

Election Laws and Guidelines

(Please retain this portion of the application for your reference.)

Below are sections of the **Electoral Procedures Act, Bill 1112-04** pertinent to candidates preparing for an election.

Section 6. The Superintendent of Elections shall make campaign petitions available to the student body at least two weeks in advance of the election campaign season. The Superintendent shall collect applications and submit them to the Director of Student Activities for verification of all eligibility requirements. Once eligibility is determined, the Superintendent and Director of Student Activities shall contact all candidates to inform them of their eligibility status.

Section 7. Potential candidates must receive petitions, campaign rules, and office requirements at the SGA office (MSAC 1000) when specified by the Subcommittee on Elections & Appointments. Petitions shall be returned to the SGA office no later than noon on the date specified by the same Subcommittee.

Section 8. Campaigns may begin 14 days before the General Election at the end of the Spring Semester pending eligibility. Campaigns may begin 7 days before the Fall and Spring Midterm elections pending eligibility.

Section 9. The Chief Justice, the Secretary of Finance, the Superintendent of Elections, and the Subcommittee, along with the Advisor and the Vice- President of Student Affairs shall meet the day immediately following the election in order to authenticate electoral returns. Should the Chief Justice or Secretary of Finance be running for office, the Superintendent of Elections shall appoint students from the student body at-large to fill their respective positions.

Section 10. Should there be a dispute in electoral results, the disputer shall file the Election Dispute Form with the Superintendent no later than five school days following the closure of elections. The Superintendent and the Subcommittee shall work with the Advisor and Student Body President to find reasonable cause for dispute, and should the election be deemed invalid, shall hold a new election within five calendar days of their finding. If proof of cheating is established, that is grounds for disciplinary action with the Student Affairs Office.

Section 11. Presidents and Vice-Presidents will run on the same ticket hereafter.

Section 12. Campaign finance rules shall be limited to the following:

Presidential/Vice-Presidential Campaigns: No Candidate for President or Vice-President of the Student Body shall spend over \$500 as a ticket.

Cabinet/Delegate Campaigns: No candidate for any other position shall spend over \$250. The Campaign spending cap will be reviewed by the Director, Vice- President of Student Affairs, and Subcommittee every year following Inauguration Day.

Section 13. These rules become effective upon passage by the Student Senate.

Section 14. Each candidate may employ the services of a campaign manager, publicity representative, or other students to conduct or assist in the campaign. Fliers and other campaign materials may not be posted in any location that college policy prohibits and must be approved by the Superintendent of Elections in conjunction with the Director of Student Activities before being displayed. All materials must be removed the day after the election.

Section 15. Persons running for office must be able to present a financial report of all election expenditures upon request from the Subcommittee. Electoral Procedures Act Bill 1112-04

Section 16. A debate shall be held four days prior to election day for all persons running for cabinet positions. The Superintendent shall moderate the debate. Candidates may only debate those they are running against. The Subcommittee will determine the format of the debate.

Section 17. All officers shall assume the powers and duties of their office upon Inauguration Day which will come at the designation of the Director of Student Activities.

Section 18. No form of campaigning before final confirmation from the Director of Student Activities will be tolerated or allowed. Should a candidate begin their campaign in any form (including but not limited to, social media sites such as Facebook, twitter, or physical forms of campaigning such as petitions or signage), that candidate will be warned first to cease all forms of campaigning and then upon the second violation that candidate will be disqualified. In the case that the violation is identified after the campaign has ended, the Subcommittee will resolve the issue in conjunction with the Director of Student Activities and Vice-President of Student Affairs.