

CHAPTER 7. Elections.^[1]

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§7-1.1. **Special Elections.**

§7-1.1.1. **Definitions and Conventions.**

Within these Statutes, the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) A “**candidate**” is a qualified student who has been nominated for office and accepted the nomination.
- (b) A “**ticket**” is a candidate for President and a corresponding candidate for Senior Vice President.
- (c) A “**majority**” of a session shall be a simple majority of all calendar days between the first regularly scheduled business meeting of the General Assembly or Council of Student Body Presidents in a given session and the final meeting of either body in the same session.
- (d) “**Campaigning**” shall consist of the distribution of promotional materials or media, both physical and electronic.

Part I. Timeline of Elections.

§7-1.2. **Annual Spring Election.**

Pursuant to the Association Constitution, a combined

election for both President and Senior Vice President shall occur immediately prior to the adjournment *sine die* of each session. This election shall occur in April during the last regularly scheduled business meeting of the General Assembly, and shall be known as the annual Spring election.

§7-1.3. **Candidate Nominations.**

Nomination of candidates for the offices of President and Senior Vice President shall occur in March during the last regularly scheduled business meeting of the General Assembly in the month.

§7-1.4. **Information Session.**

During a regularly scheduled business meeting of the General Assembly, no earlier than February 1st and no later than the meeting where candidate nominations occur, the President and Senior Vice President shall hold an information session for all interested delegate(s) to explain the roles and responsibilities of each office.

Part II. General Election Procedures.

§7-1.5. **Nomination and Acceptance.**

- (a) At the designated time, any delegate present may request the floor and shall be recognized to jointly nominate two candidates for President and Senior Vice President, respectively.
- (b) Every candidate so nominated must verbally accept the nomination or, if nominated *in absentia*, must provide a signed writing to the Senior Vice President and Secretary signifying acceptance at or before the time of his/her nomination.
- (c) Delegates shall be permitted to nominate themselves, and shall automatically be considered to have accepted if self-nominated.
- (d) Nominations for office shall be closed automatically upon the exhaustion of nominations.

§7-1.6. **Campaigning.**

Candidates may begin campaigning following their nomination, subject to the restrictions provided by Article 2 of this Chapter.

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§7-1.7. Notification of Candidates.

No later than ten (10) calendar days prior to the election, the Secretary shall send to the delegates' electronic mailing list a comprehensive list of the accepted candidates and corresponding contact information.

§7-1.8. Selection of Presiding Officer.

- (a) Generally, the Senior Vice President shall preside over the debate on candidates and the subsequent election.
- (b) If the Senior Vice President is a candidate, the Speaker *Pro Tempore* shall preside
- (c) If both the Senior Vice President and Speaker *Pro Tempore* are candidates, prior to candidate addresses the General Assembly shall elect from its membership a temporary presiding officer pursuant to the rules governing the election of a Speaker *Pro Tempore* as provided in Chapter 2 of the *Association Statutes*.

§7-1.9. Conduct of Elections.

- (a) During the regularly scheduled business meeting when elections take place, but prior to any debate on the candidates, each candidate for President and Senior Vice President shall be allowed a fixed time to address the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall affix the time of address by majority vote. The Assembly may in its discretion similarly designate a fixed time for any delegate to ask questions of the candidates.
- (b) Immediately prior to the election, delegates shall be permitted to debate the merits and qualifications of any candidate pursuant to the rules governing debatable motions provided in Chapter 2 of the *Association Statutes*.
- (c) Following the conclusion of debate on the candidates, written ballots containing the names of each candidate shall be distributed to each delegate. Every active delegate, including candidates serving as delegates, shall be permitted to vote.
- (d) After the expiration of a reasonable time, the presiding officer shall collect the ballots and tally the votes in the presence of the Association Secretary. The tallying of votes shall be open to any delegate and any member of the public.
- (e) Once all votes have been tallied, the presiding officer shall state the results to the General Assembly.

§7-1.10. Majority Vote Required.

Pursuant to the Association Constitution, the President and Senior Vice President shall be elected by a majority vote of valid ballots cast.

§7-1.11. Runoff Election.

In the event no candidate receives a majority vote, the two tickets receiving the highest number of votes shall advance to a runoff election. In the event of a tie among multiple tickets with the second-highest number of votes, all such tickets shall advance to a runoff election. The procedure for the runoff election shall be as provided by §7-1.8(c-e) herein.

Part III. Qualifications for Candidacy.

§7-1.12. Basic Qualifications for Office.

All candidates for elective office must be students in good standing and comply with the applicable Ethics in Leadership restrictions, both as provided in Chapter 1 of the *Association Statutes*.

§7-1.13. Qualifications for President.

Pursuant to the Association Constitution, all candidates for President must have first served as a delegate to the Association for the majority of at least one session. There shall be no additional qualifications for the office of President.

§7-1.14. Qualifications for Senior Vice President.

Pursuant to the Association Constitution, all candidates for Senior Vice President must have first served as a delegate to the Association for the majority of at least one session. There shall be no additional qualifications for the office of Senior Vice President.

Part IV. Ballots.

§7-1.15. Ballot Contents.

Each ballot shall contain the names of each candidate on a ticket, including a clear designation of the office each candidate is seeking. In addition, each ballot shall include a section to write in a pair of candidates. Finally, each ballot shall include sections for the printed name, institution, and signature of each voter.

§7-1.16. Ballot Signatures Required.

Pursuant to North Carolina state law and the Association Constitution, anonymous voting shall not be permitted in any election for President and Senior Vice President, and any ballot cast must bear the printed name and signature of the voter to be counted as valid.

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§7-1.17. Write-in Candidates.

Delegates shall generally be permitted to jointly write in candidates for President and Senior Vice President, respectively. Write-in candidates must meet the same minimum qualifications as other candidates to be eligible for election, and votes for write-in candidates shall be tallied alongside those candidates. No write-in candidates shall be permitted in a runoff election.

§7-1.18. Spoiled Ballots.

Any ballot that does not clearly designate a vote, designates multiple votes, or that does not bear the printed name and signature of the voter as required by state law, shall be considered a spoiled ballot and shall not be concluded in the tally of votes. In the case of a missing printed name or signature, the voter shall first be permitted an opportunity to correct the deficiency before the ballot is considered spoiled.

Part V. Miscellaneous Provisions.**§7-1.19. Special Elections.**

The General Assembly may at any time schedule a special election for President and Senior Vice President, upon adoption of a motion to that effect by three-fourths (3/4) majority vote. Such a motion shall comply with the rules for calling special meetings as provided in Chapter 2 of the *Association Statutes*. In addition, no such motion shall be in order unless it provides at least the same length of time for nominations, campaigning and elections as provided by Part I herein.

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Article 2. Campaign Regulations.
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 §7-2.20. **Enforcement.**

§7-2.1. Definitions and Conventions.

Within this article, the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) An “**expenditure**” is the use of monies for the purpose of persuading a delegate, directly or indirectly, to support a candidate.
- (b) “**Public funds**” are monies compulsively provided by students and/or taxpayers in the form of fees, tuition, and/or taxes.

§7-2.2. Construction with Association Ethics Act.

The regulations of this article shall be construed jointly with, and in addition to, the Association Ethics Act provided in Chapter 1 of the *Association Statutes*.

§7-2.3. General Campaign Obligations.

Candidates shall conduct campaigns that are responsible, truthful and ethical.

§7-2.4. Documentation of Expenditures.

All funds expended by a candidate in excess of \$25.00 shall be thoroughly documented, and such documentation shall be furnished to the Association Secretary prior to the election. Expense documentation shall be considered public records and open to inspection by any candidate, Association Official, or member of the public.

§7-2.5. Use of Public Funds Prohibited.

No candidate shall use public funds for campaigning, including publicly-financed vehicles provided by a campus Student Government.

§7-2.6. Use of Association Resources Prohibited.

No candidate shall use any resource provided by the Association for campaigning, including electronic mailing lists, website space, or office supplies. This regulation shall not apply to resources provided uniformly to all candidates.

§§7-2.7 to 7-2.19. Reserved for future codification purposes.
§7-2.20. Enforcement.

- (a) At any time after a candidate is nominated and until he/she is either defeated or sworn into office, violation of any section of this article shall be cause for punitive action as provided in Chapter 2 of the *Association Statutes*.
- (b) Severe breaches by a candidate in the course of an election shall remain just cause for punitive action throughout the duration of that person’s subsequent service in the Association.

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¹ *Chapter revision history:*

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