B.B.051

UPDATING THE 2017-2018 ELECTIONS CODE

STUDENT GOVERNMENT BOARD
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

AUTHORED BY: Elections Chair Anastasia Bodea Crisan
CO-SPONSORED BY: The 2017-2018 Student Government Board Elections Committee

5 DECEMBER 2017
Chairwoman Bodea Crisan introduced the following bill; which was read for the first time.

9 JANUARY 2018
Read the second time and voted on.

A BILL

UPDATING THE 2017-2018 ELECTIONS CODE

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

WHEREAS, the Elections Code should be as easy to read and follow for all participants in the SGB election;

WHEREAS, the Student Organization Resource Center has changed the language used to indicate whether a student organization is registered to officially operate;

WHEREAS, campaign finance rules should be as clear and all-encompassing as possible to ensure fair elections; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED, on this 9th day of January in the year 2018, the University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board enacts the following revisions to the Student Government Board Governing Code:

Item 5.2.1.2.7 shall now read:

“A. The duties and responsibilities of the Elections Committee are:

1. To review and update the Elections Code.
2. To address violations of the Elections Code.
3. To provide, receive, and determine the eligibility of a candidate based on the SGB Petition and Application Packets received from candidates for the positions of President and Board Member.
   a. Eligibility will be determined by a simple majority of total membership of the committee.
   All packets are subject to approval by the SGB Advisor.
4. To facilitate Student Government Board elections by:
   a. Opening and closing polling places.
   b. Maintaining accurate records of voting.
   c. Overseeing workers hired to operate the polls.
   d. Adjudicating cases involving infractions of the Elections Code or Elections Committee policies in accordance with the Elections Code.
   e. Preparing and publishing all notices in connection with the execution of the election.
   f. Planning and coordinating the events leading up to the election.
5. To promote the Student Government Board election during both the Fall and Spring semesters by:
   a. Reaching out to other Student Organizations
   b. Hosting a minimum of one tabling event per semester on campus with information about the election
   c. Promoting the Election Day to all students on campus.
6. To arrange and moderate the presidential debate.
7. To arrange the inauguration of newly elected officeholders.”

Item 5.2.2.2.2 shall now read: “Amendments approved by the Elections Committee shall be submitted for approval no less than 8 weeks before the Election’s conclusion and approved by a simple majority vote of the Student Government Board.”

Item 5.2.3.2.3 shall now read:

“Item 3. Restrictions

A. No candidate shall be a member of the Student Government Board Elections Committee.

B. No candidate shall be a member of the Student Government Board Judicial Committee.

C. Any members of either the Elections Committee or the Judicial Committee who wish to run for a Board or Presidential position in the Spring Term, must resign by the last day of the preceding Fall Term.”

Item 5.2.3.8 shall read:

“Section 8. Campaign Finances

Item 1. Limit to Campaign Spending

A. Each slate or independent candidate may spend a maximum of $1,200 dollars on their campaign. This may come from endorsing organizations, individuals, and/or a candidate’s personal funds. Spending in excess of this cap may be grounds for disqualification of a candidate or slate, pursuant to the judicial procedures laid out in Article 5 of the Elections Code.

Item 2. Contributions

A. Any organization or individual may make any contribution of funds no greater than $100.00 in support of any candidate or slate. This does not apply to candidates, campaign managers or campaign staff.
Item 3. In-kind Donations

A. In-kind donations are goods provided to a candidate or slate for their campaign, and include, but are not limited to, food and t-shirts.

B. In-kind donations will be judged at a fair market value by the Elections Committee and included towards the maximum spending limit for each slate or independent candidate.

C. All in-kind donations must be disclosed and reported in accordance with the same rules set for expenditures, outlined in Sections 4 and 5 below.

Item 4. Disclosure

A. All campaign contributions, contribution amounts, and expenditures must be disclosed to the Elections Chair by the candidate or a slate. Contributions and expenditures may be released publically by the Elections Committee.

Item 5. Receipts

A. All proof of purchases must be submitted to the Elections Committee in the form of receipts or invoices.

B. Funds spent on physical goods, including but not limited to T-shirts, banners, buttons, stickers, flyers, and food-items must be reported to the Elections Chair within 2 business days of the goods being received.

C. Funds spent on online advertisements, including but not limited to promoting social media pages or posts, must be reported to the Elections Chair within 2 business days of the purchase being made.

D. Failure to submit proof of purchase within these guidelines may result in prohibition of campaign activities by a candidate or slate for a period of time, or any other sanctions as judged by the Elections Committee.

Item 6. Restriction
A. Contributions shall not come from any funds allocated by the Allocations Committee or the Student Government Board. Evidence to the contrary will constitute a serious violation of the Elections Code.

Item 7. Violations

A. Violation of campaign finance rules will be adjudicated per the policies set in Article 5 of the Elections Code.”

Item 5.2.3.11.1 will have the words “certified by” replaced with “registered with”

Item 5.2.3.11.4 will have the term “SORC-certified endorsing organizations” replaced with “student organizations registered with the SORC”

Item 5.2.6.3.1 will “SORC-certified endorsing organizations” replaced with “student organizations registered with the SORC”

Item 5.2.3.15.5A shall have the second use of the letter “A” omitted,

and be it further

RESOLVED, that all numbering changes resulting from these revisions shall be automatic, pursuant to the rules set forth in items 1.1.1.0.4 and 1.1.1.0.5 of the Student Government Board Governing Code; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this bill shall be effective beginning upon adoption and shall reflect the changes shown in the attached document.

ADOPTED: this 9th day of January 2018 by a vote of 8 for, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.

Max Kneis, President
University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board