tabulation, and shall contain the names of each candidate, their respective contest, and the number of votes each candidate received. This list shall be made available to each candidate at the announcement of election results and placed on the SGA elections website and posted in the Student Union.

§6-1.33. **Termination of Elections.**
At the end of three consecutive class days following the announcement of election results, elections shall be considered final and uncontestable.
CHAPTER SIX. THE ELECTIONS ACT

ARTICLE II. BOARD OF ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. Board of Elections

§6-2.1. Establishment.
There shall be a Board of Elections, which shall govern all aspects of Student Body Elections, and shall be responsible for execution of said elections.

§6-2.2. Composition.
The Board of Elections shall be comprised of a Chairman and eight Members. All Members of the Board shall be nominated by the President of the Student Body, pursuant to Article II, Section 313 of the Constitution of the Student Body, and confirmed by the Student Senate, pursuant to Article III, Section 315 of the Constitution of the Student Body.

§6-2.3. Qualifications.
(a) All members of the Board of Elections, including the Chairman, shall meet all General Qualifications for Student Government Officials, as outlined in SGS §1-1.3.
(b) No member of the Board of Elections, including the Chairman, may be a candidate for Student Body Office in the Student Government Association. Should a sitting member of the Board of Elections desire to become a candidate for Student Body Office in the Student Government Association, he or she must resign his or her position prior to the Candidates Meeting.
(c) The Chairman of the Board of Elections shall be the Executive Secretary for Internal Affairs.
(d) Two Members shall be members of the Executive Branch of the Student Government Association, excluding the President and the Vice President of the Student Body.
(e) Two Members shall be members of the Student Senate.
(f) Two Members shall be members of the Judicial Branch of the Student Government Association, excluding the Chief Justice and the Student Attorney General.
(g) Two Members shall be considered At-Large Members, and shall not be a member of any Branch of the Student Government Association.

§6-2.4. Classes.
There shall be two Classes of membership in the Board of Elections, Class I and Class II. Each Class shall contain one Member from the Executive Branch (SGS §6-2.3(d)), one Member from the Student Senate (SGS §6-2.3(e)), one Member from the Judicial Branch (SGS §6-2.3(f)), and one At-Large Member (SGS §6-2.3(g)).
(a) Class I Members shall be nominated and confirmed no later than two weeks prior to the opening of Nominations for Fall General Elections, for a term of one year.
(b) Class II Members shall be nominated and confirmed no later than two weeks prior to the opening of Nominations for Spring General Elections, for a term of one year.
(c) The Chairman of the Board shall not be a member of either Class. The Chairman shall assume the duties prescribed to him by this Act upon confirmation as Executive Secretary for Internal Affairs by the Student Senate.

§6-2.5. Vacancies.
The President of the Student Body shall fill any vacancies in the Board of Elections as they arise. Replacements shall be confirmed by the Student Senate as expeditiously as possible. Replacements shall serve out the remainder of their predecessor's term on the Board. The same qualifications outlined in SGS §6-2.3 shall also apply to any replacements named to the Board.

§6-2.6. Board Meetings.
The Board of Elections shall meet at the call of the Chairman or majority vote of the Board, and shall meet at least one time prior to the start of each election cycle, and as needed throughout the year. All Board meetings must be publicly announced at least 24 hours prior to the meeting. Such public announcement shall include announcement via the Student Government Association webpage, an email to all members.
of the Student Government Association, and an email to all candidates. Quorum of the Board shall be simple majority. All Board meetings shall be open to the public.

§6-2.7. Parliamentary Authority.
The Constitution of the Student Body of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the activities of the Board of Elections in all cases applicable.

SECTION 2. Board Officers and Duties

§6-2.8. Board Officers.
The Board of Elections shall elect from its own membership a Vice Chairman and a Secretary, with duties as prescribed by this Act. These offices shall be elected twice annually, at the first meeting following the confirmation of each class of Members, and whenever the offices might be vacant, and shall not be confirmed by the Student Senate.

§6-2.9. Ex-Officio Members.
The following shall be non-voting members of the Board of Elections, and shall make up the Board of Elections Oversight Committee:
(a) The President of the Student Body;
(b) The President Pro Tempore of the Student Senate;
(c) The Student Attorney General;
(d) The Advisor of the Student Government Association;
(e) The Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs or his designee; and,
(f) One representative from the Dean of Students Office.

§6-2.10. Duties of the Chairman.
In addition to other duties prescribed to the Chairman of the Board of Elections in this Act, the Chairman shall:
(a) coordinate the activities of the Board of Elections;
(b) provide consistent updates on the activities of the Board to the Student Senate, even when no elections cycle is in progress;
(c) appoint and remove Election Assistants with the advice and consent of the voting Members of the Board; and,
(d) submit to the Publicity and Outreach Committee of the Student Senate, upon the conclusion of an election cycle, a report on any procedural difficulties or recommendation for improvement to the provisions in this Act.

§6-2.11. Duties of the Vice Chairman.
a) The Vice Chairman of the Board of Elections shall execute the duties of the Chairman whenever he or she is called upon to do so, and shall do the bidding of the Chairman as directed by the Chairman.
b) The Vice Chairman of the Board of Elections shall be responsible for the collection and management of any and all fines levied against candidates during the course of a given election cycle.

§6-2.12. Duties of the Secretary.
The Secretary of the Board of Elections shall maintain accurate records of the activities of the Board and be responsible for any and all communiqués sent on behalf of the Board.

The Chairman of the Board of Elections shall appoint, without confirmation of the Student Senate, any number of Elections Assistants, who shall not be current members of any branch of the Student Government Association or of any campaign's staff, to perform minor or supervised duties throughout the course of an election cycle, as directed by the Chairman. Election Assistants shall be confirmed individually by simple majority of the Board of Elections, and shall be considered non-voting members of the Board, serving from the date of their appointment until the close of the nearest election cycle.

SECTION 3. Board Operational Duties

The Board of Elections shall execute all policies and regulations set forth in this Act and shall be responsible for carrying out any responsibilities relegated to it by the Constitution of the Student Government.
§6-2.15. **Conflict of Interest.**
It shall be the duty of any Board Member, including the Chairman, to recuse themselves from any and all situations that may arise before the Board in which a conflict of interest may arise.

§6-2.16. **Election Dates.**
The Board of Elections shall be responsible for setting the dates of all General and Run-Off Elections, as specified in SGS §6-1.2 and SGS §6-1.4.

§6-2.17. **Voting.**
All members of the Board of Elections shall be empowered to vote on all motions before the Board, save those outlined in SGS §6-2.9, and the Chairman of the Board. In the event of a tie vote, the Chairman shall cast the tie-breaking vote.

§6-2.18. **Validation of Candidacy.**
The Board of Elections, in conjunction with the Dean of Students Office, shall validate the candidacy of all students seeking election to Student Body Office. All potential candidates must meet all the qualifications outlined in this Act in order to be valid candidates. No potential candidate shall appear on a ballot who is not a valid candidate.

§6-2.19. **Basic Publicity.**
The Board of Elections shall coordinate with the Executive Secretary for Press and Public Relations as well as the Publicity and Outreach Committee of the Student Senate to publicize all aspects of General Elections. Publicity shall be such that members of the Student Body have a reasonable opportunity to be aware of the elections, the timeline for filing for Office, the manner and time of voting, and any issues or Board-sponsored events pertaining to elections.

§6-2.20. **Candidate Debates.**
The Board of Elections shall coordinate, in conjunction with any interested Student Media, any debates among candidates for Student Body Office.

§6-2.21. **Presidential Ticket Accountability.**
One Member of the Board of Elections shall be assigned to each ticket for President of the Student Body, and shall be responsible for holding these tickets to the letter and spirit of this Act.
(a) Members of the Board assigned to a presidential ticket shall meet weekly with their assigned candidates during the period following the Candidates Meeting and the termination of elections.
(b) Members of the Board assigned to a presidential ticket shall be responsible for obtaining weekly finance reports from their assigned candidates.

§6-2.22. **Candidates Meeting.**
The Board of Elections shall organize and run the Candidates Meetings, at which they shall provide information to candidates concerning elections, as well as answer any questions of the candidates or members of the Student Body. All candidates for Student Body Office shall be required to attend these Meetings in order to appear on the ballot. Candidates who do not attend the Candidates Meeting, either in person or by proxy, will forfeit their candidacy, and shall not be eligible for election to Student Body Office.

§6-2.23. **Enforcement.**
The Board of Elections shall be responsible for:
(a) enforcing this Act; and,
(b) investigating or reviewing any reported violation of this Act.

**SECTION 4. Board of Elections Oversight Committee**

§6-2.24. **Establishment and Empowerment.**
There shall be a Board of Elections Oversight Committee, which shall be a subdivision of the Board of Elections, and shall be comprised of the *ex-officio* members of the Board, as outlined in SGS §6-2.9. The Oversight Committee shall be empowered to advise any and all actions and decisions of the Board, and shall oversee all appeals of decisions of the Board, including hearing and ruling on all appeals of decisions of the Board. The Advisor to the Senate shall serve
as the presiding officer of the Board of Elections
Oversight Committee.

SECTION 5. Tabulation and Certification

§6-2.25. Tabulation and Certification. 
Tabulation and Certification of election results shall be completed by the Business and Technology Applications Analyst for Student Union, Activities, and Recreation, and the Dean of Students Office.
ARTICLE III. CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS

SECTION 1. General Regulations

§6-3.1. Official Campaign Start.
(a) No individual person, candidate, campaign staff or supporter shall host mass events, display any form of campaign publicity, or further the interests of said candidacy, which includes but is not limited to mass flyering, handing out campaign materials, launching websites or social networking sites of any kind, or chalking prior to the Candidates Meeting in any given election cycle.
(b) Any person found in violation of this section may be fined by the Board of Elections at a rate of $20.00 per day for each day SGS §6-3.1(a) is violated.

§6-3.2. Candidate Responsibilities.
All candidates and campaigns shall be responsible for knowing the regulations of campaigning. Ignorance of a regulation shall not be acceptable as a defense to a violation of a rule. Candidates shall be responsible for the actions of their staff and supporters.

§6-3.3. University Supplies.
No candidate shall use supplies paid for by the University or Student Activity Fees for the purposes of campaigning or electioneering, whether they be made available through the Student Organization Resource Center or any other subsidiary of the University.

§6-3.4. Handbills.
No handbills may be piled in a public place with the intention that voters will pick them up except outside of organized forums of debate and discussion.

§6-3.5. Campaign Posters.
Candidates and their staffs must follow University policy on posters. No candidate or campaign may remove another candidate's posters. Candidates shall have the right to post on any public board that they would ordinarily be entitled to post on as students.

§6-3.6. Student Union Advertising.
Candidates must follow the Student Union Posting Policy and the Student Union Digital Signage Policy, set forth by the Student Union Advisory Board, when advertising in the Student Union.

§6-3.7. Chalking.
Candidates and their campaigns must follow University policy regarding chalking on campus. Specifically, no candidate or campaign shall chalk on any brick surface, building, or bench.

§6-3.8. Emailing and Social Networking.
All campaigns shall be responsible for knowing and complying with University email policy. The Board of Elections shall not restrict the lawful usage of email and social networking sites, provided that any mass communication from a group dedicated to any given candidate(s) or campaign is only sent to individuals who are subscribers to or friends of the candidate(s) or campaign. Mass communications must clearly state the intent of the message is to persuade the voter to support that candidate(s).

§6-3.9. Door-to-door Campaigning.
University Housing and Residence Life policies do not permit door-to-door campaigning in on-campus establishments.

§6-3.10. Social Functions.
(a) Candidates or campaigns may not raise funds from events that equally support all candidates or campaigns. Proceeds from parties or functions that do not promote all candidates or campaigns will be counted toward a candidate's allowable donation limit.
(b) The Board of Elections must be notified of any social function held for a candidate or campaign at least 24 hours prior to their occurrence.
(c) All candidates or campaigns promoted by any social function must be listed on any and all advertisements for the event.
(d) All candidates or campaigns who host social functions during the course of an
election cycle shall be responsible for checking the identification of all function attendees, and ensuring there is no underage alcohol consumption.

§6-3.11. Student Government Facilities. Organized campaign activities shall be prohibited in all Student Government facilities, including any offices that may be held by a particular candidate.

§6-3.12. Campaigning In or Near Official Polling Areas or Stations. There shall be no campaigning inside any official polling area at any time during a given election cycle, nor within 50 feet of any official polling area or station on election day.

§6-3.13. Other Campaign-Restricted Areas. (a) No candidate or campaign shall campaign inside the J. Murrey Atkins Library at any time during the course of a given election cycle.
(b) No candidate or campaign shall personally solicit votes inside the Student Union on election days. Advertisements for candidates or campaigns, however, may be permitted in the Student Union on Election Day.

§6-3.14. Establishing Unofficial Polling Stations. No campaign shall establish or effectively establish a polling station. This includes but is not limited to providing electronic devices for the purposes of voting.

§6-3.15. Destruction of Campaign Materials. No campaign, campaign staff or supporter shall destroy the campaign materials of another campaign. This shall include, but not be limited to, erasing chalk, removing or defacing posters, and damaging or removing sandwich boards. Covering posted materials shall be considered destruction of campaign materials.

§6-3.16. Removing Campaign Materials. Candidates shall be responsible for removing and disposing of any and all campaign materials they dispense throughout campus over the course of any given election cycle no later than one week following the close of elections.

SECTION 2. Campaign Expenses

§6-3.17. Spending Limits. (a) Candidates may spend no more than $500.00 in any given General Elections cycle.
(b) In Run-Off elections, candidates may spend up to half their original spending limit anew.
(c) Spending limits may be changed for the duration of an election cycle if all candidates for a specific Student Body Office register their consent for such a change with the Board of Elections, and shall be approved by simple majority of the Student Senate.

§6-3.18. Expensed Materials and In-Kind Donations. Candidates shall document the actual cost of materials used in such materials as possible. When an in-kind donation is made to any campaign, or when the campaign is re-using materials, the campaign shall report the monetary value of those materials if sold. The Board of Elections shall reserve the right to review and modify the value of all reported materials to fair market value. Donations shall be deducted from a candidate's overall spending limit.

§6-3.19. Frequency of Expense Reports. (a) All campaigns for any Student Body Office shall submit a weekly expense report to the Board of Elections.
(b) Candidates shall be required to submit an expense report by 5:00 PM each class Monday between the Candidates Meeting and election day. Such a report must detail all financial activity for at least the time period between the last financial report.
(c) Candidates shall submit a final expense report when polls close for a General or Run-Off Election. Such a report shall be comprehensive of all of the campaign, regardless of date of expenditure. No candidate shall assume Office until the final campaign financial report has been submitted and inspected.
§6-3.20. **Financial Reporting.**

Expense reports shall contain:

(a) original receipts for a final report or copies of receipts for weekly reports, provided that original receipts are made available upon the request of the Board of Elections;

(b) a list of and receipts for all expenses made by the campaign or on behalf of the campaign, whether used or not;

(c) a list of and receipts for donations with name and contact information of donor disclosed;

(d) a list of and receipts for any in-kind donations of materials and the contact information of the donor;

(e) an estimated monetary value of any donated materials;

(f) a quantified listing of all materials made with the intended purpose of advertising the candidate or candidate's campaign, including the cost of such materials; and,

(g) totals, to include direct expenses, in-kind donations, re-used materials, and cash/cash-equivalent donations.

§6-3.21. **Receipts.**

(a) As noted in SGS §6-3.21(a), each expense report shall include original receipts for a final report or copies of receipts for a weekly report provided that original receipts are available upon request of the Board of Elections.

(b) Receipts must be provided for both purchased and donated items.

(c) Receipts shall contain an accurate name, phone number, and email for the business or individual where the items were purchased or donated from.

§6-3.22. **Expenses prior to the Candidates Meeting.**

Any funds expended prior to the Candidates Meeting shall be included in the final campaign report, outlined in SGS §6-3.20(c).

§6-3.23. **Penalties Concerning Expenses.**

(a) Failure to submit expense reports on time shall be a violation of this Act, and shall be brought to the attention of the Chairman of the Board of Elections.

(b) Upon receipt of each expense report, the Chairman of the Board shall designate a member of the Board to review the report. The reviewer shall inspect each item in the report, seeking clarification from the campaign as necessary, and shall report any issues of concern to the full Board for consideration.

(c) Falsifying information in an expense report shall result in a direct disqualification hearing.
ARTICLE IV. VIOLATIONS & APPEALS

SECTION 1. Violations

§6-4.1. Time and Scope of Enforcement.
The Board of Elections shall have the authority to impose penalty on a candidate from the time he or she files for Office until the time he or she is either defeated at the polls or sworn into Office. Severe breeches of regulation by a candidate in the course of an election cycle shall remain just cause for impeachment for the duration of the student's service in any Student Body Office as outlined in the Constitution of the Student Body.

§6-4.2. Pre-candidacy Violations.
The Board of Elections shall be empowered to impose penalty on candidates, after declaration of candidacy, for violations occurring prior to declaration of candidacy, provided that the Board finds reasonable evidence that the violation occurred in the course of supporting any future candidacy, and provided that the violation occurred during the semester in which the General Election occurs.

§6-4.3. Reporting Alleged Violations.
All reports of violations must be submitted in writing to the Board of Elections no later than two full class days after the alleged violation occurred. Reports must include the time, date, and if applicable the location of the alleged violation, and must bear the name, email, and phone number of the person reporting the alleged violation. Any candidate accused of a violation shall be notified of their alleged violation(s) by the Board within 24 hours.

§6-4.4. Investigating Alleged Violations.
(a) The Chairman of the Board of Elections in consultation with the Dean of Students Office shall review reports of alleged violations to determine if a charge(s) should be pursued. If the Chairman, under advisement of the Dean of Students Office, determines that a charge(s) should be pursued, a violation hearing shall be scheduled.

(b) Any alleged violation suspected to be a violation of the Code of Student Responsibility shall be forwarded to the Dean of Students Office for review and appropriate action.

§6-4.5. Violation Hearing.
(a) Violation hearings shall be conducted no later than three class days following the filing of alleged violations with the Board of Elections. Candidates accused of violations of this Act shall be notified at least 24 hours in advance of a Board of Elections meeting at which his or her alleged violation will be heard. The hearing may be conducted in absentia, but the accused may send a representative to act on his or her behalf. Both the accuser and the accused shall have an opportunity to present their case. By simple majority vote, the Board may impose a warning, or may order a disqualification hearing. All penalties are cumulative over the course of candidacy.

(b) If at a violation hearing the Board finds that disqualification may be warranted, the Chairman of the Board shall schedule a disqualification hearing. The Board shall concurrently assess a warning in all cases in which it orders a disqualification hearing.

§6-4.6. Sanctions.
The Board of Elections may impose one or more of the following sanctions for blatant violations of the provisions of this Act:

(a) Warning: Written notice to the candidate to cease and/or correct the behavior. Upon receiving three warnings, the Chairman of the Board of Elections shall schedule a disqualification hearing.

(b) Probation: Written reprimand for violation of specified regulations. Probation is for a designated period of time and includes the probability of more severe sanctions if the candidate is found to be violating additional provisions during the probationary period.
(c) **Loss of Privilege:** Denial of specified privileges for a designated period of time.

(d) **Fine:** Fines shall not exceed $100, and the proceeds shall be used for the publication of future elections.

(e) **Restitution:** Compensation for loss, damage, or injury. This may take the form of appropriate service and/or monetary value of material replacement.

(f) **Discretionary Sanction:** Work assignments, service to the University, educational assignments, or any other appropriate sanction as determined by the Board of Elections.

(g) **Disqualification:** Removal of the candidate from participating in the election and/or serving in office. Candidates may be disqualified for blatant disregard of this Act or for malicious tampering with voting systems or equipment. Disqualified candidates shall not be eligible to be appointed to any Student Body Office, but may seek election to such Offices in future election cycles.

§6-4.7. **Disqualifications.**

(a) The Board of Elections shall have the ultimate authority to disqualify candidates in the course of an election cycle.

(b) Candidates shall be disqualified for blatant disregard for the regulations set forth in this Act, or for malicious tampering with voting systems or equipment. Disqualified candidates shall not be eligible to be appointed to any Student Body Office, but may seek election to such Offices in future election cycles.

§6-4.8. **Disqualification Hearing.**

A disqualification hearing before the Board of Elections shall begin with a period in which the accuser may present his or her allegations and answer questions of the Board and the accused. The accused shall have a right to know who his or her accuser is. The accused may then present a defense and answer questions of the Board. Following arguments and questioning, the Board shall deliberate on the disqualification. Disqualification hearings may be conducted in absentia, but the accused may send a representative to the disqualification hearing to act on his or her behalf. A majority vote of the voting membership of the Board is required to disqualify a candidate. The Board may impose additional sanctions as described in SGS §6-4.6.

SECTION 2. **Appeals**

§6-4.9. **Appeals of Board Actions and Decisions.**

Any member of the Student Body may file an appeal with the Board of Elections Oversight Committee alleging that the Board of Elections or any of its Members acted in a manner contrary to the provisions of this Act. Such an appeal must be filed in a timely manner with the Chairman of the Board of Elections Oversight Committee, and must include the name, phone number and email of the petitioner, as well as the exact nature of the alleged violation by the Board. These appeals may not be filed on decisions involving violations or other decision appeals.

§6-4.10. **Appeals Hearing.**

The Board of Elections Oversight Committee shall conduct a hearing on any appeals filed. The petitioner and the official(s) alleged to have acted improperly shall be notified of the hearing at least 24 hours in advance of the hearing. Both the petitioner and the official(s) shall be permitted to present their case, and shall answer questions of the Committee. By majority vote, the Committee may overturn the decision of the Board, and order corrective actions as necessary.
ARTICLE V. AMENDMENTS

§6-5.1. Amending this Act.
Proposed amendments to this Act shall be adopted by a two-thirds vote of Senators present. Adopted amendments, having been duly ratified by the Student Body President, shall take effect immediately following the close of the next election cycle, and be notated on the title page of this Act, pursuant to SGS §1-3.8(b). This clause may only be suspended by a three-fourths vote of Senators present.