

West Virginia University
The Student Assembly - Student Government Association
Assembly Bill: AB-2024-11-03
**AN ASSEMBLY BILL TO AMEND THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS CODE**

**Short Title: Elections Code Candidate,
Endorsement, and Debate Changes**

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Committee Endorsement: Governing Documents

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Date of Approval: 11/20/24

Presidential Signature:



Whereas, according to Article VII, Section II of the Student Government Association (SGA) Constitution, “The West Virginia University Student Government Association shall be bound by the West Virginia University Student Government Association Elections Code, which will provide guidelines, rules, and regulations for the

Student Government Association Elections. No amendment, varying a change in elections procedures to the Election Code, shall take effect, until an election,”; and

Whereas, according to Article V, Section III of the SGA Bylaws, the purpose of the Governing Documents Committee is to, “Critically evaluate the relevance and purpose of this organization’s governing documents”; and,

Whereas, upon evaluation of the SGA Elections Code, the members of the Governing Documents Review Committee, collectively voted on the following proposed amendments; and,

Therefore, be it enacted by the Student Assembly of West Virginia University:

Section 1: Changes to the elections code concerning candidacy announcement:

Article 5.1 shall be amended as:

5.1 CANDIDACY ANNOUNCEMENT. ~~Potential candidates for Student Government may announce their official candidacy no earlier than the last SGA meeting in the fall semester prior to the election. All candidates must announce their candidacy at an SGA meeting before any other method of publicity shall be utilized.~~ The Elections Chair shall publish the election timetable a week before the end of the semester in which candidates begin to announce their campaigns.

Potential candidates for the Student Government Association may announce their candidacy no earlier than the last SGA meeting in the fall semester prior to the election. The Elections Chair will then announce all official candidates at the regular assembly meeting following the Official Candidates meeting in the Spring semester. All official candidates are required to attend the Student Government meeting where their candidacy is officially announced by the Elections Chair, failure to do so will result in an election’s violation. The Elections Chair shall publish the election timetable a week before the end of the semester in which candidates begin to announce their campaigns.

Section 2: Changes concerning the colleges in the composition of the Assembly:

Article 5.2 shall be amended as:

The College Senators will represent the following academic colleges:

- Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources
- College of Law
- College of Applied Human Sciences
- Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Design
- Eberly College of Arts and Sciences
- John Chambers College of Business and Economics
- Health Sciences
- College of Creative Arts and Media

Section 3: Changes concerning tie procedures for elected positions:

Article 6.4 shall be amended as:

6.4 POST-COUNTING PROCEDURES.

3. In the event of a tie or the threshold is not met per Article 9.2(a)(1) of the SGA Constitution, a runoff election shall take place.
4. In the event of a tie in the Presidential and Vice Presidential elections, or if the minimum threshold is not met, a runoff election shall be conducted. The runoff will involve the tied parties or, if applicable, the pair with the highest number of votes. The procedures for runoff elections will be determined by regulations outlined in the Elections Code and enforced by the Elections Chair. The runoff candidates shall meet with the Elections Chair no later than twenty four (24) hours after a runoff election has been deemed necessary, to determine the times and circumstances that shall govern the runoff election. The runoff election shall be held no less than five (5) and no more than ten (10) academic days from the date of the original election. Only the names of the candidates.

Section 4: Addition to the elections code appendix concerning fair campaign practices:

Appendix Three Shall be amended as:

APPENDIX THREE (3)

CODE OF FAIR CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

I SHALL NOT USE OR PERMIT the distribution of media using any likeness, image, etc. of another campaign that is not one's own in a negative or unethical light. Nor should this type of media be shared by your agents or acquaintances.

Section 5: Changes to the elections code appendix concerning debate procedures:

Appendix Seven shall be amended as:

APPENDIX SEVEN (7)

President / Vice President Candidate Structure

1. Prior to the beginning of the debate, a coin toss will decide the assignment of Team A and Team B of the candidates for executive office.
 2. Team A shall have up to 2 minutes to first deliver their opening statement. Followed then by Team B, which shall have up to 2 minutes to deliver their opening statement second.
 3. Team A and Team B shall then be presented with questions in the following manner:
 - a. Question 1:
 - i. Team A gets up to 90 seconds to answer Question 1
 - ii. Team B gets up to 90 seconds to answer Question 1
 - iii. Team A gets up to 30 seconds ~~for rebuttal~~ to answer a follow-up question pertaining to their previous answer
 - iv. Team B gets up to 30 seconds ~~for rebuttal~~ to answer a follow-up question pertaining to their previous answer
 - b. Question 2:
 - i. Team B gets up to 90 seconds to answer Question 2
 - ii. Team A gets up to 90 seconds to answer Question 2
 - iii. Team B gets up to 30 seconds ~~for rebuttal~~ to answer a follow-up question pertaining to their previous answer
 - iv. Team A gets up to 30 seconds ~~for rebuttal~~ to answer a follow-up question pertaining to their previous answer
 4. After completion of the prepared questions, Team B will have up to 2 minutes to deliver a closing statement. Following this, Team A will have up to 2 minutes to deliver their own closing statement.
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Section 6: Changes to the elections code related to endorsements during formal campaigning:

Section 5.9 shall be amended as:

5.9 FORMAL CAMPAIGNING. Begins during a convenient time following the informal campaigning period to be determined by the Elections Chair and shall be limited to a period not exceeding four academic days and one weekend before the election begins. Permissible activities during Formal Campaigning for all candidates include tabling, official events, endorsements, team and individual social media posts, distribution of campaign materials, and utilization of other promotional material for campaigning purposes. Any of the aforementioned activities between candidates must involve only individuals officially registered as part of the same team, except for the endorsement of President and Vice President candidates. ~~However, the President and Vice President candidates cannot endorse college/at-large senate candidates or teams.~~ Officially registered teams are only permitted to share finances among its members. Independent candidates are not considered part of any team and are restricted from financial collaboration and participating in the aforementioned activities with other candidates or teams. No formal campaigning will occur before this date. The banner drop event will take place on the night when formal campaigning is set to begin.

Section 7: All aforementioned changes to the Elections Code set forth by the Governing Documents Review Committee shall take immediate effect upon approval by the Student Assembly.

Mandates:

G. Corey Farris, Dean of Students
Dr. Thanh Le, Director, Student Engagement and Leadership (Advisor)
Daily Athenaeum
Charlie Long, Student Body President
Abigail Browning, Student Body Vice President

Haley Orcutt, Executive Secretary
