

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

- 1 WHEREAS, based on the Student Government Board Constitution,
2 the Elections Chair proposes amendments to the
3 Elections Code;
4
- 5 WHEREAS, the Elections Code should be as easy to read and follow
6 for all participants in the SGB election;
7
- 8 WHEREAS, the Student Organization Resource Center has
9 changed the language used to indicate whether a
10 student organization is registered to officially operate;
11
- 12 WHEREAS, campaign finance rules should be as clear and all-
13 encompassing as possible to ensure fair elections; *now,*
14 *therefore, be it*

15 RESOLVED, on this 9th day of January in the year 2018, the
16 University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board
17 enacts the following revisions to the Student
18 Government Board Governing Code:

19

20 Item 5.2.1.2.7 shall now read:

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

- 22 1. To review and update the Elections Code.
- 23 2. To address violations of the Elections Code.
- 24 3. To provide, receive, and determine the eligibility of a
25 candidate based on the SGB Petition and Application
26 Packets received from candidates for the positions of
27 President and Board Member.
 - 28 a. Eligibility will be determined by a simple
29 majority of total membership of the committee.
30 All packets are subject to approval by the SGB
31 Advisor.
- 32 4. To facilitate Student Government Board elections by:
 - 33 a. Opening and closing polling places.
 - 34 b. Maintaining accurate records of voting.
 - 35 c. Overseeing workers hired to operate the polls.
 - 36 d. Adjudicating cases involving infractions of the
37 Elections Code or Elections Committee policies
38 in accordance with the Elections Code.
 - 39 e. Preparing and publishing all notices in
40 connection with the execution of the election.
 - 41 f. Planning and coordinating the events leading
42 up to the election.
- 43 5. To promote the Student Government Board election
44 during both the Fall and Spring semesters by:
 - 45 a. Reaching out to other Student Organizations
 - 46 b. Hosting a minimum of one tabling event per
47 semester on campus with information about the
48 election
 - 49 c. Promoting the Election Day to all students on
50 campus.
- 51 6. To arrange and moderate the presidential debate.

52 7. To arrange the inauguration of newly elected
53 officeholders.”

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55 Item 5.2.2.2 shall now read: “Amendments approved by the Elections
56 Committee shall be submitted for approval no less
57 than 8 weeks before the Election’s conclusion and
58 approved by a simple majority vote of the Student
59 Government Board.”

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61 Item 5.2.3.2.3 shall now read:

62 “Item 3. Restrictions

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

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

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

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72 Item 5.2.3.8 shall read:

73 “Section 8. Campaign Finances

74 Item 1. Limit to Campaign Spending

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

82 Item 2. Contributions

83 A. Any organization or individual may make any
84 contribution of funds no greater than \$100.00 in
85 support of any candidate or slate. This does not apply
86 to candidates, campaign managers or campaign staff.

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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

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

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130 Item 7. Violations

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

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

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

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

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144 Item 5.2.3.15.5A shall have the second use of the letter “A” omitted,
145 *and be it further*

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

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

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

Max Kneis, President
University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board