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# B.B.2021-2

UPDATING THE 2020-2021 ELECTIONS CODE

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## STUDENT GOVERNMENT BOARD

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

AUTHORED BY: Olivia Bartholomew, Elections Committee Chair

CO-SPONSORED BY: The 2020-2021 Student Government Board Elections Committee

6 OCTOBER 2020

Elections Chair Bartholomew introduced the following bill to the Elections Committee; which was read for the first time.

00 [MONTH] 20XX

Read the second time and voted on.

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# A BILL

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UPDATING THE 2020-2021 ELECTIONS CODE

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

WHEREAS, the Elections Code should remove the \$50 deposit required for the candidates;

WHEREAS, the \$50 deposit is too large of a financial burden for students and is a possible deterrent in filing for candidacy;

WHEREAS, the Elections Code should expedite the hearing process of Election Code violation complaints that occur within 72 hours prior to start of voting;

WHEREAS, in order to have a fair and equitable election for all candidates and determine if any violations occurred before the start of voting;

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Elections procedures must be altered to accommodate University Operating posture;

WHEREAS, a new section shall be added to the Elections Code which authorizes the Elections Chair to adjust Elections procedures to reflect the University's Operating posture;

WHEREAS, Article 6 Referendum Elections fails to include procedural methods;

46  
47 WHEREAS, more information shall be added to Article 6 to create a more concrete  
48 procedure for Referendum Elections in the future;  
49  
50 WHEREAS, new items shall be added to Article 6 Section 2 Referendum  
51 Qualifications to establish a timeline in which Referendum Requests must be  
52 submitted;  
53  
54 WHEREAS, the referendum shall be publically announced in order to increase voter  
55 Awareness of the referendum; *now, therefore, be it*  
56  
57 RESOLVED, on this seventeenth day of November in the year of 2020, the  
58 University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board enacts the  
59 following revisions to Title 5 Chapter 2 of the Student Government  
60 Board Governing Code under the short title “Updating the 2020-  
61 2021 Elections Code” *and be it further*  
62  
63 RESOLVED, that  
64  
65 Article 3, Section 1, Item 3 SGB Petition and Application Packet shall now read;  
66  
67 A. The SGB Petition and Application Packet consists of an online  
68 form, a signature petition, and a slate form if applicable. All  
69 individuals who wish to be considered as candidates in the  
70 election must complete this packet in its entirety.  
71  
72  
73 Article 5, Section 3, Item 3 Possible Sanctions shall now read:  
74 A. The Elections Committee is empowered to invoke the following  
75 administrative sanctions:  
76 1. Complete disqualification of a candidate; making them  
77 ineligible for Student Government Board elected office for the  
78 upcoming term.  
79 2. Public disclosure of the violation(s) of the Student  
80 Government Board Elections Code.  
81 3. Invalidation of ballots at a number to be determined by the  
82 Elections Committee.  
83 4. Prohibition of a candidate from participating in Elections  
84 Committee sponsored events.  
85 5. Recommended that the Campus Judicial Board consider  
86 possible violations of the Student Code of Conduct  
87 6. Prohibition of a candidate from campaigning for a defined  
88 amount of time as determined by the Elections Committee.  
89

90 Article 5, Section 1, Item 4 Expedited Election Code Contests shall read:  
91 A. Any complaint that is filed within 72 hours prior to the opening of polls must  
92 be expedited by the Elections Committee as following:  
93 1. The Elections Committee shall determine whether all criteria for filing  
94 have been met within 12 hours of receiving it. If the Elections Committee  
95 decides by a one-third vote of total membership that the complaint merits  
96 a hearing, then a hearing shall be scheduled within 24 hours and the  
97 defendant, complainant, witness, members of the Elections Committee,  
98 and the Judicial Committee shall be provided with a copy of the complaint  
99 along with a notice of the date, time and place of the hearing.  
100 2. The Hearing Procedures of Article 5, Section 2, Items 1-2, 4-9 are  
101 applicable to this expedited hearing process.  
102 3. In an expedited hearing process, the quorum requirements of Article 5,  
103 Section 2, Item 3 shall apply, except that the hearing shall be rescheduled  
104 no more than 24 hours after the original hearing date if a quorum cannot  
105 be established.

106  
107 Article 5, Section 1, Item 5 Deadline to File Election Code Contests shall read:  
108 A. Any Elections Code Violation that is reported within 24 hours of the  
109 opening of the polls shall not be adjudicated, unless the Elections Chair  
110 determines that circumstances warrant an immediate resolution. The  
111 Elections Committee shall not certify the results of the election until all  
112 hearings have been completed.

113  
114 Article 4, Section 5 Election Procedure, Item 1 University Operating Status shall be  
115 added:  
116 A. All Elections Procedures must reflect the University's Operating  
117 status. The Elections Committee has the power to determine  
118 any changes. A list of reflected changes are but not limited to:  
119 1. Reduction in valid signatures required for both  
120 Presidential and Board Candidate  
121 2. Conversion of in-person events to virtual events  
122 3. Activities allowed during targeted campaigning

123  
124 Article 6, Section 2 Referendum Qualifications, Item 2 Filing Deadline shall read  
125 A. Each Referendum request must complete a time-stamped SGB Referendum  
126 Application Request Form and returned, as stated in the Request Form, no  
127 later than four weeks prior to the Election date established in the elections  
128 timetable.

129  
130 Article 6, Section 2 Referendum Qualifications, Item 3 Referendum Approval  
131 Procedures shall read

132 A. The Referendum Request must be approved by a simple majority by the  
133 Student Government Board no later than one week from the submission date  
134 established in the elections timetable.

135  
136 Article 6. Section 2, Item 4 Public Announcement of Referendum shall read

137 A. Once the referendum is approved by both Elections and Judicial Committees,  
138 the referendum question must be publicly announced by the Student  
139 Government Board no later than three weeks prior to Election Day, as  
140 outline in the Elections Timetable.

141  
142 *; and it be further*

143  
144 RESOLVED, that all numbering changes resulting from these revisions shall  
145 automatic, pursuant to the rules set forth in items 1.1.1.0.4 and  
146 1.1.1.0.5 of the Student Government Board Governing Code; *and*  
147 *be it finally*

148  
149 RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be effective immediately

150  
151 ADOPTED: this [date] by a vote of [#] for, [#] against, and [#] abstentions.

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Eric Macadangdang, President  
University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board