Tennessee State University

Student Election Commission

Operations Plan for Special Elections 2012

Section I: APPLICATION PROCESS AND ELIGIBILITY

Applicants may obtain an application from the information desk of the Floyd Payne Campus Center and returned to the Office of Student Activities in room 217 of the Floyd Payne Campus Center.

The criteria for candidacy for Graduate Class Representatives, Class Officers and Class Queens shall be as follows:

1. At least a 2.50 cumulative grade average during the semester the elections are held (excluding developmental and remedial courses).
2. Must complete the appropriate hours (excluding development and remedial hours) required for specific class.
3. Must be a full time, enrolled student with at least 12 hours (graduate 9 hours) at the time of the elections and continuously during the academic year in which the office is sought.
4. Have not been found guilty of any student conduct violation resulting in the penalties of probation, suspension, or expulsion.
5. Must complete required workshops and events as deemed necessary by the Student Election Commission.

Section II: NOMINATION CONVENTION AND NOMINATION OF CLASS OFFICERS

The Student Government Association Nomination Convention shall be conducted in accordance with the Student Election Commission and the general rules and regulations of parliamentary procedure. The presiding officer of the said convention shall be the Chairperson or Co-Chairperson of the Student Election Commission. In the event that neither the Chairperson nor Co-Chairperson can preside, the Chairperson can delegate the responsibility to a specific member of the Student Election Commission. The Nomination shall be conducted on Sunday of the Election Week. The convention shall take place in a location specified by the Student Election Commission. Attendance for all candidates is mandatory. No student that is not nominated will be eligible to be placed on the official ballot.

Nomination for class officers will be in accordance with the Student Election Commission and the general rules and regulations of parliamentary procedures. The Nomination shall be conducted on Sunday of the Election Week. The Nomination Convention shall take place in a location specified by the Student Election Commission.

Sub-section I: Nomination – The nominating order shall be Treasurer, Secretary, Class Queen, Class Representative, Vice President, and President. Each candidate

is limited to one nomination speech. Nomination speeches shall last no longer than forty-five (45) seconds. A person desiring recognition from the Chairperson to make a nomination has a maximum of fifteen (15) seconds after receiving such recognition to reach the speaker’s platform. Nomination speeches shall be addressed to the convention audience only.

Sub-section II: Seconding – Each candidate is allowed no more than one seconding speech of forty-five (45) seconds. A person desiring recognition from the Chairperson to make a seconding speech has a maximum of fifteen (15) seconds to reach the platform after receiving such recognition.

Sub-section III: Acceptance Speeches – A nominee has fifteen (15) seconds to reach the platform and two (2) minutes to deliver his or her acceptance speech.

Section III: THE CAMPAIGN

Campaigning for the class officers shall begin after the conclusion of the Class Nomination

Convention. No candidate shall engage in harsh or crude language while campaigning. All

Candidates, Student Government Association and Class Offices, may campaign until the polls

open election week.

Sub-section I: Candidates can only have one campaign manager who must be a validated student at Tennessee State University. Candidates must submit a list of campaigning staff (both students and non-students who will be involved in their campaign) with telephone numbers to the Student Election Commission prior to the Nomination Convention. All non-student participants must be approved by the Student Election Commission prior to nominations.

Sub-section II: Candidates may not bring balloons, streamers, etc. to the Nomination Convention. No literature, buttons, balloons, signs, streamers, etc. containing slogans or insignias can be passed out and will not be allowed during the Nomination Convention.

Sub-section III: Candidates will be allowed to post and distribute campaign signs, buttons, leaflets, etc. within the designated areas excluding any literature of permanent nature (i.e. stickers, writing in chalk, paint, markers, etc.)

Sub-section IV: Candidates, campaign manager, and campaign staff should not be allowed within a 100 ft. radius of the voting area during the election days unless he or she is voting.

Section IV: ILLEGAL CAMPAIGNING

The Student Election Commission will investigate any instances of illegal campaigning activities

as soon as possible following each reported incident. The Student Election Commission

Chairperson and Advisors will make recommendations for each disposition of each instance.

Sub-section I: Candidates will be prohibited from having off campus events. Off campus events include anything that is not held on the campus of Tennessee State University and comply with the time guidelines provided.

Sub-section II: Any candidate or campaign member(s) campaigning anywhere in Floyd Payne Campus Center, Kean Hall, Main Campus Library, Avon Williams Library, Gentry Center Complex, Administration Building, or Amphitheater will be considered to be engaging in illegal campaigning and will result in penalties levied by the Student Election Commission.

Amendment I: Gentry Center Complex’s pool will be allowed during Student Election week for campaigning.

Sub-section III. Any candidate, campaign manager, or campaign staff within a hundred (100) foot radius of the voting area during the election days unless he or she is voting will be engaging in illegal campaigning.

Sub-section IV: Applicants/candidates are prohibited from mailing letters of solicitation to Registered Student Organizations prior to the conclusion of the designated Nomination Convention.

Sub-section V: Candidates choosing to engage in media campaigning sponsored by Tennessee State University Campus Radio or any other media source must comply with the rules and regulations as set forth by the Student Election Commission. No candidate is allowed to promote anything slanderous, or mention the name(s) of any of their opposition anywhere in their message. Doing so will result in the immediate issuance of a warning.

Sub-section VI: Candidates’ events are not allowed during any Student Election Commission event. If found doing so, you are considered engaging in illegal campaigning.

Sub-section VII: No vehicular caravanning will be allowed during campaign week. Foot caravanning is allowed, but must be done by 10p.m.

Sub-section VIII: A candidate may receive up to three warnings before he or she is automatically disqualified from candidacy. However, each warning is qualified to disqualify a candidate; this decision is to the discretion of the Student Election Commission Executive Board.

Sub-section IX: **NO ELECTRONIC CAMPAIGNING** (text messages, emails, Facebook, Twitter, etc.) prior to the Nomination Convention during SEC week. Be mindful that **CANDIDATES CAN LEAVE THEIR CAMPAIGNING LITERATURE POSTED UNTIL the VOTING POLLS OPEN**.

Section V: FORUM

The forum for Class Officers with the Student Election Commission will be the Monday of Freshmen Election Week.

Sub-section I: The forum will last one hundred twenty-five (125) minutes. There will be twenty-five (25) minutes for each category.

Sub-section II: There will be one leadoff question asked by the Student Election Commission. The Commission will determine this question.

Sub-section III: The order of the forum will be Treasurer, Secretary, Class Queen, Class Representative, Vice President, and President.

Sub-section IV: Each candidate has one minute to respond to a question and has the right to refuse to answer a question.

Sub-section V: Before a question is asked, a Student Election Commission member must approve it. Each question must be relevant to the candidates’ particular office or ability to hold that office.

Sub-section VI: Each question is limited to one part.

Sub-section VII: A person can only ask one question to be answered by all candidates in that particular category.

Sub-section VIII: The mediator’s decision is final on all forum questions and problems.

Sub-section IX: There will be one designated timekeeper whose time will be strictly adhered. the Commission will appoint this timekeeper.

SECTION VI: VOTING

Voting for all candidates will be conducted on Wednesday, August 29, 2012 starting at 11- 2 pm and 4-7 p.m. of that day. Voting will be conducted in Floyd Payne Campus Center and Avon Williams Campus by members of the Student Election Commission at the polls.

SECTION VII: PENALTY FOR INFRACTIONS

Infraction of any section contained herein by any candidate or candidate supporters may lead to

issuance of a warning. Receiving three (3) warnings may lead to disqualification.

SECTION IX: PROCEDURES (POST CERTIFICATION)

Sub-section I: All candidates for office (winners, runners-up) shall be certified by Student Affairs in conjunction with the advisor of the Student Election Commission to hold office after the final spring semester grades are posted. This is done to determine whether or not the students have met the credit hour and 2.50 or better cumulative grade point average requirement to hold the office.

Sub-section II: Students seeking office should show evidence of having been enrolled in Tennessee State University as a full time student during the spring semester in which the office is sought.

Sub-section III: Students elected to office should show evidence of having earned the equivalent of at least 12 credit hours (excluding remedial and developmental hours) during the spring semester in which the election is held and earned a 2.50 cumulative grade point average and 2.30 semester grade point average.

Sub-section IV: A student unable to meet post-certification criteria shall not be certified to hold office and the next eligible runner-up shall be installed in the office. If there is not a qualified runner-up, a special election shall be held during the following fall semester to fill the vacancy.