

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Label: SGAB- 58007

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Author(s): Chief Election Commissioner Urquieta

Committee: Internal Affairs

Draft: First Reading

Election Code Revisions

Whereas, it is the duty and responsibility of the Election Commission to ensure a fair and equitable election;

Whereas, updates to the Election Code are necessary to keep relevant as time progresses.

Whereas, the mental health of both the candidates and those in the Justice Department ought to be a priority;

Therefore, be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

Be it further enacted, that Article 1 (3) (1) of the UH Election code be amended to read: "The Chief Election Commissioner and the Deputy-Chief Election Commissioner, the have a right to monetary compensation at the time surrounding the annual Student Government Election.";

Be it further enacted, that Article 2 (1) (6) of the UH Election code be amended to read: "The Election Commission must attempt to respond to any questions posed to the Commission through the designated and public e-mail address in a timely manner, defined as within forty-eight (48) business hours of the message being sent.";

Be it further enacted, that Article 2 (4) (2) of the UH Election code be amended to read: "This journal must include, at a minimum: all complaints and responses to

complaints, election results, any results from the Student Government Association Supreme Court, ideas for upcoming commissions on improving the election process, the budget breakdown of the Election Commission, and other pertinent information. A copy of the Election Journal will be offered to the Student Government Association Advisor and this copy will be published online and viewable by the public.”;

Be it further enacted, that Article 2 (6) of the UH Election code be amended to read: “Failure to fulfill the duties or responsibilities as outlined in this document will constitute grounds for removal. Removal from the Commission will be decided by the Student Government Association Senate by a two-thirds majority vote. In addition, the Senate must also nominate who will be acting as the Prosecutor in the case. After all nominations have been entered the individual with a majority vote from those nominated will serve as the prosecutor in the case. After the vote has passed, a trial must occur within 48 hours. The individual selected by the Senate will then serve as the Prosecution in the case. Any member of the Commission accused of failing to fulfill the duties and responsibilities will have a right to counsel and may select to be represented by the Public Defender or alternative individual.” ;

Be it further enacted, that Article 3 (1) (2) of the UH Election code be amended to read: “A student is eligible to run for an elected position if they are currently enrolled at the University of Houston, are in good academic and disciplinary standing as defined by University Policy, and are eligible under the requirements of Clause 5 and Clause 6 of this section.”;

Be it further enacted, that Article 3 (1) (4) of the UH Election code be amended to read: “ If a candidate does not meet the requirements established in the Election Code by the closing of the filing deadline, they are immediately disqualified from running in the election.”;

Be it further enacted, that Article 3 (1) (5) of the UH Election code be amended to read: “ For any college position, a candidate must be enrolled at the time of filing and for the duration of their term in the college that they are seeking to represent. A candidate must be majoring in a subject that falls under the domain of that college. Students with only a minor in a college are not eligible to run for that college position. Failure to meet these requirements can result in disqualification or removal.”;

Be it further enacted, that Article 3 (1) (6) of the UH Election code be amended to read: “ All candidates must be able to serve at least two (2) full academic semesters, not including the summer after the election. The two full academic terms will be the following fall and spring semesters after the election has occurred. If a student’s

degree plan does not indicate that they will be attending the University for at least two more full academic semesters, they must submit a letter with their application for candidacy from their academic advisor stating that their degree plan will continue through the term they are seeking to be elected for.”;

Be it further enacted, that Article 3 (2) (3) of the UH Election code be added;

Be it further enacted, that Article 3 (2) (3) of the UH Election code read: “Half of their term be defined as the mid-way point a regular full length term.”;

Be it further enacted, that Article 3 (3) (5) of the UH Election code be amended to read: “Failure to attend the Candidate Seminar will result in the disqualification of the candidate, unless the absence is requested by the candidate and approved by the Commission no later than twenty-four (24) hours before the meeting has occurred, or twelve (12) hours after the meeting has occur for emergencies with proper documentation.”;

Be it further enacted, that Article 3 (5) (4) of the UH Election code be amended to read: “Parties must register the party name and candidates with the Election Commission before engaging in campaign practices, and may make amendments to either so long as the deadline has not yet passed.”;

Be it further enacted, that Article 3 (5) (6) of the UH Election code be added;

Be it further enacted, that Article 3 (5) (6) of the UH Election code read: “If a majority of a party wishes to remove the presidential candidate nominee after the filing deadline has passed, 2/3rd of the party must vote in favor of removal and submit the names of those in favor and reasoning for the removal to the Chief Election Commissioner for approval. If they want to remove the presidential nominee before the filing deadline, the candidates in opposition only option is to form a new party.”;

Be it further enacted, that Article 3 (6) (2) of the UH Election code be amended to read: “The filing period for candidacy must be at least fifteen (15) business days.”;

Be it further enacted, that Article 4 (1) (6) of the UH Election code be amended to read: “Campaigning does not include any actions taken by known and/or prospective candidates, campaign staff, or parties to organize or recruit on a peer to peer basis before the close of the filing deadline.”;

Be it further enacted, that Article 4 (1) (7) of the UH Election code be added;

Be it further enacted, that Article 4 (1) (7) of the UH Election code read: “Party meetings are permitted, but a candidate or party staff member may not, through any

means, publicly or broadly recruit candidates. This includes, but is not limited to: mass advertising, listservs, and public announcements of party recruitment. Party Meetings may also not be held in Campaigning Prohibited zones.”;

Be it further enacted, that Article 4 (2) (2) of the UH Election code be amended to read: “No campaign may be on or use personal or intellectual property without the consent of the owner.”;

Be it further enacted, that Article 4 (2) (13) (a) of the UH Election code be added to read: “Any Campaign giveaways must open to and disclosed publicly that they are open to any voting, even if the individual is not voting for that specific party.”;

Be it further enacted, that Article 4 (2) (14) of the UH Election code be amended to read: “Campaigning within the walls or fifteen (15) feet from the entrances of the library, student centers (north, south, and satellite), recreation and wellness center, dining halls, and/or within any dining establishment owned/operated by the University of Houston is prohibited. The Chief Election Commissioner may make exceptions to this at their discretion.”;

Be it further enacted, that Article 4 (2) (15) of the UH Election code be added;

Be it further enacted, that Article 4 (2) (15) of the UH Election code read: “Campaigning is limited to 7 a.m. Monday through 10 p.m. Friday during campaigning season with the exception of social media posts.”;

Be it further enacted, that Article 4 (3) (2) of the UH Election code be amended to read: “All physical and non-physical campaign materials, including but not limited to: Flyers, Social Media, Buttons, T-Shirts, etc., must be originally created, and cannot be reused within a 5 year period. This does includes party names.”;

Be it further enacted, that Article 4 (4) (1) of the UH Election code be amended to read: “Members of the Election Commission and members of the Student Government Association Judiciary/Justice Department are prohibited from campaigning or verbalizing support for a particular candidate or party. If they verbalize their support, it is ground for removal or impeachment from their position.”;

Be it further enacted, that Article 6 (1) (3) of the UH Election code be amended to read: “Political parties and Independent Presidential candidates are limited to expenditures totaling no more than one-thousand two-hundred (\$1,200) dollars for the entire party.”;

Be it further enacted, that Article 6 (1) (4) of the UH Election code be amended to read: “Independent candidates and political parties are limited to expenditures totaling no more than 10% of their maximum budget for giveaways.”;

Be it further enacted, that Article 7 (1) (7) of the UH Election code be amended to read: “Candidate(s)/individuals may appeal their penalty or its severity before the Student Government Association Supreme Court or designated Appellate Court. Appeals regarding Class A and Class D violations must be heard by the Supreme Court. The Appellate Court will be in charge of hearing Class B and Class C violations. After having gone through the Appellate Court, if the Supreme Court allows, may take their violations to be heard in front of them to may review the appeal and choose to hear the appeal in court, or may reject the appeal. A decision regarding a lack of merit cannot be appealed to any court and are considered final at the point of the Attorney General determining a lack of merit.”;

Be it further enacted, that Article 7 (1) (8) of the UH Election code be amended to read: “Should any petitioner or respondent wish to appeal a decision of the Attorney General to the Appellate Court or the Supreme Court, they must file the appeal within four (4) hours of receiving the decision from the Attorney General. Should any petitioner or respondent wish to appeal a decision of the Appellate Court, they must file the appeal within four (4) hours of receiving the decision from the Appellate Court. Should a decision from the Attorney General or the Appellate Court be delivered between 8PM and 6AM, the petitioners (of the appeal) will have until 10AM to file their appeal.”;

Be it further enacted, that any other references to “the Election Trial Board” be replaces to “the Appellate Court” whose duties and methods to handle trial will function in the same manner as the Supreme Court;

Be it further enacted, that Article 3 (2) (4) of the UH Election code be added;

Be it further enacted, that Article 3 (2) (4) of the UH Election code read: “An individual may re-run in the following election cycle, even if they we removed, as so long as that removal was not via an impeachment or recall.”;

Be it further enacted, that Article 4 (2) (16) of the UH Election code be added;

Be it further enacted, that Article 4 (2) (16) of the UH Election code read: “Campaigns of either an independent candidate or party may not ask or force and individual to receive confidential student information from individuals, this entails but is not limited to: PeopleSoft IDs, personal records, birthdates, etc.”

Be it further enacted, that Article 6 (2) (13) of the UH Election code be added;

Be it further enacted, that Article 6 (2) (13) of the UH Election code read: “Financial disclosures of costs of both independent candidates and parties must submit and provide with their expense report, the invoice or receipt of the transaction and may not use online cash exchange accounts (such as but not limited to Venmo, Cashapp, Zelle, etc.) to be able to suffice this criterion.”;

Be it further enacted, that Article 7 (2) (17) of the UH Election code be added;

Be it further enacted, that Article 7 (2) (17) of the UH Election code read: “Only individuals of a party may be disqualified due to noncompliance with the election code. In the event that an individual cannot be pinpointed than the Leaders of that party will face disqualification. Entire parties may not be disqualified for the actions of specific individuals or if an individual cannot be determined.”;

Rohit Shajan

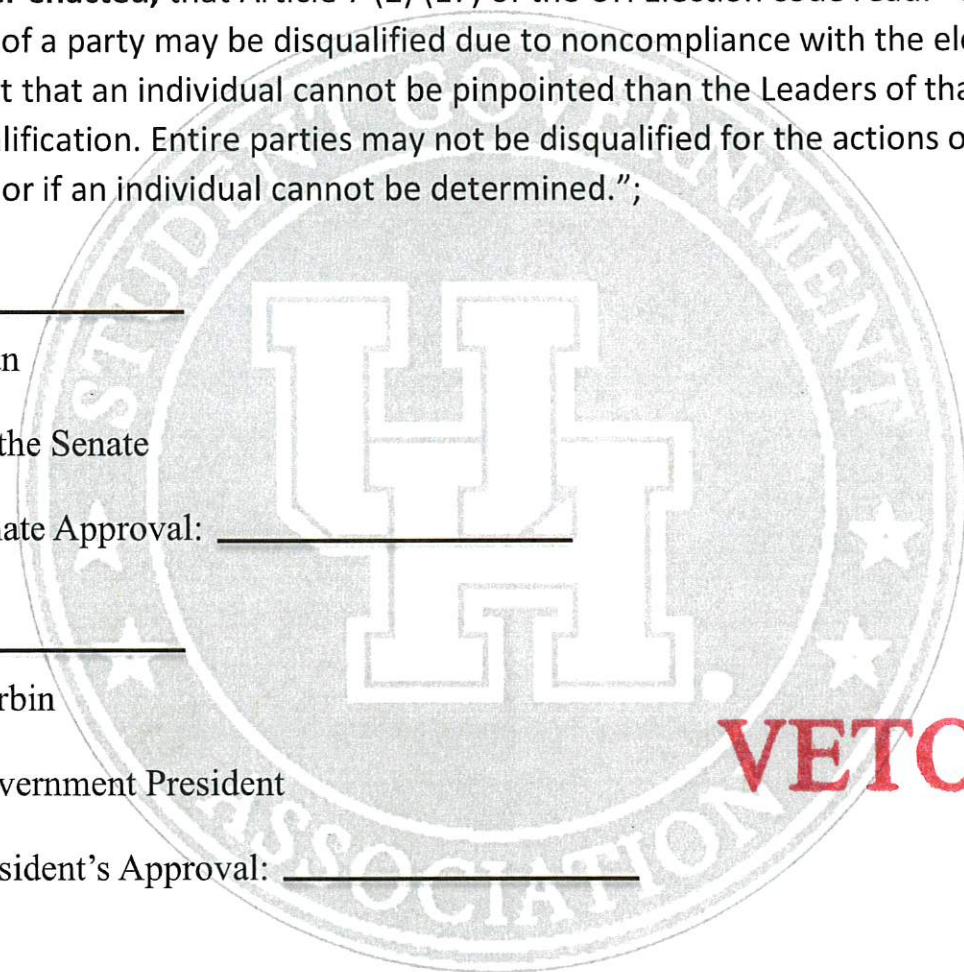
Speaker of the Senate

Date of Senate Approval: _____

Arsalan Darbin

Student Government President

Date of President’s Approval: _____



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