

Student Government Association (SGA)

Bylaws

Article 1

-Elections-

Section 1: The Committee for Elections

There shall be a Committee for Elections, appointed by the Director of Student Centers. This Committee shall be charged with ensuring that all candidates follow the rules and regulations of elections as provided by these Bylaws. The Committee for Elections shall convene at least one month prior to the date of the annual SGA Elected Executive Board Elections.

Section 2: Annual Elections of the Executive Elected Board of the SGA

- A. The Committee for Elections shall supervise annual campus wide elections for all officers under their jurisdiction during the spring semester of each academic year.
- B. The polls for these elections shall open at a time decided upon by the Committee for Elections.
- C. The polls shall be open for a length of time to be determined by the Committee for Elections, but under no circumstances will the polls be open for less than four hours or more than two days for any one election.
- D. In an effort to obtain greater participation in the election process, the polls shall be held electronically through the University website.

Section 3: Special Elections

- A. In the event that the offices of President, Vice President, Director of Operations, Treasurer, Director of Special Projects and Faculty Senator, or Director of Public Relations and Faculty Senator of the SGA become vacant prior to October 30 during the academic year of the officer's term, the Committee for Elections shall convene and be responsible for planning and supervising an election to fill the office with due haste.
- B. A special election shall not be held if such vacancies occur after October 30; instead in such cases:
 - a. If a vacancy occurs in the office of the President, the Vice President shall assume the role of Acting President for the remainder of the academic year. If a second vacancy occurs, the Treasurer shall become

Acting President. If a third vacancy occurs, the Director of Operations shall become Acting President. Upon a fourth vacancy, the Director of Public Relations and Faculty Senator shall become Acting President. Upon a fifth vacancy, the Director of Special Projects and Faculty Senator shall become Acting President. Upon a sixth vacancy, a special election must be held regardless of calendar time.

b. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Director of Operations, the President shall appoint a member of the SGA as Acting Director of Operations for the remainder of the academic year.

c. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Treasurer, the President shall appoint a member of the SGA as Acting Treasurer for the remainder of the academic year.

d. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Director of Public Relations and Faculty Senator, the President shall appoint a member of the SGA as Acting Director of Public Relations and Faculty Senator for the remainder of the academic year.

f. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Director of Special Projects and Faculty Senator, the President shall appoint a member of the SGA as Acting Director of Special Projects and Faculty Senator for the remainder of the academic year.

C. A two-thirds majority affirmative vote of the voting members present at the next meeting of the Executive Board of the Student Government Association is necessary to confirm the appointments made by the President.

D. If a vacancy occurs with 14 or more calendar days remaining before the next meeting of the Executive Board of the Student Government Association, a replacement shall be nominated by the President and confirmed by the voting membership present at the meeting. If a vacancy occurs within 14 calendar days of the next meeting of the Student Government Association, the vacancy shall be reported at the meeting, but affirmation of nomination shall be postponed until the subsequent meeting.

Section 4: Initiative and Referendum Elections

A. The SGA shall be responsible for placing initiative questions in a special campus-wide election.

B. The SGA shall, upon receiving a written request signed by at least (10) percent of the total full-time undergraduate University population, be responsible for placing referendum questions in a special campus-wide election.

C. Any initiative or referendum election shall take place no more than three weeks from receipt of the vote or petition by the SGA.

Section 5: Election Procedures

A. The results of all elections planned and supervised by the Committee for Elections shall be announced no more than twenty-four hours following the closing of the polls.

B. During the seventy-two hours after the polls are officially closed, any member of the University community may submit a written statement to the Director of Student Centers listing any voting or campaign irregularities which may have been discovered during the course of the election.

C. Any requests for a recount shall be allowed only during the twenty-four hours immediately following the announcement of the results of the election.

D. There shall be as many recounts allowed for each office as determined necessary by a majority vote of the members of the Committee for Elections.

Section 6: Invalidation of Elections

A. When irregularities are reported to the Director of Student Centers in written form during the seventy-two hour period after the polls are officially closed, the Committee for Elections shall convene and conduct an investigation of the alleged irregularities.

B. If the alleged irregularities prove true and significant, and the Committee for Elections has a (2/3) affirmative majority vote including the vote of the Director of Student Centers, the committee shall have the authority to declare the election results invalid and hold another election as per the Bylaws of the SGA. If no decision is made to invalidate the election results, the results shall become official five calendar days after the close of elections.

Section 7: Nominations

A. Any full-time matriculated undergraduate degree candidate with good academic standing according to the University shall have the right to place himself/herself in nomination for any of the offices for which that student is qualified as stated herein. In order to run for the offices of President or Vice President, Treasurer, Director of Operations, Director of Public Relations and Faculty Senator, and Director of Special Projects and Faculty Senator, the student must have served as a member of the Executive Board of the SGA for at least one year. The Director of the Student Centers will meet with the SGA President to review petitions of those not meeting these qualifications.

B. There shall be no monetary fee assessed for being in nomination for office.

C. No person shall be in nomination for more than one position in any given SGA conducted election.

D. The Committee for Elections shall hold an Election Rules Meeting to discuss and clarify all rules governing a regular election as follows:

a. The meeting will be held at least fourteen but no more than twenty-one days before polls open and will be open to the public.

b. The meeting will be advertised on the SGA website.

c. All candidates are required to attend the Election Rules Meeting.

E. For the annual election, ballot nominations shall be open up until thirty minutes prior to the Election Rules Meeting.

Section 8: Campaign

A. All candidates and campaigners must abide by all rules set forth in the most current edition available of The University of Delaware Student Guide to Policies.

B. The serving of alcoholic beverages at campaign functions shall be strictly prohibited.

C. Campus or computer/electronic mail may only be used if the materials are addressed to the specific occupant by name, building and room number.

D. No candidate shall serve as a pollster or count votes.

Section 9: Campaigning Expenditures

A. Each candidate or party shall be required to submit a campaign income and expenditure form to the Committee for Elections within two business days following the conclusion of the elections.

B. The Committee for Elections shall have the authority to uniformly limit the amount of funds that may be used in the conduction of individual and/or party campaigns for an election.

C. The Committee for Elections shall review expenditure forms and investigate any expenditures as deemed necessary.

Section 10: Tie

In the case of a tie vote, the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate shall break the tie by a simple majority vote of the voting members present for the candidates tied for the position.

A. The Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate shall break the tie at a special meeting convened for the specific purpose of breaking the tie.

B. The candidates shall each have up to five minutes to address the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate before a vote is taken.

C. Voting members of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate and the Executive Board of the SGA may ask questions to the candidates. Any question presented to one candidate must be presented to all other candidates. Candidates are not allowed to address questions to each other.

D. Should a candidate be a voting member of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate, that student shall not participate nor be counted in the tiebreaking vote.

Section 11: Elections Rules

A. The Committee for Elections shall establish additional rules governing the conduct of all campaigns for elections that it supervises with the consultation of the Executive Board of the SGA.

a. Additional rules that would affect the candidates of registered student groups other than the SGA shall be consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of that organization.

b. Additional rules must be established at least thirty days prior to the opening of the polls.

c. The Committee for Elections shall make the Election Rules available to the public at least thirty days prior to the opening of the polls. The Committee for Elections shall advertise through applicable means of the availability of the Elections Rules.

B. The Committee for Elections may establish special rules for conducting special elections.

C. The Committee for Elections shall be responsible for the interpretation of the Election Rules and have authority to enforce the Election Rules.

Article II

-Term of Office-

Section 1: Term of Office

A. The term of office for the Elected Executive officers of the SGA shall be for the academic year, beginning with their inauguration at the final Executive Meeting of the SGA.

B. The term of office for the Appointed Executive officers of the SGA shall be for the academic year following their appointment at the first meeting of the Executive Board of the Student Government Association.

C. The term of office for Senators of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate shall be for the academic year beginning with the first meeting of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate.

Article III

-Removal from Office-

The removal process and subsequent appointment to fill the vacancy shall adhere to procedure set forth in the SGA's Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 1: Just Cause

A. Conduct considered inconsistent with the purposes set forth in the SGA Constitution and Bylaws.

B. Failure to perform the duties and meet the responsibilities of office as required by the SGA Constitution and Bylaws.

C. Unexcused absences from two or more meetings of the Delaware Undergraduate Student Senate. The Director of Operations, under advisement from the President, will approve excuses for absences.

D. Unexcused absences from two or more meetings of the Executive Board. The Director of Operations, under advisement from the President, will approve excuses for absences. This applies only to members of the Executive Board of the SGA.