

ELECTION RULES
UNMC STUDENT SENATE
Approved: February 4, 2015

1.0 INTRODUCTION: The Electoral Commission has developed these Election Rules for the Student Senate Elections. The Electoral Commission members include the Student Senate President, the Student Senate Advisor, and the Student Senate administrative assistant.

2.0 ELECTORAL COMMISSION:

2.0.1 Location: The Electoral Commission is located in Bennett Hall 6001. Questions regarding the election process can be asked by telephone at 402-559-7276 or by email to the Senate President <stupres@unmc.edu> or Senate Advisor <dcarver@unmc.edu>.

2.0.2 Powers: The Electoral Commission shall have the power to determine: 1) the election filing dates and procedures; 2) the campaign dates and rules; and 3) the voting process. All decisions made by the commission are final.

3.0 CALENDAR: The official calendar for this year's Student Senate election shall be detailed on the CARE website Senate elections page and distributed to each person who wishes to file for office. This calendar shall outline specific dates and times for those items listed below in subsection 3.0.1 through 3.0.5.

3.0.1 Filing Period: The Electoral Commission shall provide for a filing period of not less than two weeks. The filing period may be extended only for positions for which sufficient candidates have not been proposed to fill the allotted senate seats or executive offices. Only that number of applications needed to fill the remaining number of seats or office will be accepted during the extended filing period, and shall be accepted on a first come-first serve basis.

3.0.2 Period for Public Posting of Candidates: The Electoral Commission shall provide for online posting of candidates for office at least two weeks prior to the election.

3.0.3 Campaigning Period: Candidates for office may begin campaigning no sooner than two weeks before the initial date for online voting.

3.0.4 Date of Elections: The Student Senate elections shall be determined by the Electoral Commission such that it provides sufficient time to promote elections, and comply with the two-week filing period and two-week public posting of candidates.

3.0.5 Polling Hours, Date and Location: The Electoral Commission shall establish a voting process that is convenient for students. All voting will take place online through the UNMC CARE website. <https://net.unmc.edu/care/>

4.0 ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE: As set forth by the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska in Policy 6111Y, and as amended by the Board on October 9, 1981, the eligibility requirements for Student Government are as follows: **In order to be eligible to be a candidate for or to serve in an office of student government, a student must:**

4.0.1 be officially registered as a regularly enrolled students, in good academic standing (not on academic or disciplinary probation as determined by each major administrative unit), and be part of a program/college that designates fees to the University Program and Facilities Fees (UPFF) during the academic term while running for and holding office.

In order to be eligible to be a candidate for or to serve in the positions of President or Vice- President of student government on a given campus, a student must additionally:

4.0.2 be continuously enrolled on that campus and is to be considered a full-time student by his/her college or program;

4.0.3 have completed 24 semester hours of credit on that campus during the past two years prior to the academic term in which the office is sought or held; **and**

4.0.4 be elected by a majority vote of the students voting in the election, or by receiving the highest number of votes in the election.

5.0 PROCEDURES FOR FILING FOR OFFICE: Candidates who wish their names to appear on the ballot must file the appropriate forms with the Electoral Commission by the deadline stated on the official notice for the election. These forms will be available on the UNMC CARE website.

5.0.1 Filing for Senator: Candidates who wish to file for senator from their respective college/school shall complete the online “declare candidacy” page within the dates outlined in the official notice for the election.

5.0.2 Filing for Executive Office: Candidates who wish to file for the Office of President or Vice-President of the Senate must complete the online “declare candidacy” page and print Form B (a petition of support of candidacy consisting of the signatures of 25 students, 15 of whom must be from outside his/her particular college) with the Electoral Commission within the dates outlined in the official notice for election attached to these Election Rules. Form B is can be printed from the CARE website elections page and must be returned to Bennett Hall 6001 by the 4:30 PM on the last day of the official filing period.

5.0.3 Any filing violation may cause a candidate’s name to be removed from the ballot.

5.0.4 All filing forms shall have the date received by the Electoral Commission.

6.0 CAMPAIGN RULES AND REGULATIONS:

6.0.1 Campaign Spending Limits: Campaign spending limits for the various offices are as follows: candidates for President -- \$30, candidates for Vice-President --\$25, and candidates for Senator --\$15. These spending limits shall apply to all purchased goods and services, and the actual value of all donated services and materials. **All candidates for office must be prepared to document and verify all campaign expenditures to the Electoral Commission upon request.** Violation of the campaign expenditure limit may result in the disqualification of the candidate and ineligibility to hold any position or elected office in student government.

6.0.2 Poster, Sign and Communication Regulations:

A. Posters and signs must not exceed 100 square inches.

B. The design of each type of poster or sign must be presented to the Electoral Commission for approval prior to display to guarantee compliance with University regulations. Posters or signs must have written or stamped approval of the Electoral Commission Chairperson or Student Senate Advisor before display.

C. Election poster and sign display must be limited to bulletin boards in University buildings. Posters and signs will not be permitted on painted walls or other surfaces not designated as bulletin boards.

D. Only one poster or sign per candidate per bulletin board is permitted. E. Each poster or sign should be initialed by the person in charge of bulletin boards before display.

F. Email campaigning for candidates running for President and Vice President may only utilize campus listservs as determined by the Electoral Commission.

G. No formal political parties may be formed. However, Candidates may choose to associate themselves with someone else in the mind of the voters by listing more than one name per poster or by appearing together, etc.

H. Each candidate may designate a person or persons to serve as campaign manager(s). In the event a candidate cannot be reached for any reason, the campaign manager may be contacted and is expected to respond with full responsibility and authority for the candidate.

I. Candidates must seek permission from the course director or faculty prior to addressing any regularly scheduled UNMC classes. Candidates will keep their remarks to classes brief so as not to interfere with regular class activities. Candidate remarks will be limited to the beginning or end of class time at the discretion of the faculty in charge of the class.

J. Each candidate shall be responsible for actions taken in his/her behalf.

K. Any candidate who notices an opponent's campaign violation(s) shall present in writing a description of the violation to the Senate Advisor for investigation.

7.0 BALLOTS:

7.0.1 Candidates for President, Vice-President, and Senator, shall be listed on the online ballot in alphabetical order. President and Vice-Presidential candidates may also run for an at-large Senate seat in their respective college at their discretion.

7.0.2 Write-in votes will only be allowed for executive offices or senate seats for which there are no candidates who have completed the official application process prior to the deadline for filing.

8.0 VOTING REGULATIONS:

8.0.1 Online Voting Roster: An official voting roster of the regularly enrolled student body enrollment at the UNMC Omaha campus, will serve as the official voting roster for use in the election.

8.0.2 Voting Procedure: Students will follow the online instructions for voting found on the Student Senate link at the UNMC CARE website.

9.0 ELECTION RESULTS: all members of the Electoral Commission will have confidential access to the election results to ensure appropriate margins for election were met in compliance with the Student Senate Constitution Article IV Section 4.5.

9.0.1 Public Announcement: election winners will be made public to the student body within 1 week of poll closure by email announcement. Election results (e.g. total number of students who voted, percent of vote per candidate) will be reported in the minutes of the new Senate's first official at-large meeting.

Approved at-large 02/04/2015