

12-12-2011

Senate Bill (S) 52-015 Updates to Election Requirements and Addition of the Election Timeline

University of South Florida. Student Government Senate

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University of South Florida
Student Government Senate



SB [S] 52-015

Updates to Election Requirements and Addition of the Election Timeline
52nd Term
Fall 2011

The intent of this bill shall be to remove the signature requirement from the required documentation for Candidacy in the General Election, and to add a definitive election timeline to be followed in every General Election hereafter.

A SENATE STATUTORY AMENDMENT

Be it enacted by the Senate of the University of South Florida Student Government assembled, that the following changes be made to the Student Government Statutes:

Chapter

702

General Requirements and Regulations for Candidacy in the General Election

702.1 Candidacy

702.1.1 Students interested in running for the offices of President / Vice President and Senator will be able to pick up an application packet from the Election Rules Commission in the fall semester prior to the General Election.

702.1.2 Candidates will be allowed to apply Monday through Friday, except holidays, beginning the first day of classes. ~~The application shall be due to the Election Rules Commission no later than the close of business (4:59:59PM) on the Friday of the third week of classes of the Spring Semester.~~

702.1.2.1 To apply for candidacy, candidates must submit the following required forms in order to be put on the ballot.

702.1.2.1.1 The official application packet.

702.1.2.1.2 A Declaration of Intent

702.1.2.1.3 A Buckley Waiver

~~702.1.2.1.4~~ A petition form with the signatures of students currently enrolled at the University of South Florida.

~~702.1.2.1.4.1~~ President / Vice-President tickets shall be required to acquire one hundred and fifty (150) student signatures from any college at the University of South Florida.

~~702.1.2.1.4.2~~ Senatorial candidates shall be required to acquire fifty (50) students currently enrolled in the college that the applicant is applying for.

~~702.1.2.2~~ Candidates may only engage in verbal campaigning while collecting signatures for the petition.

702.1.3 Candidates shall be required to attend at least one of the official candidates meetings. There will be at least three meetings scheduled before Official Campaigning.

~~702.1.4~~ The week prior to the two weeks of Official Campaigning shall be reserved for the Student Government Advising and Training Operations Bureau to check the eligibility of candidates. When the Student Government Advising and Training Operations Bureau have completed this check, they will contact the Elections Rules Commission who will certify the candidate to run in the election. If a candidate is found to be ineligible to run for office they will be notified of the reason for their ineligibility.

~~702.1.5~~ 702.1.4 Candidates shall not run for more than one office. Senatorial candidates shall not run for more than one Senate seat during the election.

~~702.1.5.1~~ 702.1.4.1 Candidates shall run in the college they are currently registered in according to Banner.

702.1.5.1.1 If a student is registered in more than one college, they must choose which college they will run in.

702.1.5.1.2 Candidates who have not declared a major shall run in the college of their choice.

~~702.1.6~~ 702.1.5 No undergraduate candidate may run in a college that is restricted to graduate students.

702.2 Election Timeline

702.2.1 The application period shall begin the first day of the Spring semester and shall end at 5pm on the last day of the business week, six weeks prior to Spring Break.

702.2.2 The week prior to the two weeks of Official Campaigning shall be reserved for the Student Government Advising and Training Operations Bureau to check the eligibility of candidates. When the Student Government Advising and Training Operations Bureau have completed this check, they will contact the Elections Rules Commission who will certify the candidate to run in the election. If a candidate is found to be ineligible to run for office they will be notified of the reason for their ineligibility by a member of SGATO.

702.2.3 Official Campaigning shall begin four weeks prior to the start of Spring Break, and shall end with the close of polls on the final day of voting.

702.2.4 Elections shall be held two weeks prior to the start of Spring Break and shall last for four consecutive business days, Monday through Thursday of the applicable week.

702.2.5 If needed, a Run-off election shall be held during the week prior to the start of Spring Break.

702.3 702.3 Expenditures

702.2.3 702.3.1 Each Presidential/Vice-Presidential ticket and senatorial Candidate shall submit a completed campaign Budget Statement to the Election Rules Commission before they will be allowed to officially campaign. This statement shall include all campaign contributions and any campaign expenditures with all receipts attached.

702.2.3 702.3.2 A Campaign Ticket or Senatorial Candidate shall submit an amended expense form to the Election Rules Commission when making purchase during the weeks of campaigning, detailing the cost and providing the receipt.

702.2.3 702.3.3 Misreported information on the Campaign Budget Statement may result in major/minor violations being assessed against a candidate.

702.3 702.4 Campaigning

702.3.1 702.4.1 Official Campaigning shall begin two weeks prior to the week of voting for the General Election and will end when the polls close to the final day of voting.

702.3.2 702.4.2 Students may not actively or passively campaign prior to Official Campaigning.

702.3.2 702.4.2.1 Students may solicit the assistance of campaign staff and organizers.

702.3.3 702.4.3 Presidential/Vice-Presidential Candidates shall select a student to act as their Campaign manager. The Campaign manager shall supervise a campaign ticket's logistics, paperwork, finances, and all Campaign Staff. The Campaign Manager shall

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also ensure that all Campaign Staff is familiar with all the rules, statutes, and regulations that pertain to the elections and campaigning.

~~702.3.3.1~~702.4.3.1 Senatorial Campaign Managers and Campaign Staff are optional, but are required to be reported to the Election Rules Commission.

~~702.3.4~~702.4.4 Any student or non-student may engage in Passive and/or Active Campaigning.

~~702.3.5~~702.4.5 Rights and restrictions on campaign materials shall be outlined in the Election Rules Commission Rules of Procedure and Title 7.

~~702.4~~702.5 Campaigning Code of Ethics

~~702.4.1~~702.5.1 No candidate or member of a campaign shall threaten or commit any violence to any member of a campaign ticket.

~~702.4.2~~702.5.2 No candidate or member of a campaign shall commit or attempt to commit extortion or blackmail.

~~702.4.3~~702.5.3 No candidate or member of a campaign shall knowingly provide false information before the Election Rules Commission or Supreme Court.

~~702.4.4~~702.5.4 No candidate or member of a campaign shall not withhold any financial records when reporting a budget or change to the budget.

~~702.4.5~~702.5.5 No candidate or member of a campaign shall commit or attempt to commit a bribe.

~~702.4.6~~702.5.6 No candidate or member of a campaign shall commit slander or libel.

~~702.4.7~~702.5.7 No candidate or member of a campaign shall commit destruction or theft of any campaign material.

~~702.4.8~~702.5.8 No candidate or member of a campaign shall use any A&S funded materials for any political campaigns with the exception of materials produced in Student Government Computer Services.

~~702.4.9~~702.5.9 No candidate or member of a campaign shall condone or authorize the destruction or theft of any campaign material.

~~702.4.10~~702.5.10 No candidate or member of a campaign shall cast or attempt to cast more than one vote or tamper with election software.

~~702.4.11~~702.5.11 No candidate or member of a campaign shall condone or authorize the casting of more than one vote or tampering with the election software.

~~702.4.12~~702.5.12 No candidate or member of a campaign shall condone, authorize, or sponsor mobile polling stations.

~~702.4.13~~702.5.13 No candidate or member of a campaign shall distribute campaign materials by sliding material under doors of residence halls.

~~702.5~~702.6 **General Election Ballot**

~~702.5.1~~702.6.1 There shall be no write-in candidates.

~~702.5.2~~702.6.2 Candidates shall not run for more than one position during the General Election.

~~702.5.3~~702.6.3 Should a Presidential or Vice-Presidential Candidate remove their name from a campaign, the remaining candidate must select and report the replacement to the Election Rules Commission within forty eight hours.

~~702.5.3.1~~702.6.3.1 Violations assessed shall remain in effect from the new ticket.

~~702.5.4~~702.6.4 Candidates may withdraw from the election at any time by submitting a Withdrawal form. Candidates who withdraw from the election may not reapply for any position in that General Election after the close of applications.

~~702.5.5~~702.6.5 The candidate's legal name shall be on the ballot. The Election Rules Commission may allow nicknames to be listed along with the legal name on the ballot.

~~702.5.6~~702.6.6 The order of the candidates' names on the ballot shall be determined by a randomized selection process as determined by the voting software.

~~702.6~~702.7 **Major and Minor Violations**

~~702.6.1~~702.7.1 Should the actions of any Campaign Ticket, Campaign Staff or Senatorial Candidate violate Student Government Statutes or Election Rules Commission Rules of Procedure, the respective Campaign Ticket or Senatorial Candidate may be held liable. If actions are proven beyond a reasonable doubt, then the Election Rules

Commission may assess violations to the respective Campaign Ticket or Senatorial Candidate.

~~702.6.2~~702.7.2 The Election Rules Commission does not have jurisdiction beyond Student Government Statutes and Election Rules Commission Rules of Procedure.

~~702.6.2.1~~702.7.2.1 Violations of University Policy and Student Code of Conduct shall be determined by the office of Student Rights and responsibilities.

~~702.6.2.2~~702.7.2.2 Violations of municipal, state and federal law shall be determined by the judiciary of the respective government.

~~702.6.2.3~~702.7.2.3 The Election Rules Commission will accept grievances against Senatorial Candidates, Campaign Tickets and their staff throughout the weeks of campaigning for the General Election. Grievances may be filed by students, faculty, or staff for violations of policies regarding Active Campaigning and Campaign Materials.

702.6.2.3.1 The burden of proof, beyond reasonable doubt, in assessment of violations lies with the person who filed the grievance. Grievances filed without any proof of the allegations shall be discarded.

702.6.2.3.2 The Supervisor of Elections has the discretion to dismiss any grievance with proper justification.

~~702.6.2.4~~702.7.2.4 The Election Rules Commission may assess violations to Campaign Tickets or a Senatorial Candidate for grievances filed, if the grievance is proved beyond a reasonable doubt.

~~702.6.2.5~~702.7.2.5 The Election Rules Commission may assess violations to Campaign Tickets or a Senatorial Candidate for technical violations such as late paperwork, failure to acquire required signatures, etc. These violations will be handled by the Election Rules Commission and grievances will not be accepted accusing a candidate of these offenses.

~~702.6.2.6~~702.7.2.6 The Election Rules Commission may assess violations to Campaign Tickets or a Senatorial Candidate for misreporting information on the Campaign Budget Statement. These violations will be handled by the Election Rules Commission and grievances will not be accepted accusing a candidate of this offense.

~~702.6.2.7~~702.7.2.7 The Election Rules Commission may assess violations to the Campaign Tickets or a Senatorial Candidate for violations of the Campaigning Code of Ethics and other Student Government statutes.

~~702.6.2.8~~702.7.2.8 Upon receipt of a grievance, the Election Rules Commission will inform the affected Campaign Ticket or senatorial Candidate of their potential violation and information about the grievance hearing.

~~702.6.2.9~~702.7.2.9 The Election Rules Commission will discuss the statements from both parties, look at the evidence, and vote on whether or not to assess violations to the Campaign Ticket or Senatorial Candidate. Violations shall be assessed in accordance with Election Rules Commission Rules of Procedure.

~~702.6.2.10~~702.7.2.10 All violation assessments may be appealed to the SG Supreme Court.

~~702.6.2.11~~702.7.2.11 A Campaign Ticket shall be disqualified should the Campaign Ticket accumulate a major violation or three minor violations.

~~702.6.2.12~~702.7.2.12 No grievances may be filed with the Election Rules Commission after the certification of the results of the General Election.

~~702.7~~702.8 Run-Off Elections

~~702.7.1~~702.8.1 After the results of the General Election have been announced, the Election Rules Commission will inform the candidates as to whether or not a Run-Off Election will need to be held. All the policies and procedures of the General Election shall apply to a Run-Off Election, except those changed by the policies and procedures found below.

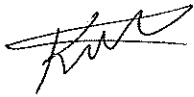
~~702.7.2~~702.8.2 Run-Off Elections shall occur the following Tuesday and Wednesday after the official announcement and certification of the election results.

~~702.7.3~~702.8.3 No purchases may be made for the Run-Off Election until the Election Rules Commission has determined which Campaign Tickets shall participate in the Run-Off election.

~~702.7.4~~702.8.4 Campaigning will begin immediately following the official announcement that a Run-Off Election will occur and end upon the closing of the polls on the final day of voting.

~~702.7.5~~702.8.5 Violations assessed to candidates in the General Election shall remain in effect until the announcement of the results of the Run-Off election.

~~702.7.6~~702.8.6 No grievances shall be filed once the Election Rules Commission has certified the Run-Off election results.



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SB [S] 52-015

Updates to Election Requirements and Addition of the Election Timeline

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Committee Action: 100-1
Final Reading: 11.29.2011
Final Vote Count: 22-4-1