

# Campaigns and Elections Act

## Article I. Election Committee

The following are the official rules and procedures governing all Student Government Association elections.

### **Section I. Election Committee**

1. The Student Government Association elections will be overseen by the Election Committee.
  - a. In the case of unforeseen circumstances, the Election Committee will regulate any changes to rules for campaigning and the election period.
2. The Election Committee shall consist of four (3) members: the Attorney General, who will serve as Chair; the Executive President, who will serve as Co-Chair; the SGA Advisor; a. The Attorney General who shall serve as the Chair of the Election Committee;
  - i. In the event the Attorney General must recuse themselves, the SGA Executive President will serve as the designee to chair the committee in their place.
  - ii. The Chair of the Election Committee may nominate the right to add/remove members of the Election Committee. The addition or removal of a member must be approved by all members of the Election Committee by 50% greater. The member being voted on does not receive a vote.
- b. Executive President. In the case that the Executive President chooses to recuse themselves, the second-most senior Executive Supreme Court Justice will replace them.
- c. The SGA Advisor, appointed by the Chair, will serve as faculty representatives to assist the Election Committee by providing guidance, and additional support to ensure proper conduct and fairness throughout the entire election process.
3. In the event of removal, approval of materials, or any campaign/election violation must be voted on with a 50% majority and all committee members must be present;
4. All campaign/election materials must be sent to the Chair of the Election Committee for review and approval during the unofficial campaigning period (this time period begins at the interest meeting and ends when candidates start getting signatures). All graphics, videos, posts, etc. need to be submitted for approval two (2) days before your desired posting time.
5. The members of the Election Committee will be announced the same day that the election dates are announced.

## Article II. Executive Officers and Class Officers Eligibility

**Section I.** Eligibility for Elected Executive Officers. All candidates for elected executive offices within the Student Government Association must:

1. Be in good academic standing by having a minimum grade point average of 2.7;

2. Be in good disciplinary standing with the University;
3. Have served previously as elected or appointed officers, committee chairs, or organizational representatives of recognized and chartered SGA organizations in good standing;
4. During the current school year, up to the time of elections and not after the election period, must have attended at least six (6) open meetings of the Student Government Association;
5. For candidates seeking the position of Student Government Association President and Treasurer, the candidate must have attended High Point University for a minimum of three (3) semesters;
6. Candidates for the position of SGA President must have a minimum of two (2) semesters experience within SGA;
7. Candidates for the position of SGA Executive President, Treasurer and Secretary must submit a letter of intent showing their interest for the position to the Chair of the Election Committee;
  - a. The letter of intent will be posted via SGA approved platform
  - b. The letter of intent will be read at the SGA Meeting prior to the beginning of signatures
  - c. Candidates for the position of President must obtain three hundred and fifty (350) signatures of support from the student body of High Point University
8. Candidates will be given a form from the Election Committee that candidates must use to obtain their signatures of support
  - a. This form will have the following sections: Full Name (printed), Date, Student ID number, and Signature.
    - i. If any section of this form is not filled out, that signature will be void
    - ii. Any students with accommodation who are not able to physically fill out the form may use a digital signature
  - b. Duplicate signatures are allowed between separate candidate forms;
  - c. Election Committee members cannot sign a signature of support for any candidate.
  - d. Candidates will have three (3) days to receive all of their signatures; during this time they can discuss their platform based on their letter of intent by word-of-mouth.
9. A signature of support does not count as a vote toward any candidate for the position of President. Student will still be required to vote through HPU Connect during the voting period;
10. Any of the above requirements may be waived by a majority vote of the sitting Election Committee, and final approval by the SGA Advisor.

**Section II. Eligibility for Appointed Executive Officers.** All candidates for appointed executive offices within the Student Government Association must:

1. Have a minimum grade point average of 2.7
2. Be in good disciplinary standing with the University
3. Prior to being sworn in, must have attended at least two (2) open meetings of the Student Government Association.

**Section III. Eligibility for Elected and Appointed Class Officers.** Except for new students, i.e. incoming freshmen and transfer students, candidates for Class Offices within the Student Government Association must:

1. Have a grade point average of 2.7, or higher, at the time of the election. For purposes of voting, a student must:
  - a. Be enrolled in 12 credit hours, or more;
2. Be in good academic standing with the University.

### **Article III. Campaign Material**

#### **Section I. Campaign Materials.**

1. With regard to campaign materials:
  - a. All campaign materials must be brought to the Election Committee to be approved before it may be used for campaigning;
  - b. Campaign materials should be worded in a way that offers suggestions but does not make definitive promises;
  - c. Physical campaign materials displayed in public areas may only be posted on designated boards throughout campus;
  - d. Posters must not exceed 24" x 36" and no banners may be used;
  - e. May not be posted in the lobby entrance of Residence Halls and all campaign material in residence halls must be approved by the Election Committee and Building Committee Director or equivalent
  - f. Campaign materials may not be posted on wooden doors, painted walls, glass, University structures, walkways/sidewalks, furniture or furnishings;
  - g. There will be no mass email campaigning allowed;
  - h. Failure to abide by these rules may result in removal from the election at the discretion of the Election Committee;
  - i. The Chair of the Election Committee has final authority over the entire election process;
2. With regard to negative campaign material:
  - a. All campaign materials must demonstrate civility and must otherwise be consistent with the goals established for educational support services and campus life at High Point University.
  - b. There will be no slander and libel allowed toward other candidates. The election must remain respectful toward other candidates and the Election Committee;
  - c. Any negative campaigning and hearsay observed should be documented through video or picture and sent to the Election Committee in a timely manner via the Campaign Violation Report Form;

- d. Any candidate who knowingly or purposefully causes physical damage to, or the removal of, another candidate's campaign material will be disqualified;
  - e. Failure to abide by these rules will result in removal from the election at the discretion of the Election Committee.
- 3. With regard to the use of Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, etc.):
  - a. If any social media is employed by a candidate, the Election Committee must have full access to posted or published information;
  - b. Failure to abide by these rules will result in removal from the election of the Election Committee.
- 4. With regard to endorsements:
  - a. No candidates shall seek or receive formal endorsement from a club, organization, team, or department. Class Officers and Executive Cabinet members are allowed to post any unedited, approved, published campaign materials, but cannot post their own original content.
  - b. Class Officers and Executive Cabinet members students cannot support or endorse any candidates through verbal, worn, or written endorsements while in the capacity of their role (at any SGA-sponsored events)
  - c. There shall be no campaign material worn or publicized by any Executive Cabinet member, Class Officer, or Senator at any SGA sponsored event

## **Article IV. Election Procedures**

**Section I. Election Procedures.** For all elections conducted by the Student Government Association, the Election Committee shall enforce the following procedures:

- 1. Elections for incoming freshman Class Officers shall occur no earlier than one (1) week after Convocation;
- 2. **Applications will be available online on the Student Government Association website following the mandatory interest meeting and will need to be completed by a predetermined set day and time**
- 3. A candidate may not run for a different position in any circumstance once the application is approved;
- 4. The Chair of the Election Committee will hold a mandatory meeting for all approved candidates to review campaign regulations. Campaigning will begin to be allowed the next day. Failure to attend this meeting may result in disqualification;
- 5. There shall be no campaigning of any form, this includes but not limited to formally communicating with other individuals, posting on social media, emailing before the beginning of campaigning, and/or any form of communication that can place a candidate at an advantage over other candidates before the start of campaigning. Any individual found responsible of such action could be subject to removal;

6. Executive Cabinet appointments may be announced at the beginning of the campaigning period once approved by the Elections Committee via form.
7. Campaigning must end at the end of voting. Voting will begin after four (4) full days of campaigning have taken place;
8. The voting period for elections will be three (3) days and available for a total of seventy-two (72) consecutive hours
  - a. Candidates shall be listed randomly, according to the position sought;
  - b. All candidates' names are to appear in the same font face, size, and color.
  - c. Candidates shall also have both their personal name and ticket name (President and Vice President last name) listed on the ballot
9. Only qualified voters will be presented with the link to vote (see Article II. Executive Officers and Class Officers Eligibility);
10. Voters will follow provided directions to cast an in-person ballot in the Airtable system;
11. All positions shall be elected by the candidate receiving the most votes;
12. In the event of a perfect tie in Executive Cabinet positions, the Student Senate shall determine the winner; In the event of a perfect tie in Class Officer positions, the respective class shall hold a twenty-four (24) hour runoff election.
13. Results shall be certified and delivered by the Election Committee to all involved parties;
14. Each candidate shall be allowed one (1) request for a re-verification of the ballots and official elections results and ballot counts are available to all candidates after each party has been notified at the conclusion of the election;
15. A re-election may be called by the Chief Justice if the Election Committee identifies election irregularities that could change the outcome of the results. Such irregularities are reported in writing via the Campaign Violation Report Form;
  - a. Campaign Violation Report Forms may be completed by any student, including the Election Committee. All Campaign Violation Report Forms must be submitted to the Election Committee in the form online within twenty-four (24) hours of becoming aware of the violation;
  - b. After reviewing the report, if the Election Committee determines a violation has occurred, the report will be submitted to the Chief Justice within twenty-four (24) hours of the initial submission to the Election Committee.
16. If the Chief Justice mandates a new election, the election should occur at a time set by the Election Committee;
17. Class Officers shall be elected after Executive Cabinet elections have been completed;
18. The Election Committee shall execute Executive Cabinet and the Class Officers elections;
19. The Executive Cabinet may revise the election schedule for cause, subject to confirmation by the Student Senate and provided they are completed four (4) weeks prior to the first day of examinations to allow sufficient time for orientation and planning;

21. The Election Committee has the right to call a meeting of all candidates given a twenty-four (24) hour advance. Unless a University Official deems it necessary to have an emergency hearing. Failure to attend can will result in a candidate's immediate disqualification;
22. Candidates who are found responsible for violating any procedures will be sanctioned as such:
  - a. First major offense: Warning
  - b. Second major offense: Disqualification from the election
23. The Chair of the Election Committee has final authority over the entire election process.

**Section 2. Letter of Intent Discussion Procedures.** Letters of Intent shall be read by the candidates for Secretary and Treasurer and the Election Committee shall enforce the following procedures:

1. The candidates for SGA Secretary will read their previously submitted and approved Letters of Intent to the SGA Senate.
  - a. After the proposed candidate has read their letter, the floor will open to SGA Senator to ask questions to the candidate.
    - i. Senators will have the opportunity to submit questions to candidates via form to be asked during the fielded question portion.
    - ii. Only the questions that are relevant to the Student Body will be read.  
Questions that are personal matters will be disregarded.
  - b. This discussion will be moderated by the Attorney General.
  - c. After ten (10) minutes of fielded questions, discussion will cease.
  - d. These procedures will be repeated for each candidate seeking the position of SGA Secretary.
2. The candidates for SGA Treasurer will read their previously submitted and approved Letters of Intent to the SGA Senate.
  - a. After the proposed candidate has read their letter, the floor will open to SGA Senator to ask questions to the candidate.
    - i. Senators will have the opportunity to submit questions to candidates via form to be asked during the fielded question portion.
    - ii. Only the questions that are relevant to the Student Body will be read.  
Questions that are personal matters will be disregarded.
  - b. This discussion will be moderated by the Attorney General.
  - c. After ten (10) minutes of fielded questions, discussion will cease.
  - d. These procedures will be repeated for each candidate seeking the position of SGA Treasurer.

**Section 3. Letter of Intent and Debate Procedures.** Letters of Intent shall be read and a Debate shall be held by the candidates for President and the Elections Committee shall enforce the following procedures:

1. The candidates for SGA President will read their previously submitted and approved Letters of Intent to the SGA Senate.

- a. After each candidate for SGA President has read their Letter of Intent, all candidates will be brought forward for the Presidential Debate.
- b. There will be ten (10) minutes of the Presidential Debate.
  - i. Candidates will have the opportunity to defend their platforms to the Senators.
  - ii. Questions for this portion of the debate will be previously determined by the Elections Committee.
- c. Following the Presidential Debate, there will be ten (10) minutes of open questions and comments fielded from the Senate floor.
  - i. Senators will have the opportunity to submit questions to candidates via form to be asked during the fielded question portion.
  - ii. Only the questions that are relevant to the Student Body will be read.  
Questions that are personal matters will be disregarded.
- d. These time constraints for debating and questioning will be timed and moderated by the Attorney General with assistance from the members of the Elections Committee as needed.

## **Article V. Student Government Association Vice President Election Procedures**

**Section I. Election Procedures.** The election of the Vice President shall be conducted by the Student Government Association, the Election Committee shall enforce the following procedures:

1. Candidates for President must declare their running mate for Vice President at the time of filing for candidacy.
2. A conduct check shall be conducted on all presidential and vice-presidential candidates.
  - a. In the event that the Vice-President candidate doesn't pass the conduct check the Presidential candidate has 24 hours to find a replacement.
3. The student body will vote on the President/Vice President ticket during the general election.
4. Open forums shall be scheduled for questions and comments, with a minimum of 30 minutes allotted per session.

This election shall take place in accordance with the timeline set by the Election Committee and outlined in the SGA governing documents.

## **Article VI. Appeals and Unexpired Terms**

**Section I. Appeals Process.** In the event of an appeal by a candidate, the following procedures will be followed:

1. The candidate requesting an appeal must contact the Election Committee within forty-eight (48) hours following the certification of the election;

2. The Chair of the Election Committee will coordinate the appellate process – scheduling of an appellate court session with the Chief Justice, Supreme Court Justices, Office of Student Life Representative, and the candidate requesting the appeal;
3. The appellate court will include the following members:
  - a. Chief Justice for the hearing;
  - b. Attorney General on behalf of the Student Government Association;
  - c. The SGA Staff Advisor or other appointed Office of Student Life Representative serving as an ex-officio coordinator of the appellate process;
  - d. Supreme Court Justices;
  - e. Candidate formally requesting the appeal;
  - f. Witnesses can be present upon request at the discretion of the Chief Justice.
4. Dissatisfaction with the outcome of the election is not a grounds for appeal. Basis for appeal must meet one or more of the following:
  - a. Evidence of tampering with election results;
  - b. Evidence of misconduct from the Chair of the Election Committee;
  - c. Evidence of misconduct from any member of the Election Committee and/or the Chair of the Election Committee;
  - d. All other appeals will be accepted at the discretion of the Chief Justice and Attorney General.

**Section II. Expired Terms.** In the event of an unexpired term for an election position (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Class President) the Senate will hold an election. An announcement for the election must be made two (2) weeks before the election date in the Senate. The position will be elected using the same guidelines as the Vice President election that takes place at the end of the academic year. The newly elected officials will take office at the next Senate meeting.

\*Adopted February 4, 2021 by HPU SGA Student Senate as the Carr- Frezza Elections Act\*

\*Amended October 21, 2021 by HPU SGA Student Senate\*

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