

First Reading: February 19th, 2008
Second Reading: February 26th, 2007
Pass: _____
Fail: _____
Other: _____

Bill 02-08-S
Fall 2007 Election Codes

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to approve the Election Codes for the 2007 Fall Election.

WHEREAS: It is the responsibility of the Judicial Council to set rules and codes for all elections, and

WHEREAS: It is the constitutional responsibility of the Student Senate to approve all Election Codes that are used to conduct elections.

THEREFORE: The Student Government Association does hereby approve the attached Election Codes for the 2007 Fall Election.

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SPONSORS: Judicial Council

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ATTACHMENTS: 2007 Judicial Fall Election Codes

Fall 2007 Election Codes

Authority

The Judicial Council shall enact and review election rules in accordance with Article IV, Section 5.7 of the Student Government Association (SGA) Constitution.

The following Election Codes apply for both Special Executive and Legislative Elections.

Candidacy and Filing Procedures

The Director of Public Relations, or a designated appointee, or necessary aid, pursuant to Article II, Section 7.5 of the SGA Constitution shall publicize all filing dates

In order to run for an office, a student must not file the day before the official starting day September 1, 2007 and no later than 6 p.m. on the final day September 11, 2007.

An orientation meeting, which all candidates must attend, will be held on September 11th, 2007 at 6:00 PM. Candidates who file but fail to attend this meeting shall be disqualified, unless an exemption by the Judicial Council has been granted.

The Judicial Council Chief Justice or a designated member of the Judicial Council shall notify all candidates of the meeting.

The Candidate's Packet (which shall consist of a schedule of dates and events, a cost estimates sheet, campaign finance forms, the telephone number of the Judicial Council members, the candidate profile sheet, and any other pertinent information) shall be distributed at the orientation meeting. If a candidate is granted an exemption he or she will have to arrange an alternative time to pick up candidate packets if an exemption is given.

Candidates will be required to sign an agreement affirming that they will abide by the election codes, the SGA Constitution, By Laws, Student Handbook, and agree to release their academic and discipline records to the SGA advisor.

The position of a candidate on the ballot shall be determined by a random drawing after the orientation meeting.

General Election Guidelines

Judicial Council shall meet once a week during the election campaign.

Candidates will be responsible for checking the window and/or door of the SGA office on a daily basis for any updates and/or rulings concerning the election. Electronic mail will also be sent as a courtesy to the candidates.

Material may be placed on bulletin boards and other areas designated by the Judicial Council.

Only one poster per candidate may be placed on each bulletin board.

No more than 3 posters per candidate should be within a 10- foot radius.

Placing material on departmental or official use bulletin boards is prohibited.

Material placed on bulletin boards should not exceed twenty (20) inches by twenty (20) inches.

There shall be no groups in favor of a candidate made by the candidate on Facebook.com or MySpace.com during the election process. Further, there is to be no advertisement space to be bought that advertises for a

candidate in the election. There is also to be no writing on walls or messages sent through facebook or myspace that ask others to vote for a particular candidate. No campaigning is to be done by the candidate on facebook or myspace.com.

Mass emailing students for self-promotion purposes is prohibited.

Advertisement materials for a candidate must be kept five feet away from any computer labs, multipurpose rooms, or other areas that are designated to be prohibited from campaigning in these Election Codes.

There shall be no campaigning in classrooms while class is in session unless by the consent of the instructor.

There shall be no door to door campaigning in residence halls.

There shall be no campaign material distributed into or onto doors or doorways on campus.

Distribution of perishable food items shall be prohibited within 48 hours of any election.

No campaigning or material shall be placed in any Student Government Association or special session meeting.

There shall be no distribution of physical campaign material, or placement of material, inside, or in the immediate vicinity, of computer lab, multi-function rooms (i.e. computer classrooms) or library.

All candidates shall remove all campaign material from university property no later than five (5) days after election.

No unauthorized person shall be allowed to remove or deface any material of any candidate.

No defacing or altering of school property with election propaganda (such as side-walk chalk or paint).

Candidate Finance Guidelines

All candidates for the Student Senate shall spend no more than \$50

No student or organization shall contribute more than \$100 in total donations. Total contributions may not exceed the spending limit for the office being sought as prescribed above.

An exact report of itemized expenditures and contributions shall be filed with the Judicial Council in the SGA office, DUC 130:

By the given date in the election package (September 15, 2007)

Election Results

The Judicial Council Chief Justice shall report the results of the election to the candidates once the votes have been verified (12:01 Am September 21, 2007).

The election results shall be posted in the SGA office, and made available to the media within twenty-four (24) hours of the election.

Appeal Procedure

All appeals, protests, and disqualifications regarding the general election must be filed within three (3) business days after the release of the election results. (September 23, 2007).

The Judicial Council shall immediately investigate the situation and act as necessary and appropriate with their findings.

If any SGA candidate is found in violation of the election code after the election has been held, the violator will be subject to judicial review and may be disqualified. A new election may be held for that office.

The Judicial Council shall make a report of their rulings regarding appeals, protests, and disqualifications at the following Legislative meetings.

Online Election Procedures

Internet polling will take place for two days from September 19, 2007 12:01 a.m. to September 20, 2007 11:59 p.m. of the second day.

The computer-based program will compile the results of online elections. Results of these votes will be picked up from the Information Technology by the SGA advisor or appointee and a designated member of the Judicial Council.

Any solicitation of Social Security Number and/ or Student Identification Number by a candidate or agent of a candidate will result in immediate disqualification pending investigation by Judicial Council.

Polling places used by a campaign shall be prohibited.

The Judicial Council shall request that in all computer labs one computer is left open to be available for voting purposes only.

The Judicial Council will request that IT record IP Addresses of computers used to vote in order to track any possible improprieties in voting.