



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

73RD STUDENT SENATE

Bill #: 55
Primary Sponsor: Randall
Co-Sponsor(s): Gonzalez

A revision to the Student Body Statutes

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SEVENTY THIRD STUDENT SENATE THAT:

A revision is made to the Student Body Statutes 702.2, 702.3, 712.1, 1003.3 (See attached).

To amend the statute to Resolving issues with the Black Student Union election code and bringing the BSU election in line with the procedures for the SGA Spring Election

Read 1st Time: 09/22/2021
Referred to Committee: I.A. / Judiciary
Committee Report: Amended & Passed in I.A. 09/27 / Passed in Judiciary 10/01
Read 2nd Time: 10/06/21
Senate Vote: Acclimation

OFFICIAL: DocuSigned by:
Alexander Harmon
18244305E958499... 10/10/2021 | 1:06 PM EDT
Student Senate President

PASSED: October 6th, 2021

CERTIFIED TO THE STUDENT BODY

DocuSigned by:
Tazzy Janvier
74A8AE643EEF409... 10/31/2021 | 2:58 PM EDT
President of the Student Body Date

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Felicia D. Williams, Ph.D.
B6BA9C68BC2347F... 11/3/2021 | 4:53 PM EDT
Director of the Student Governance & Advocacy Date

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Dr. Amy Heclet
F8C9CD8890224DE... 11/3/2021 | 4:57 PM EDT
Vice President of Student Affairs Date

702.2. Duties of the Supervisor of Elections

- A. Ensures political parties follow the Statutes.
- B. Ensure that the qualifications of candidates are within three academic days of the filing deadline.
- C. Employs at least two (2), not more than three (3) impartial Deputy Supervisors to serve an election. Appoint at least one (1), no more than two (2) Election Assistants, as necessary beginning two (2) weeks prior to the end of Election Day, to operate as impartial assistants with information sessions, polls from opening to closing time, and assist the Office of the Election. Employ election assistants, as necessary beginning three (3) days prior to the end of the Election Day, to operate the poll(s) from opening to closing time and assist the Office of Elections.
 - 1. Hire, train, assign duties to, and supervise the Deputy Supervisor(s); obtain Senate confirmation for Deputy Supervisor(s).
 - 2. Hire, train, assign duties to, and supervise Election Assistants.
 - 3. Dismiss and promptly replace any Deputy Supervisor or Election Assistants due to malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance.
- D. Creates and implements marketing strategies to improve voter turnout for all SGA elections.
 - 1. At least two (2) weeks prior to the Elections, the Supervisor of Elections must advertise available seats, deadlines, voting site(s), and election date.
 - 2. The ballot items must be posted on the website, as well as the Approved Final Expense Statements of the political parties and individuals prior to the certification of elections.
- E. Enforces the Election Code subject to the approval of the Elections Commission when appropriate.
- F. Verifies the fair market value of each campaign expense, discount, or donation through various means, including but not limited to job quotes and receipts.
- G. Verifies the Final Expense Statement.
- H. Refers questions of interpretation of the Election Code to the Student Supreme Court. The Student Supreme Court must render a written advisory opinion within twenty-four (24) hours of any submission of a request for an interpretation of the Election Code.
- I. Supervises the approval of campaign materials. The Supervisor of Elections shall keep records of all election results, financial information, and campaign materials. All records shall be kept for a minimum of three (3) years.
- J. Notifies all candidates via e-mail within 24 hours of the decision to hold a Special Election. At this time, the Supervisor of Elections will inform the candidates of the date, time, and circumstances of the election.
- K. Provides detailed descriptions and procedures for the filing of candidates in written forms for prospective candidates. Publish procedures and available offices at least one (1) week prior to the filing deadline on the SGA website, as well as make said documents readily available in the Office of Elections.
 - 1. Ensure the publication of the election date, time, polling location(s), and appropriate procedures for voting on the SGA website. They must also have written copies of the unofficial ballot available and posted outside the SGA Accounting and Advising Office on Election Day.
 - 2. Ensure the publication of the official ballot, referenda, and constitutional amendments, a week before the elections on the Student Government Association Website necessary SGA-related platforms. They must also have written copies available and posted outside the SGA Accounting and Advising Office and the polling stations on Election Day.

3. Ensure the publication of the unofficial elections results no later than 48 hours after the close of polls on the Student Government Association website and necessary SGA-related platforms.
4. Ensure the publication of the dates and times of the deadlines for the declaration of candidacy for an elected office a week prior to the deadline for filing of intent to run for elected office on the Student Government Association Website and necessary SGA-related platforms.
- L. Disqualify candidates or political parties, who make false statements regarding qualifications for office, who forge signatures on applications, or who fail to follow campaign collections statutes as outlined in 710.4.
- M. Hosts two SGA-sponsored debates every Spring semester. The first debate will include the Student Body President, Vice President, and Treasurer candidates. The second debate will include the Black Student Union President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer candidates. The debates must take place during campaigning on any of the seven days prior to the election date. In the event that there is no opposition, it shall be the Supervisor's responsibility to implement question and answer event.
 1. It shall be the Supervisor's responsibility to include questions specifically for each candidate and their respective position.
 2. It shall be the Supervisor's responsibility to notify all candidates for office of the event details in writing including the time, date, venue, and questions that will be asked, no less than five (5) school days prior to the event, as well as request their attendance and participation at the event.
 3. It shall be the Supervisor's responsibility to advertise the event to the student body no less than five (5) school days prior to the event. The debate advertisement must include the date, time, and place of the debate.
 4. The Supervisor of Elections shall allot a portion of the debate for questions from students in attendance to the candidates. The questions presented to each candidate shall be screened on-site by a committee comprised of the Supervisor of Elections, and one representative for each candidate participating in the debate. Questions shall only be asked once they have received unanimous support from said committee. The Supervisor of Elections shall ensure that decorum is upheld during questioning.
 5. Question and Answer event shall include no more than six questions. Two days prior to this event, the Supervisor of Elections will open up a form for students to submit questions; The Supervisor of Elections and their Deputies will review the submitted questions and choose no more than six to be asked at the question and answer event.
 6. The Supervisor shall maintain decorum among candidates and the public at debates. Anyone who fails to maintain decorum may be asked to leave the debate by the Supervisor.
- N. Declares candidates or voting blocks of any election to be elected by acclamation if an election is uncontested at the deadline of declaration of candidacy filing, pending the resolution of any candidacy controversies to be resolved by the Elections Commission, Supervisor of Elections, or other pertinent authority. Candidates who fall under this provision may be excluded from the ballot at the discretion of the Supervisor of Elections.
- O. Invalidates ballots and parts thereof cast contrary to the Student Body Statutes.
- P. Maintains, as public record, in the Supervisor of Elections Office, the final result and ballots of all elections.
- Q. Declares results valid and certify an election.
- R. Declares an election invalid when they are unable to validate the unofficial and final results of an election based on the Rules of Procedure as outlined in Title VII.
- S. The Supervisor of Elections must review and approve or deny campaign materials within twenty-four (24) hours of submission, excluding non-business days, based on the materials' company with Title VII of these Statutes. The Supervisor of Elections shall record the description of each

item used, the quantity used, and the prices based on receipts. (Both discounted and fair market value of each item and the total cost).

- a. The Supervisor shall inform all candidates of this process upon filing their candidacy.
- T. The Supervisor of Elections shall have the authority to change the Declared Seat Number for Candidates to the Student Senate and Congress of Graduate Students if all of the following criteria is met:
 1. The number of candidates who filed for that division is equal to or less than the number of seats allocated for that semester's election.
 2. All filed candidates for that division have been properly contacted about the change by the Supervisor.
 - a. No earlier than three (3) days after filing closes
 - b. No later than twenty-four (24) hours before the starting time of the election day
 3. No candidates show disapproval to themselves of being moved to a different seat number than they originally filed for.
 4. There remains no outstanding appeals for qualifications of candidates in that division as outlined in 704.3 A.

702.3. Hours of Operation

- A. The Office of Elections shall be open for a minimum of fifteen (15) hours, not to exceed thirty (30) hours a week, during the five (5) week election period. During the operation weeks prior to and after this five (5) week period, the office shall be open a minimum of ten (10) hours and a maximum of fifteen (15) hours.
 1. Two weeks prior to election day the Office of Elections shall be open for at least two (2) hours per business day.
 2. Two weeks prior to the filing deadlines, the Supervisor of Elections shall inform all candidates and political parties of their office hours.
- B. The Supervisor of Elections shall work no more than twenty (20) hours a week during the five (5) week election period. During the operational weeks prior to and after this five (5) week period, the Supervisor of Elections shall work no more than ten (10) hours a week.
- C. The Deputy Supervisors of Elections shall individually work no more than ten (10) hours a week during the five (5) week election period. During the operational weeks prior to and after this five (5) week period, the Deputy Supervisors of Elections shall work no more than five (5) hours a week.

712.1. Ballot Form

- A. An electronic ballot shall be defined as the official format chosen by the Supervisor of Elections that shall include the official rules, instructions, candidates and other information pertinent to elections.
- B. The official ballot contains the list of all vacant offices to be filled, referendum questions, and constitutional amendments.
 1. 1. No colors shall be used to designate or accentuate any choices on the official ballot, including, but not limited to: candidates for office, political party affiliation or lack thereof, referendum questions, and constitutional amendments.
- C. Candidates shall be listed by seat in alphabetical order of their last names and the name shall be printed in the same form as requested at the time of filing. Each candidate's last name shall

appear on the ballot, and the name must be the same as it appears on the candidate's FSU identification card. No affiliation other than those specified in 712.1 G shall be printed with any candidate's name.

1. For the election of the Student Body President and Vice President, the names of candidates for President and Vice President within the same party (if applicable) must appear on the ballot as one voting bloc.
2. For the elections of for the President and Vice President of the Black Student Union, the names of candidates for President and Vice President within the same party (if applicable) must appear on the ballot as one voting bloc.
- D. For elections to office, the ballot of a general or special election shall only contain the names of candidates who:
 1. Properly filed a declaration of candidacy in accordance with Chapter 704.2, of the Student Body Statutes.
 2. Are qualified to hold the office they seek as specified in Chapter 704.3, of the Student Body Statutes.
- E. Candidates omitted from the sample ballot may petition to be reinstated by the Elections Commission and may be reinstated, provided such order is issued to the Supervisor of Elections no later than three (3) school days prior to any election.
- F. Party designation for candidates of recognized political parties who run in an election shall be placed on the official ballot.
- G. The ballot may not be changed or altered within the twenty-four (24) hours preceding any election.

1003.3. Board of Directors

A. Membership

The Board of Directors, hereinafter collectively referred to as "Board", shall consist of chairs and co-chairs of respective BSU committees, of which four (4) shall be elected officers of the BSU, hereinafter referred to as "officers", and shall consist of staff which includes the house manager, or any other positions created by the elected officials.

B. Term of Office and Elections

1. BSU elections shall be run in accordance with Title VII of the SGA Student Body Statutes with the exception of the rules of procedure outlined in 1003.3 B (3) and 1003.3 B (6).
 - a. For the purpose of BSU elections, an academic week shall be defined as a calendar week during a semester in which classes are in session.
 2. The BSU shall have four (4) elected officers. The elections shall take place the first Wednesday in April each year. Following the election, elected officers shall take office the first week of the summer A semester. The elected members of BSU (whose roles are defined in this chapter) are the {President}, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
 - a. If the date of elections is a religious holiday, it shall be moved one (1) week by the Supervisor of Elections. This must be done prior to the filing deadline.
 - i. If the Elections are moved, the Supervisor of Elections shall inform the President of the Black Student Union, the Student Body President, the Senate President, and the Speaker of the Congress of Graduate Students no less than two weeks prior to the new date of the elections or the original date of elections, whichever is earliest.
 - b. The date of the election shall not be set in any manner other than described in this chapter.
 - c. This election shall be advertised as described in Chapter 702.

3. The Black Student Union election shall follow the rules and procedure as outlined in Title VII, with the exception of the declaration of candidacy and party registration, which are outlined in 1003.3 B (5).
 4. Campaigning is prohibited before 12:00 a.m. on the Wednesday that is one week prior to the date of the elections.
 5. BSU political parties must register with the Office of Elections as an SGA political party per Chapter 704. All candidates for office shall submit their declaration of candidacy with the Supervisor of Elections no later than 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, two weeks before the election.
 6. No Recognized Student Organization receiving A&S Fees shall support or endorse an independent candidate or political party.
 7. The Supervisor of Elections shall organize a-Debate pursuant to Chapter 702 during the academic week of campaigning, where all candidates seeking office shall be given fair and equal time to debate and answer questions from the electorate. The Supervisor of Elections shall have the sole discretion to determine which questions will be asked.
 8. The following shall constitute a Schedule 2 Violation, as outlined in Chapter 715.7, with penalties, as outlined in Chapter 716.3:
 - a. Campaigning prior to the academic week of campaigning.
 9. The BSU officers shall select the committee chairs and co-chairs of the Board by three-fourths (3/4) majority vote. The committee chairs and co-chairs shall take office the first week of the summer session and shall serve a one (1) year term.
- C. Powers and Duties of the Officers
1. The President shall:
 - a. Act as Chair of the Board of Directors.
 - b. Be responsible for the efficient and effective operation of the office.
 - c. Execute decisions on policy, procedure, and activities as prescribed by the Board.
 - d. Create ad hoc and standing committees as needed to deal with specific needs.
 - e. Provide a set of specific guidelines to each Board member with respect to their duties, and oversee the collective progress of the Board throughout its term.
 - f. Delegate responsibilities to other Board members within their respective positions that are necessary for the growth of the BSU.
 - g. Supervise the finances of the BSU.
 - h. Appoint and remove staff members at their discretion.
 - i. Shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Office of Governmental Agency Advisory Committee or appoint a designee.
 2. The Vice President shall:
 - a. Exercise the authority and duties of the Director in the absence of the Director.
 - b. Oversee all ad hoc and standing committees.
 - c. Assist the Director with the agency's daily operation.

- d.** Update the Board with any new information and changes concerning BSU related activities, functions, and meetings.
- e.** Sign official documents along with the Director as required in their respective capacity.
- 3.** The Secretary shall:
 - a.** Write the minutes for all BSU Board and General meetings.
 - b.** Maintain a collective set of minutes of BSU meetings to be turned in to the new Secretary following the election of officers.
 - c.** Maintain a membership roll and record of the attendance at Board meetings as well as the membership roll of each C.O.B.O.L. (Coalition of the Black Organization Leaders) organization.
 - d.** Call for correspondence of the BSU except when otherwise delegated.
 - e.** Execute and be responsible for submitting in a timely manner, forms, documents and reports as required for the operation of the office.
- 4.** The Treasurer shall:
 - a.** Maintain all records and papers regarding the financial affairs of the BSU.
 - b.** Monitor and report the financial status of the BSU to the Board of Directors on a periodic basis.
 - c.** Manage the finances of the BSU.
 - d.** Execute and be responsible for submitting in a timely manner all budget requests and be fiscally accountable.
- 5.** The Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs shall:
 - a.** Lead the BSU in the realms of Academics and Education, Cultural Affairs, Community Affairs, Publicity, Membership, Fund-raising, Social Action, Political Education, Civic Service, and/or BSU History as determined necessary by the Director.
 - b.** The Board (including elected officers) shall collectively approve decisions on policies, procedures, and activities and prescribed by the Director.