

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ELECTION RULES

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SECTION I Election Commission

- A. The Election Commission is comprised of the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and those appointed by the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs including: Student Government Association advisors, both senate and executive, election commissioner, and a faculty member appointed by the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs.

SECTION II Filing Rules

- A. Filing for Student Government Association elections will take place at one filing meeting for which, the day, time, and location will be set by a majority vote of the Student Senate, and at which information regarding election rules, in the form of this set of rules, will be distributed and covered in depth. The placement of candidate's names on the ballot will take place at the meeting, and be determined by a random drawing.
- B. Filing with the Election Commission shall be considered complete at such a time when the candidate's qualifications are verified by a Student Government Association advisor, and when the candidate signs his/her agreement to accept and comply with the election rules. The agreement must be signed by the conclusion of the filing meeting for the candidate's name to be placed on the ballot. When filing, a candidate shall announce the college in which he/she is enrolled on the application form.
- C. Filing shall grant the candidate the right to post flyers, signs, and other publications on campus, in accordance with these election rules, and with applicable laws and Marshall University policy. Failure to file will negate a candidate's eligibility for election. Candidates who wish to file after the filing date shall be considered write-in candidates. They must comply with the election rules and other standards as set forth by the Election Commission, as all candidates are required to do. Candidates who do not complete an application by the deadline may campaign/advertise upon filing for candidacy. All write-in votes cast for persons failing to file for candidacy will be null and void.
- D. Elections shall be held the first Tuesday after the second Monday of March.
- E. The deadline for withdrawing from an election is forty-eight (48) hours prior to the opening of the polls on the first scheduled day of the election.
- F. Filing violations will be handled by the Election Commission. Any candidate found to have intentionally falsified information on his/her application form shall be immediately disqualified from the election and removed from the ballot.

SECTION III Qualifications

- A. Any Undergraduate candidate for the office of Senator must be enrolled for at least twelve (12) credit hours of classes, and, at the time of application, have a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 or higher. Candidates must not be under judicial sanction and must have

completed a minimum of 12 credit hours at Marshall University prior to the semester in which they file for candidacy.

- B. Any Graduate candidate for the office of Senator must be enrolled in at least six (6) credit hours of classes, and, at the time of application, have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Candidates must not be under judicial sanction at Marshall University prior to the semester in which they file for candidacy.
- C. A candidate running on a President/Vice President ticket must have completed a minimum of 40 credit hours at Marshall University, and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher. President/Vice President candidates must retain Undergraduate status for the entirety of their prospective term, in accordance with Article III, Section 3A of the Student Government Association Constitution. Each Presidential ticket must retain the same running mate throughout the entire election process, except in cases of emergency, as approved by any Student Government Association Advisor.
- D. All declared candidates must sign a verification form, stating that they have read and completely understand the election rules. All candidates, declared or write-in, are subject to these rules.

SECTION IV Campaign Rules

- A. Public-campaigning shall begin after the information/filing meeting held on filing day. Dean of a college must approve any mass emails sent to that academic college. A candidate can contact groups to schedule a meeting before official campaigning begins, however, meetings cannot take place until the conclusion of the filing day meeting. If these rules are violated, candidates may be disqualified from the election.
- B. President/Vice President tickets may, prior to the filing meeting, establish their campaign staff/prospective cabinet members.
- C. President/Vice President candidate teams shall not spend more than \$800.00, per team, on their campaigns. Candidate teams will be required to submit a complete expenditure report to the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs 24 hours before the polls open.
- D. Student Senate candidates shall not spend more than \$100.00 each on their campaigns.
- E. The campaign sign policy shall be as follows:
 - a. Refer to the University sign policy.
- F. The residence hall policy is as follows:
 - a. Refer to the Residence Hall policy.
- G. Any defacement or destruction of property by the posting of campaign material is unlawful, and any candidate, or affiliate, found to be guilty of this may be immediately disqualified from the election and reported to the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs for action.

H. Campaigning is not allowed in the Drinko Library.

SECTION V Complaints and Irregularities

A. All complaints shall be reported according to the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs.

- a. Anyone may notify the Election Commission of a violation, and may file a complaint to the Election Commission for action.
- b. Complaints must be filed with the Election Commission immediately following knowledge of the alleged violation. Complaints must be filed before election results are announced. The Election Commission will investigate the complaint and render a decision within 24 hours. The decision can be appealed, in writing, to the Dean of Student Affairs. The decision of the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs is considered supreme and final.

SECTION VI Voting Regulations

- A. All students currently enrolled at Marshall University shall have the right to vote in all elections presented to the Student Body. University records, if needed, can verify a student's enrollment status.
- B. The following voting procedures shall govern manual elections:
 - a. The Election Commission will determine the hours and location of polling.
 - b. Spaces shall be provided on all ballots for write-in votes.
- C. In the event of a tie for a position, a run-off election shall be held within seven (7) days, and shall be considered a special election. The Election Commission shall determine the mode of voting for special elections.

SECTION VII Poll Worker Regulations

- A. Poll workers cannot be candidates and are not permitted to campaign for any candidate.
- B. Poll workers cannot be candidates in the election.
- C. Poll workers will be assigned at the discretion of the Election Commission and must operate within the authority of these election rules.
- D. There shall be no more than two (2) poll workers at each polling place at all times.
- E. All poll workers must attend a meeting to be determined by the Election Commission. Anyone not attending these meetings will not be permitted to work the polls.

SECTION VIII The Election Commission

- A. The Election Commissioner shall be appointed in accordance with the Student Government Association Constitution, and shall not be a candidate, or campaigning for any candidate.

B. The Election Commission shall have the following authority:

- a. The Election Commission shall ensure that the elections are conducted in a fair, impartial, and open manner.
- b. The Election Commission shall not have authority to abridge these rules in any manner without approval from the Senate.
- c. The Election Commission shall arrange, promote, and schedule a public forum- for the President/Vice President tickets.
- d. The Election Commission shall direct the spending of any money appropriated in the Senate budget for Elections.
- e. The Election Commission shall be responsible for promoting the elections to the Student Body, and encouraging participation in the electoral process.
- f. All Election Commissioners must be nominated by the Student Body President and confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate.

SECTION IX Voting Tabulations

- A. Votes shall be counted on the last polling day, immediately following the close of the polls. The results shall be announced immediately thereafter.
- B. The Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and Election Commissioner shall determine all parties responsible for tabulating the votes.
- C. The winner of any election shall be the candidate or ticket with the most votes at the end of the polling for that election.