

Section 10: Election Rules

10.1 Definitions

- A. A "candidate" is anyone seeking an elective office or being drafted by other individuals, whether he/she is registered on the ballot or a write-in.
- B. A "slate" is any organized group of candidates running together by mutual agreement.
- C. To "deceive" is to represent a candidate, slate, their platform, or issues in a campaign in a manner which is blatantly contrary to fact and which is deliberately intended to benefit or hurt a candidate or slate in a campaign, as long as the representation would be believed by a reasonable person.
- D. "Disqualification" means that a candidate will not be allowed to hold the office he/she was a candidate for. If disqualified prior to election his/her name will be removed from the ballot.
- E. "Districts" are the three areas of the university
 1. ESKER: Wells, Wellers, Tutt, Knilans, Fischer
 2. DRUMLIN: White, Sayles, Benson, Clem, Arey, Lee, Bigelow, Fricker
 3. OFF-CAMPUS
- F. "Campaigning" is attempting to gain a vote or support through verbal or nonverbal solicitation. This includes activities prior to the formal filing of papers.
- G. "Neutral Party" will consist of the following: WSG Advisor, WSG President, WSG Vice President, Speaker of the Senate, and any Elections Committee member.

10.2 Elections Committee

- A. All Whitewater Student Government (WSG) elections will be conducted and regulated by an Elections Committee in accordance with these Standing Rules. The Elections Committee is responsible for making all preparations, running each election, making final decisions on violations, and tabulating the election results.
- B. Members of the Elections Committee will not publicly support any candidate or take actions which will bias his/her judgment in Elections Committee business. Failure to comply with this rule will require committee action. Dismissal will occur with a two-thirds vote of the committee.
- C. The Senate will vote on the Elections Committee's results at the next regularly scheduled meeting following the counting of the ballots. Appeals of the disqualification of a candidate or slate will be heard at the next regularly scheduled meeting by the slate or candidate submitting an appeal to the Speaker.
- D. The Elections Committee will do the following:
 1. Supervise the filing of election papers;
 2. Validate all nomination papers;
 3. Meet with all candidates prior to the election to discuss rules and ethics;
 4. Count the ballots and notify all candidates who filed valid nomination forms and all write-in candidates receiving more than fifteen votes or were elected, of the election results;
 5. Explain to the winners of the Senate election, of the first meeting that they take office.

- E. Elections Committee members will be allowed to miss only three meetings (maximum of two meetings unexcused). Any more unexcused absences will result in automatic dismissal from the committee.

10.3 Elections Chair Job Description

- A. The Election Committee Chair will be elected from the committee on an annual basis.
- B. Meet when necessary with the Elections Committee to plan and implement Executive, Senate, special, and referenda elections as required by the Constitution of WSG.
- C. Work with Public Relations Director to promote the election.
- D. Prepare and make available the rules, papers, and forms necessary to run for a WSG position at least four weeks prior to the election.
- E. Do the following to implement each election:
 1. Conduct a required candidate meeting with the Elections Committee to inform candidates of rules and procedures;
 2. Arrange space for the meetings and the polls with University Reservations;
 3. Arrange for the printing of the ballots, at least one week prior to the first Election Day;
 4. Work with the Speaker of the Senate and the Executive Board to staff the polling tables;
 5. Arrange for the secure overnight storage of the ballot boxes;
 6. Conduct counting procedures with the Elections Committee and post preliminary outcomes;
 7. Hold a meeting prior to the counting of the ballots on the last day of voting, to disclose all violations filed against candidates or slates and notify all candidates of the time when they can state their side in the alleged violations, and of the resulting actions taken by the Elections Committee;
 8. Hold a candidate debate in the Warhawk room, on the Monday before the week of the election, moderated by a neutral party;
 9. Meet with the WSG Advisor to discuss implementation of the election rules, at the discretion of the advisor;
 10. A calendar of deadlines is to be submitted 6 weeks prior to the election with approval by the Senate.

10.4 Qualification Requirements

- A. Candidates must currently be enrolled as a UW-W student.
- B. In order to be eligible for the Senate position, all candidates must be a resident of the district in which they are running for Senate.
- C. To be on the ballot, candidates must turn in an intent-to-run form with their name, district, signature, and phone number on it. This form will be available in the WSG office no later than four weeks prior to any election. At the time of filing, the candidate will receive nomination forms and the election rules.
- D. Candidates seeking a Senate seat must obtain 25 signatures from their district. The signatures must have phone numbers, addresses, and dates following the name. All signatures must be from current UW-Whitewater students.
- E. Any slate or candidate seeking executive position must obtain two hundred signatures. Fifty must come from each individual district, and fifty additional

signatures must come from any other UW-Whitewater students. The signatures must have phone numbers, addresses, and dates following the name. All signatures must be from current UW-Whitewater students.

- F. The Elections Committee reserves the right to contact any of the students who signed the papers.
- G. The deadline for filing completed nomination forms is determined by the set deadline put forth by the Elections Committee, with the exception of write-in candidates.
- H. All write-in candidates must file the required amount of signatures within two weeks of the approval of the election results.

10.5 Disqualification of a Candidate

- A. A candidate will be disqualified if he/she is found to have broken any part of Section 10.4 of these Standing Rules or by vote of the Elections Committee in compliance with Section 10.7 of these Standing Rules.
- B. A candidate will be disqualified if he/she is found to have falsified information on an official nomination form.
- C. A candidate will be disqualified if he/she is found to have used any WSG owned, rented, or leased materials for the purpose of campaigning. Any campaign materials found inside the WSG office, outside the mailboxes, will be confiscated and destroyed without assessment of a violation.
- D. If a disqualifying violation is filed, the Elections Committee will meet and hear the violation within two business days.
- E. The Elections Committee chair must notify the candidate of the reason for disqualification in writing.
- F. Every candidate will have the right to appeal the decision of a disqualification. This process is outlined in Section 10.10 of these Standing Rules.

10.6 Campaign Practices

- A. Candidates must comply with all WSG election rules.
- B. There will be no personal campaigning within the polling buildings on the days of the election. Candidates are allowed to have campaign materials in the buildings. However, the Elections Committee and poll workers must remove any such literature or “campaigning” it deems within readable or audible distance of the polling place. Removal under this subsection will not count as a violation, unless the literature or campaigning is present due to the actions of a candidate or slate. Failure to comply with a warning from a poll worker will result in the assessment of a violation.
- C. No candidate may have more than one poster per side on a bulletin board. The posters on bulletin boards may not be any larger than 187 square inches. The poster must be approved by the respective authorities in each building.
- D. Candidates and slates may not campaign in residence halls without the express consent from the Associate Director of Residence Life, as notified by the Election Committee Chair. Permission will be granted uniformly to each candidate and slate.
- E. Candidates and slates may not, with malicious intent, deliberately deceive the voters.
- F. Candidates may not break any, university, local, state, or federal rules and/or laws relating to campaigning.
- G. Candidates may not deface or destroy any campaign materials of the opponent(s).

- H. Candidates may not write on any university: building, chalkboard, whiteboard, bench, post, trash can, wall, lawn, tree; or any other surface deemed inappropriate by the Elections Committee.
- I. Any item(s) with a fair market value greater than ninety-nine cents, with the exception of campaign clothing, may not be given or sold to voters or potential voters by any candidate or slate.
- J. Candidates and slates must comply with section 3.1 of these Standing Rules in the same way that a current WSG member must comply.

10.7 Violations

- A. There will be four degrees of severity that each violation will be judged upon.
 - 1. Degree I - Standing Rules Section 10.6 (B), (D), (E), (F), (G), (J)
 - 2. Degree II - Standing Rules Section 10.6 (I)
 - 3. Degree III - Standing Rules Section 10.6 (H)
 - 4. Degree IV - Standing Rules Section 10.6 (C)
- B. Disqualification of a candidate or slate based on violations will take place in accordance with the following guidelines:
 - 1. Points toward disqualification will be assessed on the following basis:

Degree of Violation	Points Assessed
a. Degree I	4 per violation
b. Degree II	3 per violation
c. Degree III	2 per violation
d. Degree IV	1 per violation
 - 2. Once a candidate or slate has accumulated ten or more points, the Elections Committee may vote to disqualify that candidate or slate by a two-thirds vote.
 - 3. The decision to disqualify or not to disqualify a candidate or slate upon the accumulation of ten or more points may be appealed to the Senate, under Section 10.10 of these Standing Rules.
 - 4. A candidate or slate may not receive points toward disqualification multiple times for the same violation, unless the same violation occurs on more than one occasion, and these occasions must be separated by a minimum of 24 hours from notification by election chair.
 - 5. If an incident of violation falls within multiple sections of 10.6, the more specific section of 10.6 will apply.
- C. All alleged violations must be filed in writing and placed in the violation box in the WSG office by 7:00 p.m. of the last day of the election. The violation box will be checked daily by the Elections Chair. The Elections Chair will notify states of alleged violations upon receipt of violation form.
- D. All violations will be disclosed by the Elections Committee after the closing of the polls on the last day of elections before 9 p.m. The violations hearing will be handled by the election committee after 12 p.m. on the next day, before the counting of ballots. All candidates with violations against them must attend both meetings or they forfeit the opportunity to explain their case to the Elections Committee or appeal their decision.

- E. During the hearings, the Elections Committee will comply with all open meeting laws, as they apply.
- F. The candidate or slate in question may appeal the findings of the Elections Committee as outlined in Section 10.10 of these Standing Rules.

10.8 Voting Procedure

- A. All names on the ballot will appear in alphabetical order.
- B. Incumbent candidates shall be denoted by “(i)” next to their name. A footnote shall be added to the bottom of the ballot defining the “(i)” symbol.
- C. All ballots should include an appropriate number of spaces for write-in candidates as offices are up for election in that district, as well as a write-in space for executive offices.
- D. Any student with a valid Photo ID may vote in the district in which they live. A student may vote only once. All ballots must be validated with an official WSG stamp and the poll worker's initials at the time of voting. The poll worker must also strike the voter's name from the eligible voter list.
- E. All ballot boxes will be locked and sealed until the counting of the ballots. The Elections Committee chair will hold the keys to the boxes and arrange for overnight storage. At no time will the ballot boxes be opened during the election.
- F. There will be one polling station, located in the University Center;
- G. The polling hours will be 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- H. Poll workers can in no way can express opinions or give information regarding candidates or slates.
- I. All candidates or slates are allowed to employ one poll watcher. The Elections Committee must be notified prior to the poll watcher sitting by the polls. The poll watcher cannot in any way influence the voters or attempt to encourage the people to vote.
- J. The Elections Committee reserves the right to make any additional procedure prior to the election, as long as all candidates are notified in writing before the opening of the polls on the first day.
- K. WSG will provide a secure and private location, in which voters may cast their ballot.

10.9 Ballot Counting

- A. Only voting members of the Elections Committee, the WSG Advisor, and one representative from each candidate or slate, will be allowed in the ballot counting room. Candidates and slates will not be allowed in the ballot counting room.
- B. The ballots and violations will be held in locked boxes for at least two weeks following the counting of the ballots. In case of an appeal or recount, the boxes will be held until the dispute is settled.
- C. No one with access to the ballot counting room will be allowed to distribute partial results.
- D. A candidate may request a recount within seven calendar days following the election. The Senate cannot approve the results if a recount has been requested.
- E. In the event of a tie between candidates or slates, all elected members of WSG will vote to determine the winner of the tie.

- F. Unofficial results will be posted in the WSG office the day following the counting of the ballots. Official results will be published following approval of the Senate.

10.10 Appeal Process

- A. A candidate or slate may file an appeal in writing, presented to the Speaker of the Senate, before the next Senate meeting to dispute a decision of the Elections Committee. The appeal will be heard at the next Senate meeting.
- B. It will take a two-thirds vote of the Senate to overturn a decision of the Elections Committee.

10.11 Absentee Voting

If an individual finds it impossible to vote on the days specified, an absentee ballot may be picked up from the WSG office, with the Elections Committee chair's signature as validation. An absentee ballot may be picked up until 4:00 p.m. the day before the first day of the election.

10.12 Staffing of the Polls

- A. All Senators and Executive Board members are required to sit at the polls for at least four hours.
- B. Two weeks prior to an election, a poll-sitting sign up sheet will be distributed by the Elections Committee chair at the regularly scheduled Senate meeting.
- C. All WSG members may not sit at a poll in a district in which they are on the ballot.
- D. Within two calendar days following an election, the Elections Committee chair will submit, in writing, to the sergeant at arms, violations by WSG members regarding failure to sit polling hours.
- E. At the polls, Elections Committee members can excuse WSG members from their polling hours, provided that there is adequate coverage.

10.13 Referenda

- A. Referenda will be placed on the ballot by a majority vote of the Senate.
- B. Removal of Senate referenda from the ballot requires a two-thirds vote of the Senate.
- C. The exact wording of referenda will be as approved by the Senate.
- D. All referenda must pass by a two-thirds vote unless otherwise specified by the WSG.
- E. Any referenda which would require an increase in tuition will require a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote.
- F. Any referenda which would approve UW-Whitewater rejoining United Council will require a $\frac{4}{5}$ vote.

10.14 Amendments to Section 10

Section 10 of these Standing Rules may not be changed or deleted once election papers, forms, and rules have been made available to candidates. The only exception is by a four-fifths vote of the Senate to suspend these Standing Rules, and with written notification to all candidates or slates of the date when the Senate will hear the proposed change.