



Elections

Fall 2009 Election Dates

Filing – Monday, October 12th to Wednesday, October 14th

Campaigning Begins – Wednesday, October 21st after 4:30pm

Election Day – Tuesday, November 3rd

Results Announced – Wednesday, November 4th after 4:30pm

Run-Off Election Day (if needed) – Tuesday, November 10th

Run-Off Elections Announced – Wednesday, November 11th after 4:30pm

For more information contact:

Commissioner of Elections

Alexis Sarver at sgelections@lsu.edu

Student Government Election Code

Last Revised: November 2008

Preamble

The primary purpose of the Student Government Election Code of Louisiana State University is to provide guidelines to ensure honest, fair, open elections for all who are involved. In upholding its responsibility to the Student Body, the Election Board will endeavor to hold candidates to the highest level of accountability for their actions or actions on their behalf.

ARTICLE I General Provisions

Section 1. Accountability of the Election Code

- A. Every person who files for an office elected under the authority of the Student Government Constitution and Bylaws shall receive a copy of this Election Code at the time of filing.
- B. All candidates and their volunteers shall be responsible for knowing its contents. Any questions concerning this code shall be addressed directly to the Commissioner of Elections.

Section 2. Election Code and the Election Board

- A. The Election Board shall have the power to interpret and apply this Election Code.
- B. The Election Board shall meet at the discretion of the Commissioner of Elections to discuss improvements in the elections process and to decide upon election dates for the appropriate semester.

Section 3. Amendments to the Election Code and Effective Dates

- A. Amendments to this Election Code and their effective dates may be made as specified in the Student Government Constitution.
 - 1. According to Article IX, Section 3 of the Student Government Constitution, the Election Code may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Student Senate present and voting; however, such amendment will not go into effect until one (1) semester following passage, not including the Summer Semester.

ARTICLE II

Governance of Elections

Section 1. Appointment of the Commissioner of Elections

The new Commissioner of Elections shall be appointed by the Student Body President by the last regular Student Senate meeting of each Spring semester.

Section 2. Responsibilities of the Commissioner of Elections

The Commissioner of Elections shall have the following powers and responsibilities:

- A. To serve as the administrative head of the election process, the Chairman of the Election Board, and to have charge over all elections personnel;
- B. To remain impartial to any candidates or tickets participating in any election;
- C. To execute the provisions of the Student Government Constitution relative to elections and all other provisions of this Code;
- D. To have the authority to expend such funds as appropriated to the Election Board's use, with their consent;
- E. To meet with the Office of Computing Services (OCS) and establish guidelines for online voting procedure one (1) month prior to filing;
- F. To submit a calendar with the days of the election time frame numbered two (2) weeks prior to the first day of filing; and,
- G. To issue a report to the Student Senate each week during the election time frame;
- H. To administer and set provisions for special elections where provided for in the Election Code and other Student Government documents; and,
- I. To ensure that the Board presents a defense if any of their decisions are appealed or if a complaint is filed against the Board.

Section 3. Accountability of the Commissioner of Elections

- A. All actions of the Commissioner of Elections must meet the majority approval of the Election Board present and voting.
- B. The Election Board may overrule any action of the Commissioner of Elections by a majority vote.
- C. The Commissioner of Elections and the Election Board are to keep any consultation with candidates prior to the election confidential.

Section 4. Election Board Appointments

- A. There shall be five (5) members of the Election Board, not including the Commissioner of Elections (who shall vote only in the case of a tie). Five (5) members of the Board will be appointed by the Student Body President and approved by the Senate.
- B. Members shall serve a term of one (1) academic year and will be appointed by the third week of the fall semester.
- C. If a vacancy occurs on the Election Board, the seat may be appointed by the Student Body President and confirmed by the Senate.
- D. Members of the Election Board shall not be involved in any other branch of Student Government in any capacity. Members of the Election Board that wish to seek another office within Student Government must resign immediately.

- E. Members of the Election Board shall remain politically neutral and shall be removed if they express any form of support for a particular candidate at any time.

Section 5. Election Personnel

- A. All election personnel, such as poll workers, shall be appointed by the Election Board at least five (5) class days prior to each Election Day per semester.
- B. A list of all election personnel shall be compiled and made available to the candidates at least three (3) class days prior to any election.
- C. All election personnel shall remain politically neutral while working polls.

Section 6. Election Board and Quorum

- A. A quorum of the Election Board shall consist of the presence of at least three (3) members and the Commissioner of Elections.
- B. The Election Board may not conduct business without the presence of a quorum.
- C. If in the case of vacancy on the Election Board, quorum shall consist of a majority of the total remaining seats.

ARTICLE III Election Timetable

Section 1. Order of Events

The election time frame shall consist of thirty (30) class days beginning no sooner than the 20th day of class in a semester and ending no later than the 60th day of the class in a semester. The order of events for any campus-wide election, not including the elections for the consideration of a referendum brought by petition or constitutional amendment, shall be as follows:

- A. Selection of election-related dates and deadlines
- B. Announcement of elections
- C. Filing period
- D. Qualifying
- E. Posting of qualified candidates and appeals
- F. Election Informational Meeting
- G. Ticket registration
- H. Campaigning begins
- I. Mandatory Meetings
- J. Posting of official ballot
- K. General Election
- L. Expenditure reports filed
- M. General Election results
- N. Validation of General Election results
- O. Run-off Election
- P. Run-off expenditure reports filed
- Q. Run-off Election results
- R. Validation of Run-off Election results

Section 2. Selection of Election-Related Dates and Deadlines

- A. The Election Board shall be in charge of setting all dates of the election-related events listed in Section 1 of this Article subject to any further provisions of the Election Code. All deadlines and dates that are relative to filing, campaigning, and election days for the Fall and Spring Student Government Elections shall be declared by the Commissioner of Elections no later than the first official Senate meeting of the semester of the election in question.
- B. The election time frame shall span thirty (30) class days beginning with the first day of filing, and ending two (2) class days after the final election results have been announced.
- C. Once the dates have been set, the Commissioner of Elections will immediately deliver this information to Student Media, the Student Body President, the Speaker of the Student Senate, and the Chief Justice of the University Court.

Section 3. Announcement of Elections

- A. The Commissioner of Elections shall:
 - 1. Issue a press release at least (7) class days prior to the opening of the filing period for the Fall and Spring elections; and,
 - 2. Issue appropriate widespread campus announcements, including but not limited to broadcast emails, a letter to the editor, or advertisements in the campus newspaper at least three (3) class days prior to the opening of the filing period for the Fall and Spring elections.
- B. The announcement shall list the following:
 - 1. Positions to be filled in the election;
 - 2. Dates for the opening and closing of filing;
 - 3. Time and place that a person may file for office;
 - 4. Dates of the General Election and any run-off; and,
 - 5. Name and contact information of the Commissioner of Elections.

Section 4. Filing

- A. A person shall file as a candidate by:
 - 1. Filing his/her intention for candidacy by completing registration with the Election Board during the filing period; and,
 - 2. Verifying his/her eligibility by the Election Board.
- B. A three (3) class day period for filing shall be opened no less than twenty-one (21) calendar days before the date of the General Election. Any student may file an intention of candidacy form provided by the Election Board for the office he/she seeks from 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. during these days.
- C. Once a student has filed for a certain office, he/she may not change to any other office. The student may either run for the position for which he/she originally filed for, or may withdraw from the race completely. The only exception applies to President/Vice President candidates and is as follows:
 - 1. Candidates for Student Body President and Vice-President shall both be listed together on the ballot and identified as to which office each candidate seeks. If, after the close of filing, a candidate for Student Body President or Vice-President has not qualified, has been disqualified, or has withdrawn, then the remaining candidate may submit the name of a replacement candidate to the Commissioner of Elections, and this replacement candidate must be

qualified by the Commissioner of Elections by 4:30 P.M. on the fifth (5th) class day preceding the General Election. The remaining candidate will also have the discretion to refile as either President or Vice-President upon selecting their replacement candidate.

Section 5. Qualifying

- A. Candidate Eligibility
 - 1. A qualified student is any full-time student that is in good academic standing and is not currently under disciplinary action with the University.
 - 2. For any non-At-Large position (representing one academic area), a candidate must be enrolled at the time of filing in the college which he/she is seeking to represent.
 - 3. A degree candidate filing for any at-large position (including President and/or Vice President) must provide sufficient documentation of continuing full-time enrollment status at Louisiana State University to the Election Board.
 - 4. If any clerical errors arise, the Commissioner of Elections can consult the University Registrar and approve members to run in their appropriate college or for their desired position on a case-by-case basis.
 - 5. No senator can file or run for another seat within the LSU Student Senate until the final semester of their current term unless proof of change of college can be presented to the commissioner of elections. Proof of college must be provided by the university registrar.
- B. After the closing of the filing period, the Commissioner of Elections shall submit the appropriate information for each potential candidate to the office of the Dean of Students for verification.
- C. Once the office of the Dean of Students reports back to the Commissioner of Elections, he/she shall report to the Election Board with a listing of filed candidates, and whether or not each is qualified.
- D. After any amendments and final approval by the Election Board, the official list of qualified candidates will be posted outside of the Student Government Executive Office. This should occur on class days six (6) and seven (7) of the election time frame. Appeals to the qualifying of candidates may be filed during this time.
 - 1. Appeals pertaining to academics and discipline should be addressed to the Office of the Dean of Students.
 - 2. All other appeals should be made to the Commissioner of Elections and the Election Board.

Section 6. Meetings

- A. Non-mandatory
 - 1. Election Informational Meeting
 - The Commissioner of Elections shall hold an Election Informational Meeting on any day between the end of qualifying and the beginning of campaigning. The purpose of this meeting will be to provide the candidates with the Election Code, along with a simple explanation of basic campaigning guidelines, and a general election timeline, in hopes of fully educating all candidates on basic election practices. This meeting is optional for all candidates.

B. Mandatory

All candidates, including those running for re-election, must attend a meeting appropriate to the office they are pursuing. These meetings are for the explicit purpose of informing the candidates of their potential duties, responsibilities, and expectations. All meetings will be held anytime between the beginning of campaigning and five (5) class days before the general election.

1. Executive Staff Meeting

All candidates running for President or Vice-President must attend one (1) Executive Staff Meeting. At the conclusion of this meeting, the President and Vice-President shall provide a basic explanation of their positions to the candidates.

2. Union Board Meeting

All candidates running for Union Board must attend one (1) Union Board meeting. At the conclusion of this meeting, the Union Board Chair shall provide a basic explanation of their positions to the candidates.

3. University Court Instruction Course

All candidates running for a University Court position must attend one (1) University Court Instruction Course. This meeting shall be conducted by the Chief Justice and at least three (3) other Justices (as selected by the Chief Justice) and should be run as a "mock" trial, providing a basic understanding of the judicial process.

4. College Council Informational Meeting

All candidates running for a College Council position must attend one (1) College Council Informational Meeting. This meeting shall be conducted by the Executive Assistant and should provide an explanation of basic College Council practices, such as holding meetings, expending funds, contacting administrators, and appointing vacancies.

5. Senate Procedure Instruction Course

All candidates running for the Student Senate must attend one (1) Senate Procedure Instruction Course. This meeting shall be conducted by the Senate staff and volunteer Senators and should be run as a "mock" Senate meeting, providing exemplification of the meeting agenda items and explanations of parliamentary procedure. Senatorial duties will also be outlined at this meeting.

C. Each of these meetings is to be attended by either the Commissioner of Elections or a member of the Election Board to ensure that the candidate stays for the meeting's entirety. Upon arrival, candidates must sign in with the Commissioner of Elections or member of the Election Board and also present a valid form of picture identification.

D. In the event that candidates are unable to attend one of the mandatory scheduled instructional courses or meetings, the candidate must notify the Commissioner of Elections before their mandatory scheduled meeting. If an extenuating circumstance occurs on the night of a meeting which causes a candidate to be unable to attend, the candidate must provide a written excuse to the Commissioner of Elections within two (2) class days. In any case where the candidate becomes excused, the appropriate meeting chair shall work with the Commissioner of Elections to determine alternate arrangements for the candidate. Multiple meetings can be held if deemed necessary.

E. There should be ample time during a meeting to answer any questions candidates may have about their potential positions.

F. If a candidate does not attend their appropriate meeting, they will be disqualified and therefore no longer considered a candidate.

Section 7. Ticket Registration

- A. Each ticket shall select a Ticket Representative who shall serve as they liaison between the Election Board, the Commissioner of Elections, and the organized ticket.
- B. The Ticket Representative's duties shall be to providing the Commissioner of Elections with the ticket name and entire ticket roster no later than one (1) week after the end of filing in order to register the ticket with the Election Board.

Section 8. Campaigning

There shall be no campaigning, as defined in Article IV, prior to the qualifying of candidates. Campaigning will begin on class day eight (8) at 4:30 P.M of the election time frame. Further rules will be discussed in Article VI of this Code.

Section 9. General Election

- A. Fall election
The General Election for the Student Senators and members of the University Court elected in the Fall shall be held each year beginning no sooner than the 20th day of class and ending no later than the 60th day of class in the fall semester.
- B. Spring election
The General Election for the Student Body President, Student Body Vice -President, Union Governing Board representative, the appropriate Student Senators, College Council officers, and members of the University Court elected in the Spring shall be held no sooner than the 20th day of class and ending no later than the 60th day of class in the spring semester.

Section 10. General Election Results

Regardless of complaints or appeals, the unofficial results of the General Election shall be announced by the Commissioner of Elections in an appropriate campus location after 4:30 P.M. on the night after the General Election.

Section 11. Validation of General Election Results

If no complaints or appeals are registered by 4:30 P.M. within two (2) class days of the announcement of election results, all election results shall be deemed final.

Section 12. Run-off Election

- A. Except as otherwise provided in this Election Code, if no candidate in the General Election receives a majority of the votes cast, the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes in said election shall be in a Run-off Election.
- B. The Run-off Election shall be held within three (3) to six (6) class days after the General Election.
- C. Provisions for ties are included in Article IV of this code.

Section 13. Run-off Election Results

The unofficial results of the Run-off Election shall be announced in the same manner as the results of the General Election.

Section 14. Validation of Run-off Election Results

If no complaints or appeals are registered by 4:30 P.M. within two (2) class days of the announcement of the Run-off Election results, all election results shall be deemed final.

ARTICLE IV

Voting

Section 1. Ballots

- A. Candidates shall appear on the General Election ballot in alphabetical order. This order shall be reversed in the Run-off Election.
 - 1. There shall not be separate voting for Student Body President and Vice - President; they shall be listed together.
 - 2. No ticket affiliation shall be listed anywhere on the ballot.
- B. The Commissioner of Elections shall post sample ballots outside the Student Government Executive Office and purchase a one-time ad in the official campus newspaper displaying the sample ballot, two (2) class days prior to any General or Run-off Election. The wording and layout of these sample ballots shall be the same as those used on Election Day.

Section 2. Voting Identification

Each member of the Student Body as defined by the Student Government Constitution shall be entitled to vote in each race for which the Student Body Constitution, Bylaws, or other applicable rules entitles him/her to vote.

Section 3. Voting Requirements

An eligible voter must agree to the LSU computer use policy and the student code of conduct in order to access the voting application upon login to PAWS.

Section 4. Online voting

Students may vote from any voting apparatus, including but not limited to laptops or personal digital assistants, with access to the internet using PAWS.

Section 5. Voting Times

The voting application on election days, including referendum -only elections, shall be accessible from 7:00 A.M. to 9:59 P.M.

Section 6. Voting application

Format and structure used by the Office of Computing Services (OCS) for online voting must be approved

by the Election Board.

Section 7. Polling Stations and Locations

- A. A polling location, except public computer labs, shall be defined as a voting apparatus used by an individual other than the owner.
- B. No organized polling locations shall be allowed except those administered by the Election Board.
- C. The Commissioner of Elections shall list the locations of Election Board administered polling locations outside of the Student Government Office three (3) class days prior to any election.

Section 8. Votes to Win General Election

- A. In order to win the General Election, a candidate must receive more than a percentage majority of the votes cast.
 - 1. For example, if there are two (2) seats available, a candidate would need to get more than twenty five percent (25%), a percentage majority, to win outright.
- B. Percentage majority is determined by dividing one hundred (100) by the number of seats available, and then dividing that number by two (2).
- C. If more candidates receive the percentage majority needed than there are seats open, then the candidate(s) that receive the highest number of votes shall be declared the winner(s).
 - 1. For example, if three (3) people are running for two (2) seats and all three (3) attain the percentage majority needed, then the two (2) candidates with the most votes are the winners in the General Election.
- D. If a candidate is disqualified after the ballot is finalized, any vote cast for that candidate will still be tallied in the total votes used to determine the percentage majority.

Section 9. Determination of Run-off Election

- A. If all seats are not filled in the General Election, then for each remaining seat the next two highest vote recipients will run in the Run -off Election.
 - 1. For example, if four seats are contested and only two contested receive a percentage majority plus one, then the remaining two seats will be determined by placing the next four highest vote recipients in the run-off elections.
- B. The winner(s) of the Run-off Election shall be determined by who gets the most votes regardless of percentages. The only exception to this rule is listed in Article IV, Section 10, of this code.

Section 10. Ties

Ties shall be handled as follows:

- A. If there are only two (2) candidates in the General Election and the election results in a tie, then the election shall be rerun in the Run -off Election.
- B. If there are more than two (2) candidates in the General Election and there is a tie for second place and if a run-off is otherwise needed, then the first place candidate and the candidates tied for second shall all run in the run-off. The candidate who receives the most votes in the run -off shall be the winner, regardless of whether he/she receives a majority of the votes cast. For Senate and University Court seats, in the event that the last position eligible for the runoff is tied, then both candidates tied shall be in the run-off.
- C. If a Run-off Election results in a tie, then the tied candidate who receive the most votes in the General Election shall be the winner.
- D. If a Run-off Election results in a tie, and the tied candidates receive the same number of votes in the General Election, then:

1. If the election is before the entire student body, then the election board shall conduct a second run-off election between the tied candidates.
2. If the election is any other election, then the newly elected student senate shall determine a winner from the tied candidates at its first regular meeting.

Section 11. Voter Fraud

- A. Voter fraud shall be considered casting a ballot on behalf of any individual other than yourself.
- B. Petition fraud shall be considered signing a petition on behalf of any individual other than yourself.
- C. Candidates found guilty of voter fraud by the Election Board will be subject to:
 1. Disqualification and/or
 2. A report filed with the Office of the Dean of Students of such action for review of potential violations of the Student Code of Conduct.
- D. Non-candidate students or groups found guilty of voter fraud by the Election Board will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students for review of potential violations of the Student Code of Conduct.
- E. Elections containing fraud may be examined by the Board, and subject to appeal, and said action must be submitted in writing or by e-mail to all candidates involved within eight (8) hours of said action.
- F. Appeals to an Election Board decision regarding voter fraud will be made directly to the University Court.

ARTICLE V Tickets

Section 1. Definition of Ticket

- A. A ticket is recognized by this Election Code as an affiliation of candidates who group together to organize campaigning for an election.
 1. Tickets are not required to have a Presidential/Vice-Presidential candidate(s).
 2. Candidates cannot be cross-listed on multiple tickets.
 3. Tickets must account for the total amount of expenditures of the candidates who are affiliated with them.
 4. Tickets as a whole may be held responsible to infractions of this code.

Section 2. Ticket Organization and Preparation

- A. Ticket organization includes, but is not limited to:
 1. Private discussions of prospective candidacy and ticket formation;
 2. Selecting and forming a campaign staff; and,
 3. Brainstorming ideas, strategies, slogans, and colors.
- B. Ticket preparation includes, but is not limited to:
 1. Collecting financial contributions;
 2. Holding campaign staff meetings;
 3. Sharing platform ideas and issues with the campaign staff;

4. Recruiting candidates;
 5. Reserving rooms for ticket meetings;
 6. Holding initial ticket meetings with candidates affiliated with the ticket; and,
 7. Designing, ordering, or receiving campaign materials.
- C. Ticket organization and preparation may begin at any time, but absolutely no campaigning may take place during these stages.

Section 3. Ticket Registration

Ticket registration shall be conducted according to Article III, Section 7 of this Code.

Section 4. Non-Recognized Tickets

- A. Only a ticket that is registered and recognized by the Election Board as a ticket may operate as such.
- B. Any group or affiliation of candidates that act as a ticket without being recognized as such, and utilize the privileges granted to a ticket, primarily those of collective finances and commonly recognized materials and organization, will be held in violation and subject to penalties from the Election Board.

ARTICLE VI

Campaigning Practices

Section 1. Definition of Campaigning

- A. Campaigning is any activity by a candidate or ticket member that is intended or likely to encourage or discourage a voter to cast a ballot or to affect how he/she votes. This includes the placement of any signs or the like on display and the solicitation of the vote of any LSU student. If you campaign before the date set in the election timeline, you will be disqualified.
- B. Campaigning includes but is not limited to verbal and/or electronic solicitation of votes and the following:
 1. Distributing campaign materials other than private distribution to immediate campaign staff and candidates;
 2. Announcing or discussing potential candidacy and/or ticket name in print, broadcast, public forum, or any other media;
 3. Seeking endorsement (other than financial contributions) or voter support for a campaign at an official meeting of a registered student organization;
 4. Posting any campaign materials; and,
 5. Wearing apparel, buttons, stickers, and/or similar items explicitly reflecting an affiliation with a candidate or ticket.

Section 2. On-Campus Campaigning Rules and Regulations

- A. Campaigning does not include reporting by media outlets of any referendum, petition, recall, or constitutional amendment.

- B. List-Serves and E-Mails
 - 1. Before campaigning begins, members of a private list-serve belonging to a campaign staff or running on a ticket are considered willful participants and therefore may receive any email concerning candidacy, ticket issues, and other information.
 - 2. During campaigning, members of any list-serve concerning a ticket or the elections are considered willful participants and may receive emails soliciting votes.
 - 3. The leader of any student organization, whose organization is not affiliated with Student Government and is registered with the University, may be contacted by any candidate via their e-mail provided on the LSU Campus Life Student Organization website for the sole purpose of requesting to speak at that organization's meeting to seek its endorsement.
- C. Prohibition on Interference with Education
 - 1. Campaigning must not interfere with the educational life of the university. This includes but is not limited to the posting of campaign signs and/or posters in classrooms, and writing on chalkboards or similar devices.
 - 2. No campaigning shall be allowed inside any University building or within ten (10) feet of any entrance to a University building.
 - a. Specifically exempt are candidate and ticket organizational meetings and meetings of registered student organizations, or events authorized by a building coordinator.

Section 3. Prohibited Methods of Campaigning

The following methods of campaigning may not be used:

- A. Aircraft;
- B. Loudspeakers, sirens, or other noisemakers;
- C. Decorating any car without the express consent of the owner;
- D. Any method that violates university or state policy concerning mass e-mail;
- E. Sending potential voters unsolicited electronic messages at any time;
- F. Sending electronic messages specifically asking for a vote is prohibited prior to campaigning;
- G. Any method using animals, except consenting humans; and,
- H. Any method that uses a voting apparatus or interferes with a person using a voting apparatus.

Section 4. Campaigning Ethics

- A. Candidates are expected to conduct themselves in an ethically appropriate manner in accordance with Student Government documents and the Student Code of Conduct.
- B. A candidate or volunteer may under no circumstances intentionally interfere with the campaign of another candidate in any way, including but not limited to the destruction of campaign materials.
- C. No person shall offer anything tangible of value or make any threat to any voter to affect the student's vote. The term "anything tangible of value" does not encompass distribution of campaign materials of negligible value such as buttons or pushcards.

Section 5. Endorsements

- A. Any student organization, excluding Student Government affiliated organizations, that is registered with the University may publicly endorse any candidate and/or ticket for office

providing that it is not on any type of probationary or provisional status with the University and that it has the prior approval of the candidate to be endorsed.

1. A Student Government affiliated organization shall be defined as any registered student organization that includes one or more members appointed by or elected to said organization through Student Government -
 2. Student Government affiliated organizations , should they decide to display campaign paraphernalia, must provide equal posting opportunity to all candidates and or tickets which request such opportunity.
- B. Candidates or tickets cannot receive any financial contributions from any student organization.

Section 6. Campaigning on Election Day

- A. On Election Day, there shall be no active campaigning whatsoever inside of any public computer lab. Voters may bring push cards into public computer labs for the purpose of voting only.
- B. On Election Day, there shall be no campaigning whatsoever within fifty (50) feet of any Election Board administered polling location. All signs and other materials must be removed from the restricted areas by the Election Board before the polls open on Election Day.

Section 7. Litter

Intentional littering of campaign materials of any kind shall be prohibited.

ARTICLE VII Spending Limits

Section 1. General Election Spending Limits for Tickets

- A. One thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) shall be the combined expenditure limit of any President/Vice-President team-up.
- B. One hundred seventy seven dollars (\$177) shall be the expenditure limit of any candidate running for an At-Large position (includes University Court and Union Board representative).
- C. Fifty eight dollars (\$58) shall be the expenditure limit for any candidate running for a non -At-Large position (includes Senate and College Council positions).
- D. Expenditure limits for tickets shall be based on the total expenditures of individuals involved with a particular ticket, or five thousand dollars (\$5,000), whichever amount is lower .

Section 2. General Election Spending Limits for Independent Candidates

- A. Two thousand three hundred and fifty dollars (\$2,350) shall be the combined expenditure limit of any President/Vice President team-up.
- B. Six hundred dollars (\$600) shall be the expenditure limit of any candidate running for an At - Large position.
- C. One hundred seventy five dollars (\$175) shall be the expenditure limit for any candidate running for a non-At-Large position.

Section 3. Run-off Election Spending Limits

The expenditure limit for the Run -off Election of any candidate or ticket shall be one-half of the limits stated for the General Election.

Section 4. Total Expenditures

- A. A candidate's total expenditures shall include all goods and services purchased by or donated (including monetary or in-kind contributions) to a candidate or any supporter for use in the election or use in any way furthering that candidate's campaign or detracting from the campaign of any or all of that candidate's opponents.
- B. An in-kind contribution shall be regarded as anything contributed to a candidate or ticket other than money, excluding campaign volunteers. In-kind contributions for the use of campaign fundraising or printing of campaign paraphernalia must be reported and will count toward the maximum expenditure a candidate or ticket may spend. Receipts for these contributions must be submitted with expenditure reports .
- C. The fair market value of a donated item or in-kind contribution shall be the value recorded on the final expenditure report.
 - 1. All goods and services shall be valued at the fair market value of that good or service. Barring a reasonable doubt, the Board will recognize the retail value paid for a good or service at its fair market value.
 - 2. The Board reserves the right to revalue a good or service in response to a complaint that the good or service is not reported at its fair market value. The Election Board must submit three (3) price references from East Baton Rouge Parish merchants in estimating the value of any contested price.

Section 5. General Election Contribution and Expenditure Reports

- A. All candidates and campaigns are required to submit contribution and expenditure reports and receipts on forms provided by the Election Board at the time of filing. This report must include:
 - 1. All spending incurred during the campaign; and
 - 2. A standardized report reflecting the origin of all campaign contributions on forms as provided by the Election Board.
- B. These reports shall be public record after a 24-hour review period. Candidates must sign their reports and certify that they are accurate and complete .
- C. The contribution and expenditure reports are due by noon (12:00 P.M.) the day after the General Election.

Section 6. Run-off Election Contribution and Expenditure Reports

Contribution and expenditure reports for the run -offs are to be received by noon (12:00 P.M.) the day after a Run-off Election. These reports shall be in the same fashion as the General Election Reports.

Section 7. Expenditures for Unopposed Candidates

- A. Candidates who are unopposed after the posting of the list of qualified candidates are not allowed to spend any money campaigning.
- B. These candidates are still required to file final expenditure reports.
- C. If an unopposed candidate gave money to be part of a ticket, that money shall be considered a donation. After a candidate is informed that he/she is unopposed, that candidate shall expend no more money. The expenditure limits for unopposed candidates shall not be counted towards the expenditure limit of a ticket.

Section 8. Single Candidate and Ticket Expenditures

- A. Money expended and reported for a candidate is applicable only for the campaign of that candidate. Money expended and reported for a President/ Vice President team up are applicable only for the campaign of that team -up.
- B. Registered tickets shall be exempt from Subsection A of this Section. Candidates on a ticket must also file a single ticket expenditure report.

Section 9. Spending Limits for a Referendum

- A. Referenda shall have a maximum spending limit of two thousand dollars (\$2000) for coordinated expenditures.
- B. The Referendum Representative (outlined in the following Article) is responsible for submitting expenditure reports to the Commissioner of Elections at the same time as all other candidates.

ARTICLE VIII
Appeals, Complaints, Petitions, and Referenda

Section 1. Appeals to the Election Board

Any decision of the Election Board may be appealed to the Judicial Branch of the Student Government, as stipulated in the Student Government Constitution .

Section 2. Procedure for Filing Complaints

A complaint concerning irregularities in the conduct of an election by the Election Board or a candidate may be brought by any LSU student.

- A. Complaints regarding violations of Election Code provisions must be submitted in writing to the University Clerk of Court by 4:30 P.M. within two (2) class days of the alleged violation.
- B. The Election Board may also file complaints concerning irregularities in the conduct of an election. The Commissioner of Elections must submit these complaints to the University Clerk of Court by 4:30 P.M. within two (2) class days of the alleged position.
- C. If the position of Clerk of Court is currently vacant, all complaints must be submitted to the Chief Justice of the University Court. The Chief Justice will then ensure that the complaints go through the proper procedure, and that they are heard in either the Trial Court of the University Court, whichever is deemed appropriate.
- D. Election results shall be deemed final at 4:30PM two (2) class days after their announcement. No complaints may be filed after the election results have been finalized.

Section 3. Complaints and Burden of Proof

- A. The person making the complaint shall have the burden of proving the alleged violation.
- B. If that person or his/her representative is not present at the hearing (if such presence is requested by the appropriate Judicial Body), the complaint shall be dismissed.

Section 4. New Election

If the Judicial Branch determines that the action(s) of the Election Board, any person, or any organization has cast a reasonable doubt on the fair outcome of an election, it may order that particular election to be held again.

Section 5. Rulings & Notification of the Plaintiff and Defendant

Once a complaint has been processed, both parties should be notified before the trial takes place in order not to interfere with due process. After a complaint has been ruled on, the Judicial Branch shall take immediate action to notify the plaintiff and defendant in writing within two (2) hours of its ruling.

Section 6. Procedure for Filing Petitions

- A. A petition is the device whereby a constitutional amendment, a matter affecting a student self-assessed fee, or a recall of an elected officer is placed on the ballot as provided by the Student Government Constitution. The procedural steps to be followed are:
1. Registration of the petition with the Election Board or the Office of the Dean of Students;
 2. Collection of signatures by the proponents; and,
 3. Submission of the signatures to the Student Body President, recipient, or proposed recipient of the self-assessed student fee or the entity considered a candidate under Article X, Section 8 .

Section 7. Petition Registration

Prior to a petition being circulated for collection of signatures, it must be registered with the Election Board.

- A. Registration is accomplished by filing a copy of the petition with the Election Board in the Student Government office.
- B. If the Election Board obtains a proposed amendment to the Student Government Constitution under the guidelines of Article X of the Student Government Constitution , a full copy of the text of the amendment must be filed at this time also.
- C. If the Election Board is unable or unwilling to accept the registration of the petition, it may be registered with the Office of the Dean of Students instead.

Section 8. Time Limits for and Verification of Collected Signatures

- A. A petition must be submitted to the Student Body President within twenty-eight (28) consecutive calendar days of its registration. The President shall immediately transmit any petition received to the Election Board.
- B. In a petition to levy, amend, repeal, or otherwise regulate a self-assessed student fee, the twenty-eight (28) consecutive calendar days prior to the beginning of campaigning of any Fall or Spring General Election shall be the only days for petitioners in this category to collect signatures.
- C. During these twenty-eight (28) consecutive calendar days, the petitioners may campaign for signatures only.
- D. The Election Board shall verify the sufficiency of the petition within seven (7) calendar days of submission. The Election Board shall verify as valid only those signatures which:

1. Contain the name of the student with the date of the signature in the handwriting of the signer and the student's PAWS login ID;
2. Are Student Body members as defined by the Constitution as of the date of submission;
3. For a matter affecting a student assessed fee, are members of the group assessed or to be assessed; and,
4. Were actually collected after registration of the petition and before the submission deadline.

Section 9. Election Dates & Ballot

- A. The board shall set a tentative election date within three (3) days of submission, except when the petition calls for a constitutional amendment, when the President shall set a tentative date.
- B. If the petition is verified as sufficient, a final election date shall be set within one (1) day of verification. If no final date is set, the tentative election date shall be the final election date.
- C. Within one (1) day of the final election date being determined, the Board shall announce the polling times for the election and announce the official ballot, which shall contain a clear, short, accurate question with a positive, favoring the petition. Polling places shall be the same as those used for the Fall and Spring elections.

Section 10. Election Code Applies to Petition Campaign

Except as expressly provided in this Article, all other provisions of this Code apply to the petition campaign.

Section 11. Persons Considered as Candidates

The following persons shall be considered as candidates and have full responsibilities as such:

- A. The person who registers the petition;
- B. In a recall petition, the person who is the target of the recall;
- C. In a petition seeking to amend the Constitution, the Student Body President;
- D. In a petition to levy, amend, repeal, or otherwise regulate a student self-assessed fee, the recipient or proposed recipient; or,
- E. In a referendum, the group or entity receiving funds from the proposed referendum shall be recognized as candidates.

Section 12. Referendum Registration

The procedures for registering a referendum shall be as follows:

- A. Submission of the referendum to the Election Board from the Student Senate after approval; or,
- B. Submission of a petition signed by ten percent (10%) of the membership of the Student Body presented to the Student Body President.

Section 13. Candidates for a Referendum

- A. The group or entity receiving funds from the proposed referendum shall be recognized as candidates.
- B. The proposed recipient shall be held to the same regulations and sanctions as candidates for office mentioned in Articles IV & IX of this code.

- C. The benefiting group or entity shall register a representative to serve as a Liaison for matters dealing with the Election Board. The name of said person must be submitted to the Commissioner of Elections by the same methods of the Ticket Representative discussed in Article III, Section 7 of this Code.

Section 14. Titling a Referendum

- A. The Election Board shall title the referendum for the ballot, with the consent of the recipients, and shall place the name of said referendum on the ballot.
- B. If a title cannot be agreed upon, the referendum shall be named according to its legislative number given by the Senate.

ARTICLE IX Penalties for Violations

Section 1. Violations of Spending Limits

Any candidate failing to file any report of campaign expenditures or contributions required by this Election Code or exceeding the limit on campaign expenditures set by this Election Code shall be disqualified.

Section 2. Failure to Attend a Mandatory Meeting

- A. Any candidate failing to attend at least one (1) of the appropriate mandatory instruction courses or meetings shall be disqualified, unless
 1. The candidate has made special provisions to notify the Commissioner of Elections before their scheduled mandatory meeting, and the Commissioner has therefore excused them; or
 2. The Commissioner has approved his/her absence due to extraordinary circumstances.

Section 3. Penalties for Candidates and Tickets

- A. If a candidate or ticket is found responsible for violating this Code by the Judicial Branch, the candidate or ticket shall be penalized by the Board in the manner deemed appropriate from the following:
 1. Private censure reserved for only unusually minor cases;
 2. Public censure, as publicized by the Commissioner of Elections;
 3. Restriction of the candidate or ticket and its volunteers from campaigning for a fixed period of time in such a manner, as the Board feels appropriate;
 4. Reduction of expenditure limits within reason;
 5. Suggestive, self-imposed sanction made by the defendant and agreed upon by the board; or,
 6. Disqualification. In this case the Election Board may pursue disciplinary action with the Dean of Students.
- B. The Election Board is encouraged to consider past precedent when distributing penalties.

Section 4. Penalties for Others

- A. If a person who is not a candidate or if an organization is found responsible for violating this Code by the Judicial Branch, the person or organization shall be penalized by the Election Board in the manner deemed appropriate from the following:
 - 1. Private censure reserved for only unusually minor cases;
 - 2. Public censure, the general minimum sanction ;
 - 3. Suggestive, self-imposed sanction made by the appellate and agreed upon by the Election Board; or
 - 4. Pursue disciplinary action with the Office of the Dean of Students.
- B. The Election Board is encouraged to consider past precedent when distributing penalties.

Section 5. Report with the Office of the Dean of Students

The Board may direct the Commissioner of Elections to file a report with the Office of the Dean of Students with the recommendation that the Office review the alleged offense of the candidates, the ticket, or others under the provisions of the Code of Student Conduct or other appropriate University rules (if the violation warrants it, according to the opinion of the Board.)

ARTICLE X Miscellaneous Rules

Section 1. Prohibition of Multiple Candidacy

No person may be a candidate for more than one (1) office established under, or elected under the authority of, the Student Government Constitution.

Section 2. Withdrawal from the Election

- A. If a candidate wishes to withdraw from an election, he/she must do so by meeting with the Commissioner of the Elections, in person, presenting a valid picture ID, and giving the Commissioner a written, signed statement of his/her withdrawal.
- B. No person may withdraw from an election five (5) class days prior to an election.
- C. Should a withdrawn candidate's name be inadvertently placed on the ballot, he/she shall be considered to still have withdrawn and to be thus ineligible to win the election. The position will be awarded to the 2nd highest vote getter following the ineligible candidate. These votes shall not count towards the percentage majority calculation.

Section 3. Electing Student Senate Seats

- A. Student Senate seats shall be divided in half after apportionment in which one -half (1/2) of the seats available in a college shall go up for elections in the Fall and the other half (1/2) shall be up for election in the Spring.
- B. Students will be able to vote for as many candidates as there are seats allocated.
- C. Upon election, Student senators shall be designated in the following way:
 - 1. Fall senators shall be named A, C, E, etc.

2. Spring senators shall be named B, D, F, etc.
3. These letters will be assigned after elections based upon alphabetical order of the candidates' last names.

Section 4. Vacant Seats in the Student Senate

- A. If a vacancy occurs on the Student Senate, it may be filled immediately by the respective college council by a majority vote of its members.
- B. The seat shall then be up for election during the next regularly scheduled campus wide election as a half (1/2) term Senate seat, regardless of how long is left remaining on the term.
- C. A person may only be appointed once by the same college to fill a Senate vacancy.

Section 5. Change of Apportionment of the Student Senate

If apportionment causes an academic area to have more or less Senate seats than it previously had, the two lettered seats will be added or removed, as the particular case calls for.

- A. In the event that seats are removed, any Senators whose seats have been discontinued shall be allowed to serve out their regular terms.
- B. In the event that seats are added, then they shall both be placed on the Spring election ballot, one as a full term and one as a half (1/2) term.

Section 6. Electing University Court Justices

Four Justices (4) will be elected in the Fall and three justices (3) in the Spring.