Article V: Election Code

Section 1: Rules on Elections

A) General elections shall be held no later than three (3) weeks prior to Pre-Finals Week, unless the Election Board deems this impossible.
   a. The fall general election shall exist for the election of referenda by the undergraduate student body if necessary.
   b. The spring general election shall exist for the election of members of the Senate, President and Vice-President, and referenda by the undergraduate student body.

B) Polls must be open for a minimum of three (3) school days in any election.

C) Elections shall be held solely on via SGA’s voting platform.

D) At the close of polling, the Election Commissioner will create a final election report. The signatures of the Election Commissioner, every member of the Election Board present at the election certification meeting, and the SGA Advisor, shall certify the report. The final election report shall be considered official 24 hours after being certified. The report shall include:
   a. The total number of votes cast for each candidate;
   b. The total number of consenting and dissenting votes in any referenda and whether they passed or failed;
   c. Any written rulings issued by the Election Commissioner;
   d. The minutes of any Election Board hearing;
   e. Information about any election irregularities or problems reported to date, and any other information deemed necessary to include by the Election Commissioner.

E) Unofficial results shall not be released to any party under any circumstances.

F) Student Government elections will be conducted in accordance with the official SGA Election Code. The Code outlines all rules pertaining to elections and candidacy, as well as the structure and function of the Election Board.

G) The Student Government Election Code will be subject to revision only by the Election Board upon majority approval of the Student Senate.

Section 2: Election Board

A) The Election Board shall consist of six members and an Election Commissioner appointed by the SGA President.

B) The Election Commissioner shall be a paid member of SGA and, while not considered a member of the Executive Branch, will be held to the obligations outlined in Bylaws Article III, Section 5 (Student Government Paid Employee Obligations).

C) The job responsibilities, to include required office hours, and payment agreement of the Election Commissioner shall be approved by the Student Senate at the third full Senate meeting of each long semester.

D) Should members of the Election Board fail to uphold their responsibilities, they will be subject to removal by the SGA President with approval of a simple (⅔) vote of the Senate present and voting.
E) The Election Board may overrule any action of the Election Commissioner by a simple two-thirds (⅔) vote of those present and voting.
F) Round to the nearest whole number when determining (⅔) of attendance.
G) Should the Election Commissioner fail to uphold their responsibilities, they shall be removed from office by the SGA President with approval of a simple (⅔) vote of the Senate present and voting.
H) The Election Commissioner shall report to the Election Advisor.

Section 3: Election Calendar
A) The Election Board shall present a list of Official SGA Restricted Zones and an Election Calendar to the Student Senate at the third full Senate meeting of each long semester. The calendar shall include dates for filing periods, mandatory meetings, referenda deadlines, campaigning, general elections, run-off elections, and release of the final election report.
B) Dates for Special Elections shall be established by an act of the Student Senate or ballot referendum at least three (3) full academic weeks before the week of the election proposed by the legislation.

Section 4: Senatorial Succession
A) In the event that an elected Senator vacates their seat prior to the Fall semester, the following process shall take place:
   i. The Speaker of the Senate will use the previous General Election results to determine who the candidate with the next most votes was, within the same College, School, or Academy.
   ii. This is to pertain specifically to each College, School, or Academy as to not allow senators who ran for other Colleges, Schools, or Academies to occupy a seat outside of their constituency.
   iii. In the event that the first Senatorial candidate rejects the offer of the seat, the Speaker of the Senate will contact the Senatorial candidate with the next most votes.
   iv. The process mentioned above will continue until either all the seats in each College, School, or Academy are filled or the list of Senatorial candidates is exhausted.
   v. In the event that the next eligible senatorial candidate ties with another in number of votes, all candidates will be informed of the tie.
   vi. Following communicating with the candidates, if and only if all senatorial candidates want the seat, the Speaker of the Senate will look at the candidate application dates to determine who applied for the seat first. That candidate will receive the seat.
B) If an elected Senator vacates their seat after the start of the Fall Semester, the appointment process described in Article I, Section 6 of these Bylaws will be followed.