

First Reading: February 19, 2002

Second Reading: February 26, 2002

Pass: _____

Fail: _____

Other: _____

Bill 02-07-S

2002 Election Codes

February 18, 2002

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to establish Election Codes for the Student Government Association 2002 Spring Elections.

WHEREAS: Article 3, Sect. 5, Clause 7 grants the Student Government Association Congress the power to establish Bylaws, and

WHEREAS: These proposed Election Codes reflect the recommendations of the Judicial Council, and

WHEREAS: This proposal will aid in the orderly execution of the upcoming Elections.

THEREFORE: Be it affirmed that we, the members of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University, do hereby establish the following Election Codes for the Spring 2002 Elections.

AUTHORS: Jamil Sewell

SPONSOR: Legislative Research Committee

Proposed 2002 Election Codes
as of 2/18/02

Authority

The Judicial Council shall supervise all elections in accordance with Article IV, Section 5, of the SGA Constitution.

Candidacy and Filing Procedures

The Vice-President of Public Relations, pursuant to Article II, Section 6.3 of the SGA Constitution, shall publicize all filing dates at least thirty (30) days before the primary election.

In order to run for an office, a student must file not before twenty-one (21) days and no later than fourteen (14) days before the primary election.

The Judicial Council shall hold an orientation meeting in which all candidates must attend. The meeting shall be held fourteen (14) days before the primary election. Candidates who file but fail to attend this meeting shall be disqualified, unless 24 hours of prior notification is given.

The Judicial Council Chief Justice or a member of 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 numbers of the Judicial Council members, the candidate profile sheet, and any other prudent information) shall be distributed at the orientation meeting.

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

Candidates' positions on the ballot shall be determined by random drawing at 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 daily bases 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.

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

Material placed on bulletin boards may no exceed twenty (20) inches by twenty (20) inches.

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

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

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

Distribution of perishable food items shall be prohibited on the day of any election.

There shall be no distribution of physical campaign material inside any computer lab, multi-function rooms (i.e. computer/classrooms) or library. This excludes the placing of material on bulletin boards.

There shall be no campaigning within fifty (50) feet of any polling place on primary or general election day.

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

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

Polling Places

The Judicial council shall determine polling locations within the specified polling places.

The Vice-President of Public Relations shall publicly announce all locations and times of operation of the polling places not less than ten (10) days before the election.

If available, Margie Helm Library, The Preston Center and Downing University Center shall be the buildings in which polling places are located and shall be open from 9:00am until 4:00pm. Any locations will be announced at least one week prior to the first Election.

Candidate Finance Guidelines

Candidates shall be required to adhere to the following limitations:

Presidential candidates shall spend no more than \$450

Executive Vice-Presidential candidates shall spend no more than \$400.

All other Executive Cabinet candidates shall spend no more than \$350.

All candidates for Congress shall spend no more than \$50.

No student or organization shall contribute more than \$100 in total donations whether they be monetary, non-monetary, or both. Total contributions (monetary and/or non-monetary) may not exceed the spending limit for the office being sought as prescribed in section 5.1.

Judicial Council will assess fair market value for all non-monetary contributions.

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

1. By 4pm on the first official day of campaigning.
2. By 4pm on the day of the primary election.
3. By 12 noon on the Tuesday following the general election.

The following actions shall subject a candidate to disqualification by the Judicial Council:

1. Failure to file accurate or timely reports.
2. Falsification of statements on reports.

Counting Ballots

It shall be the duty of the Judicial Council to count physical ballots immediately following the closing of a card scan election, if necessary.

The SGA advisor or his appointee and a faculty or staff member appointed by Judicial Council shall assist as official ballot counters.

Each campaign shall designate one person, other than the candidate(s), to serve as an official ballot counter.

It is the responsibility of the Judicial Council Chief Justice to unlock the ballot boxes.

Ballots shall be kept for seventy-two (72) hours after an election to accommodate all requests for recounts.

Any requests for recounts must be filed in writing within forty-eight (48) hours after the results are announced.

Election Results

The Judicial Council Chief Justice shall report the results of the election to the candidates once the votes have been verified.

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

The Judicial council shall hear all appeals, protests, and disqualification's regarding the Primary or General Election up to seventy-two (72) hours prior to new officer installation.

The Judicial Council shall immediately investigate the situation and shall hold a new election if a majority of the Judicial Council finds an impropriety based on their findings.

If any SGA candidate/officer is found in violation of election code, the violator may be disqualified and new elections shall be authorized. This new election shall consist only of previously eligible candidates who were not eliminated before the violation. The violator can not run again.

The Judicial Council shall make a report to Congress at the next congressional meeting.

Online Election Procedures

Internet polling will take place from 9:00 a.m. Tuesday to 9:00 a.m. Thursday.

Polling stations (i.e. Downing University Center, The Preston Center, Helm-Cravens Library) will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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

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

Mobile polling places (i.e. laptops) used by a campaign shall be prohibited.