



ELECTION PROCESSES

NOTE: THE DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR OF SENATE IN THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT WILL BE OVERSEEN BY THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2023-2024 SGA TERM. THIS STIPULATION SHALL BE REMOVED FROM THIS DOCUMENT FOLLOWING THE SPRING 2024 SENATORIAL ELECTION.

ARTICLE I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. This Title shall be known, and may be cited, as the Student Government Association “Election Process.”

Section 2. The purpose of the Election Processes is to define and regulate the election procedures of the Student Government Association.

- A. The Director of Senate shall administer election processes in a manner that allows for a fair and just electoral process which provides each qualified candidate with an equal opportunity to campaign for an elected office;
- B. If a candidate has any questions or concerns regarding any aspect of the Processes, then they shall seek clarification from the Director of Senate.

ARTICLE II. THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Elections Committee shall exist to enforce the Election Code and Processes policies and guidelines and work to resolve any election concerns while maintaining their position as fair and impartial arbitrators. It shall also serve as the first hearing and sanctioning body if an alleged violation of the Election Code by a candidate arises.

Section 2. Membership

- A. The Elections Committee shall be composed of the Director of Senate and at least three (3) other members of the student body who do not hold a position in SGA. Members will be recommended by the Director of Senate and approved by a simple majority vote of the Senate;
- B. The Elections Committee has the authority to:
 - i. Interpret and apply the election governing documents to ensure the elections run as fair as possible.
 - ii. Enforce the Election Code and regulations agreed to in the candidate packet.

- iii. Disqualify or sanction candidates who violate the Code from the current ongoing election as well as potential future elections, subject to individual review.
 - iv. Refer candidates to the Dean of Students if a violation of the Code may also be a violation of the Student Conduct Code.
- C. The Elections Committee has the following responsibilities;
 - i. Maintain confidentiality before, during, and after each election hearing and meeting.
 - ii. Gather information and conduct a hearing within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving a formal written notice (in compliance with Article IV, Section 9, part A of the Election Code) of an alleged election violation as long as quorum can be met.
 - iii. Notify the parties involved via email of the results of any hearings within twelve (12) hours.
 - iv. Complete duties as assigned by the Director of Senate.
 - v. Conduct all of these actions with fairness and impartiality.
- D. Removal from Office, Suspension and Filling of Vacancies;
 - i. The Senate shall have the sole power to remove from office on grounds of nonfeasance or malfeasance of any member of the Committee. A Senator, member of the Executive Council, Director of Senate, or the SGA Advisor(s) may put the Committee member on the agenda and lead the discussion and a Senator must make a motion to vote on the removal. Removal is passed with a majority vote of the Senate.
 - ii. If the Director of Senate is removed or unable to complete their term of office, the position will be appointed according to Article VII, Section 1, part H of the Constitution).
- E. Oath of Office;
 - i. The Student Government Association Director of Senate shall administer the following oath to each member of the Elections Committee. The oath must be taken before the commencement of each member's respective duties: *"I, (name), do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the duties and responsibilities entrusted to me by virtue of my office, and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and enforce the Constitution, By-Laws, the Election Processes, and the Election Code of the Student Government Association at Chapman University."*

ARTICLE III. COMMITTEE ACTION

Section 1. Unless otherwise provided, the Elections Committee may take action only at a meeting with quorum and a simple majority vote. Should a decision need to be made in a more timely manner and the Committee is unable to find a time to meet, discussion and voting over email shall be permitted.

ARTICLE IV. QUORUM AND VOTING

Section 1. Two-thirds of the entire Committee membership shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. Decisions will be made by a simple majority vote. Each member shall cast one vote, excluding the Director, who shall vote only in the case of a tie.

Section 3. No candidates may serve on the Elections Committee. Any individual serving on the Elections Committee who decides to seek office must recuse themselves from the Committee for the duration of their candidacy.

ARTICLE V. ELECTION TIMETABLE

Section 1. The order of events for any campus-wide election, not including the elections for the consideration of a referendum brought by petition or constitutional amendment, shall be as follows:

- A.** Selection of Election-related dates and deadlines
- B.** Announcement of Elections
- C.** Filing period
- D.** Qualifying
- E.** Mandatory Candidate Meeting
- F.** Posting of qualified candidates
- G.** Campaigning begins
- H.** Posting of Official Ballot
- I.** General Election
- J.** Expense Reports filed
- K.** Elections results posting
- L.** Appeals within one (1) academic day of posted results
- M.** Validation of General Election results

Section 2. Selection of Election-related dates and deadlines

- A.** All deadlines and dates that are relative to filing, campaigning, and Election Day for the Student Government Elections shall be declared by the Director of Senate;
- B.** The election time frame shall span at most thirty (30) days, beginning with the first day of filing and ending one (1) academic day after the final election results have been announced;
 - i.** Fall Senator elections shall take place no later than the fourth week of classes of the Fall semester.
 - ii.** Spring Senator elections shall take place no later than four (4) academic weeks before finals week.

