

B-020
UPDATING THE 2014 ELECTIONS CODE

University of Pittsburgh
Student Government board
09 September 2014

Introduced by Elections Chairwoman Lauren Barney

Whereas, based on the Student Government Board Constitution, the Elections Chair proposes amendments to the Elections Code,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 15th day of September in the year of 2014, the University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board modifies the Student Government Board Elections Code as follows:

In §101.04 Discretion:

The phrase, “These provisions must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the Elections Committee.” shall be added to the end of the section.

In §102.04 Recusal of the Elections Liaison:

The section shall now read, “The Student Government Board liaison to the Elections Committee shall be completely impartial to any candidate, any actual or perceived bias. Should a conflict of interest arise, the liaison will be removed and a new liaison shall be assigned at the discretion of the Elections Committee Chair.”

In §201.01 Campaign:

The section shall now read, “Campaign is a time, as defined in the elections timetable, when a person can solicit and receive endorsements, raise funds, hang banners, advertise electronically, distribute campaign items excluding those distributed in the paper campaign and place ads in The Pitt News. Additionally, the actions of each individual candidate and the candidate’s campaign manager and liaison(s) shall be considered a part of his or her campaign.

In §201.03 Elections Timetable:

The following sentences shall be added to the end of the section: “The elections timetable must be set prior to the release of the SGB Petition and Application packet. Any timetable change or deadline extension must be announced 24 hours prior to the originally scheduled event or deadline. All candidates and individuals who have signed out packets must be notified immediately.”

§201.08 shall become §201.09.

§201.08 shall be titled “Campaign Liaison” and shall read:

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B-020 was passed unanimously by the 2014 Student Government Board and became law on
September 16, 2014.

A campaign liaison is a non-candidate who serves as part of the campaign manager's team. A candidate who runs alone may have a maximum of two campaign liaisons, a slate consisting of two candidates may have a maximum of one campaign liaison, and a slate of three candidates may not have any campaign liaisons. Campaign liaisons must be declared in the SGB Petition and Application packet at the beginning of the campaign and is subject to the approval of the Elections Committee.

§202.02 Requirements shall be changed in adjust the GPA requirement from 2.50 to 2.75 to be consistent with the Student Government Board Constitution.

In, §203.05 Campaign Workshop

The section shall read, "All candidates must attend a campaign workshop designed to familiarize candidates and campaign managers with the Elections Code and campaign regulations. The workshop will be held on a predetermined date designated by the Elections Chair. Candidates are exempt only if the Elections Chair has cleared his or her absence prior to the start of the workshop. If a candidate is absent without excuse the candidate will serve a two-day suspension from the first Sunday and Monday of the active campaign. No campaigning may be done on behalf of this candidate during this period, including promotion on behalf of the candidate by his or her slate."

§204.03 Accountability shall add "or Liaison(s)" at the end.

§210.04 Slate Endorsements shall be removed based on advising from the University of Pittsburgh General Counsel.

In §212.02 Elections Committee Authority,

The phrase "or invoice" shall be added at the end of the section.

In §213.08 Posting Restrictions IV,

The section shall read, "Only candidates, campaign liaisons, and campaign managers are permitted to hang their own flyers and other promotional materials on University of Pittsburgh property."

In §301.01 Criteria for Voting,

A sentence shall be added at the end of the section, stating, "The Elections Committee may, at its discretion, initiate or sponsor any program it believes will increase voters' knowledge of the candidates and increase voter turnout."

Add a section §201.10 Official Student Government Board Business.

It shall read, "Official Student Government Board business shall include any SGB scheduled and sponsored event or activity besides the SGB Election as a whole. This includes but is not limited to public Board meetings, committee meetings, and office hours, and Pitt Make a Difference Day."

Add a section §201.10 Unofficial Student Government Board Business.

It shall read, “Unofficial Student Government Board business shall include any time when the individual is directly acting in the capacity of his or her position. This includes but is not limited to speaking as a current member of Student Government Board (i.e., using the phrase, “As a Board Member” or “As an Allocations Member”) and wearing Student Government Board apparel.”

Based on the advice from the University of Pittsburgh General Counsel regarding the United States Bill of Right First Amendment, the following sections shall be rewritten.

§207.01 Board Separation shall be rewritten shall read, “The Student Government Board as a single entity shall not officially endorse a candidate.”

§207.02 Exception to Board Separation shall be deleted.

§207.03 Separation of Members of Student Government Board shall read, “Any member of Student Government Board who receives a stipend as a result of their affiliation to the Student Government Board (i.e., President, Board Members, Chairpersons, and Allocations Committee Members) may not campaign for a candidate during official and unofficial Student Government Board business. These candidates may campaign for a candidate when not conducting official and unofficial Student Government Board business.”

§207.03 Exception to Separation of Members of Student Government Board shall read, “Any member of Student Government Board who receives a stipend as a result of their affiliation to Student Government Board and is running in the election may not support his or herself during official Student Government Board business but may support his or her self during unofficial Student Government Board business. These individuals may campaign when not conducting official and unofficial Student Government Board business.”

In §208.01 Eligibility,

The section shall read, “Any University of Pittsburgh SORC-certified student organization may endorse a candidate or slate.”

In §213.03,

The words “buttons, stickers” shall be removed from the section.

All references from Room 839 shall be changed to Room 841.