

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE

STUDENT SENATE

CLASSIFICATION BYLAW CHANGES ALLOWING STUDENT SENATE TO UTILIZE  
ELECTRONIC VOTING FOR ELECTIONS

NUMBER 51-B-11 DATE December 3, 2007

INTRODUCED BY INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1 WHEREAS, Student Senate's Bylaws do not currently allow for online  
2 voting; and

3 WHEREAS, paper voting costs the Student Senate approximately \$450  
4 each year (see Attachment "A") while using online voting would cost Student  
5 Senate nothing; and

6 WHEREAS, using paper ballots requires large amounts of time and  
7 inconvenience for Student Senate and its members due to staffing polls while  
8 using online voting would require no polls to be staffed; and

9 WHEREAS, using paper ballots is also inconvenient for the Program  
10 Assistant, who must reserve tables for polling, arrange to get card readers, make  
11 sure everything is printed and ready for polling, ensure that the polls are staffed,  
12 and ensure that poll workers are trained; and

13           **WHEREAS, using online voting would only require data entry to create the**  
14 **ballot, which must be done whether paper ballots or online ballots are used; and**

15           **WHEREAS, online voting, which is more convenient for students, may**  
16 **increase voter “turnout;” and**

17           **WHEREAS, online voting is more accessible for students than paper**  
18 **polling locations around campus because most students have their own**  
19 **computers and internet access and all students have access to computers with**  
20 **internet access through campus computer labs and public libraries; and**

21           **WHEREAS, allowing Student Senate the *option* of online voting does not**  
22 **harm the Senate in any way, nor does it require Senate to utilize that option; and**

23           **WHEREAS, the precedent for online voting has already been set by UW-**  
24 **Madison and UW-Platteville, among others; and**

25           **WHEREAS, the only substantive proposed changes to the election bylaws,**  
26 **other than allowing online voting, involve encoding processes that we already**  
27 **follow;**

28           **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the amendments to the Bylaws**  
29 **concerning elections, as proposed in Attachment “B” be adopted and enacted**  
30 **immediately; and**

31           **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage, President French transmit**  
32 **a copy of this bill to Dr. Brian Levin-Stankevich, Chancellor; Dr. Steven Tallant,**  
33 **Provost/Vice Chancellor; Andrew Soll, Vice Chancellor, Business and Student**  
34 **Services; Dr. Kimberly Barrett, Associate Vice Chancellor, Student Development**

35 & Diversity; Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Associate Dean of Student Development,  
36 Student Development & Diversity; and Jesse Dixon, Acting Associate Dean of  
37 Student Development, Student Development & Diversity.

**ATTACHMENT "A"**

<b>Purchasing Scantrons</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>Printing Scantrons</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>Printing list of students</b>	<b>\$ 50</b>
<b>From Registrar</b>	
<b>Colleen's time for:</b>	<b>\$200</b>
<b>Ordering</b>	
<b>Handling paper ballots</b>	
<b>Manning polls when</b>	
<b>students unavailable</b>	
<b>Storing paper ballots</b>	
	<hr/>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$450</b>

## ATTACHMENT "B"

### ELECTIONS AND CAMPAIGN PROCEDURES

**Please note:**

All candidates for Student Senate elected offices are responsible for the knowledge of and observance of all official Student Senate Election and Campaign Procedures as given to the prospective candidate at the time the petition is taken out, as well as all other university policies.

Ignorance of these procedures shall at no time be considered a valid defense for failure to at all times during a campaign and election process properly observe these procedures.

**OBJECTIVE:**

The objective of these policies is to ensure that all candidates for Student Senate elected offices have a fair and equal opportunity in attaining an elected position. These policies may also be used as a guideline in resolving any conflicts in the election process.

**CANDIDATE LIVING STATUS:**

Each candidate shall run for either an on- or off-campus position corresponding to the community in which he/she will reside during the following semester. *Proof of on- or off-campus residence must be provided upon request.*

**CREDIT AND GRADE POINT CRITERIA:**

Any candidates for office shall maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 and be officially enrolled in at least six credit hours at the university at the time of election and must thereafter maintain a minimum official enrollment, exclusive of summer sessions, of six credit hours while in office.

**PETITION FOR OFFICE:**

Petitions are to be given out by the Student Senate Program Assistant, Student Body President and Vice-President if they are not running for office, Elections committee members and office assistants who are not running for office.

The completed petition must be returned to the Student Senate Program Assistant. Once the petition is returned to the Student Senate office, the student will become an official candidate providing that the student meets the credit and grade point criteria stated above.

A student may campaign and file a petition for both a Student Senator position and an executive ticket. An executive ticket will consist of a Presidential and Vice Presidential candidate and will require only one petition.

A student winning both an executive and senatorial position must resign their senatorial position at the same meeting they are appointed to the executive position.

### **CAMPAIGNING:**

Campaigning will be defined as any activity, either written or spoken, that is designed to influence students to vote for a prospective or official candidate or a referendum question on the ballot.

**Campaigning shall not begin until after the completed petition for office is returned.**

The Student Senate office shall not be used for **ANY** campaigning or storage of campaign material. This also includes materials related to a referendum question on the ballot. The signing of petitions may occur in the Student Senate office.

Campaigning shall strictly adhere to the Student Senate Election and Campaign Procedures given to the prospective candidate at the time the petition is taken out, as well as university policies.

*If paper ballots are used, during* the days of voting, no campaign materials or campaigning of any kind shall be allowed within a 50-foot radius of the polling place. This also includes those campaigning for a referendum or referendum materials. An official from the Elections Committee will draw a line with chalk to outline the 50-foot radius, for each day of voting.

A candidate shall at no time interfere with another candidate's right to legally campaign; this includes the removal of another candidate's properly-displayed campaign material.

### **PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS:**

All candidates shall be given copies of the poster and solicitation regulations of the University of Wisconsin-Eau

Claire. Candidates shall be held responsible for that information.

IMPORTANT. All candidates shall have the Program Assistant of Student Senate stamp all promotional materials, including but not limited to posters, yard signs, table tents, and leaflets. Bridge signs, buttons, stickers, and t-shirts do not need to be stamped.

Students may display material on their own property, such as residence hall doors or the side of one's house. These materials do not need to be stamped by the Program Assistant, unless produced or distributed by a campaign.

**Please bring in the master for the Program Assistant to stamp before you have them printed.**

In addition to the Program Assistant's stamp, the following stamps are also required. All table tents must be stamped and approved by the Program Assistant. All Posters must be stamped and approved by Campus Information. Campus Information does **NOT** have to stamp yard signs, posters for residence hall doors and/or signs for personal residences.

All campaign materials not meeting these requirements may be fair game to be removed, documented, and destroyed by any member of the Elections Committee if they are discovered.

Any writing done on the chalkboards and dry erase boards must have the approval of the Building and Housekeeping Supervisor.

No individual candidates or tickets shall be allowed to use the banner wire in Davies Center.

Candidates cannot use the Student Senate bulletin board located in the hallway of Davies Center at any time.

**No campaign materials may be placed in university computer labs, in accordance with LTS policies.**

**The Student Senate area is off-limits for any campaigning or storage of campaigning materials.**

***Posters:***

Candidates may begin to display posters immediately following the return of the completed petition.

All posters put up in the residence halls must have the Hall Director's initials on them, excluding those posted on personal property (doors).

It is illegal to put posters up in the stairwells of buildings. They will be fair game to be taken down by anyone if they are discovered.

There shall be NO posters/signs taped to the sidewalk.

The candidate must remove the posters by the Monday following the completion of the election; otherwise, the candidate will be monetarily charged for their removal.

***WebPages:***

The creation of a personal website is permitted. In addition, if the Student Senate website is used to promote the general election and basic information on all the candidates, equal access and equal opportunity must be available to all of the candidates. Linking to other web sites from the Student Senate website is allowable as long as the candidate(s) do not use the University seal, Student Senate logo or any other copyrighted materials without explicit permission.

***E-Mail:***

A candidate or candidates may use e-mail, but they may not use any electronically created university administrative lists for campaign purposes or in any other way that violates the university's policy regarding the use of e-mail. The use of organizations lists is, however, acceptable as well as manually entering all e-mail addresses.

***Veranda Banner:***

No banners will be allowed by candidates for any Student Senate office.

**Bridge Signs:**

Candidates may display a banner on the bridge beginning 7 a.m. on the Monday before the election begins.

**Yard Signs:**

Yard signs may be displayed beginning the Monday before the election. The yard signs can be put up after 7:00 a.m. and must come down by 7:00 p.m. Out of courtesy to other candidates it is suggested that signs be put at least 6 feet from other candidate signs.

**Table Tents:**

Candidates may begin displaying table tents beginning 7 a.m. on the Monday before the election begins. Additionally, candidates should get the master for the table tents stamped and approved by the Program Assistant prior to printing.

**Bulletin Board Space in Davies Center:**

An equal portion of bulletin board space in Davies Center per executive ticket will be provided for the placement of whatever promotional materials the candidates choose to display that are deemed legal by the election rules. This will be overseen by the Elections Committee.

**ROOM USAGE:**

Rooms may not be reserved in Davies Center in Student Senate's name nor by individual candidates for campaign use.

**WRITE-IN CANDIDATES:**

Write-in candidates shall be responsible to know and adhere to all election and campaign rules.

**NAME ORDER ON BALLOTS:**

If paper ballots are used, selection for ballot positions will be at approximately 1:30 p.m. on the date petitions are due. Names will be ~~selected~~ **ordered** at random by the Student Senate Advisor. Candidates, or personal representatives, are welcome to be on hand at the time this process is performed. The polling program will automatically randomize the name order.

Candidates for an executive ticket shall be placed distinctly together on the ballot by ticket.

~~Candidates for each community shall be placed on the ballot in successive order determined by random drawing. (redundant)~~

*Ample opportunity for casting write in ballots shall be provided on the ballot, whether paper or online.*

## **ELECTIONS COMMITTEE:**

A three-person Elections Committee shall be established by the end of the first meeting of the Spring Semester. The Parliamentarian will chair the committee unless that individual is running for office, involved in a referendum on the ballot, or active in a campaign. If the Parliamentarian is running for office, involved in a referendum on the ballot, or active in a campaign, the President of the Student Body will chair the committee. If the President should be running for office, involved in a referendum on the ballot, or active in a campaign, the Vice-President will chair the committee. If the Vice-President should be running for office, involved in a referendum on the ballot, or active in a campaign, the Treasurer will chair the committee. If the Treasurer is running for office, involved in a referendum on the ballot, or active in a campaign, the position for chair of the Elections Committee will be filled by an election in Executive Board of those who are not running for office, involved in a referendum on the ballot, or active in a campaign. The second member of the Executive Board will be voted on by the Executive Board to serve on the committee. And the final member of the committee will be a Senator-at-Large elected by the full Student Senate and may not be a member of the Executive Board. The second and third members of the Elections Committee may not be running for election, involved in a referendum on the ballot, or active in a campaign.

The definition of "Involvement in a referendum" shall include, but not be limited to, being an author in the writing of the bill placing the referendum on the ballot, creating or assisting in the creation or the distribution of referendum literature either for or against, and actively campaigning for or against a referendum. In election years with a United Council referendum, delegation members cannot serve on the Elections Committee in any position. Representatives from United Council must be aware and follow all applicable election laws. All promotional materials created for a referendum must follow applicable election laws and university policies.

The definition of "active in a campaign" shall include, but not be limited to, attending campaign meetings, creating or assisting in the creation or the distribution of campaign materials, or actively campaigning for or against a candidate or candidates.

The Elections Committee shall be responsible for overseeing all aspects of the elections process: including, but not limited to, setting up the polls and finding poll workers, investigating any grievances and making Reports and Recommendations regarding those grievances and counting and verification of ballots. The committee will also be responsible with producing non-partisan advertisements including the location and dates of the elections.

## **VOTING:**

Currently enrolled students at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire are eligible to vote once for representatives running for seats on Student Senate. Students shall be able to cast a cumulative ballot, casting a number of votes for each community equal to the number of apportioned seats in each community available on Student Senate. Students will only be allowed to vote for one Presidential ticket.

Polling will take place via only computer or only paper ballots. Electronic voting may include voting from remote sites such as home computers.

The program employed for polling shall insure privacy for all voters. It will not allow students to vote more than once. Responsibility for set-up and configuration of the polling program shall be primarily that of the Parliamentarian. Only the Parliamentarian and the Student Senate Program Assistant will have access to the online polling questionnaire.

Online voting must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the Student Senate.

If online voting is used, elections will begin and end at the same time as they would, were paper ballots used, although online voting will be open for the full period (“polls” won’t close until the end of elections). For online voting, an email will be sent to all students at 8 a.m. the morning elections begin. A reminder email will be sent at 8 a.m. on the morning of the last day of elections. The online ballot will be closed at 6 p.m. on the last day of elections.

If paper ballots are used, voting booths are available for use in the elections. At least two people must work the polls (preferably four people). No candidate may be a poll worker. The voting student must show the poll worker his/her valid Blugold I.D. The poll worker will then scan his/her I.D. and

give them a certified ballot. The student then takes the stamped ballot to the voting booth. If the student requires instructions, the poll worker will explain the procedure to the student. After voting, the student deposits the ballot in the ballot box.

The candidate with the most votes for an open seat will be declared the winner.

All votes shall be taken by secret ballot.

## **BALLOTS:**

The Student Senate Program Assistant shall publish a list of all candidates, referenda, initiatives, and recall questions placed on the Student Senate election ballot and will post the list in a public manner one week prior to the start of each election.

If paper ballots are used, all ballots must be validated (stamped on the back) by an election poll worker. If any ballot is not validated, it shall not be counted but will be kept and stored with all the other ballots. The daily tabulated elections results shall only be known by the Program Assistant and the Student Senate Advisor until the polls are closed on the last day of elections at which point the members of the Elections Committee will be notified of the results. As many ballots as possible will be tabulated by Test Scoring Services, otherwise, the Elections Committee will count those that Test Scoring can not count, which would include ballots for write-in candidates. If paper ballots are used, all candidates will be allowed to observe the sorting and counting of the ballots as long as they do not interfere with this process.

If paper ballots are used, all counted ballots and petitions must be kept in storage until the next Student Senate election; at that time the old ballots can be destroyed. If electronic voting is used, a copy of the results must be kept until the next Student Senate election.

## **NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS:**

Upon finalization, the results must be posted outside of the Student Senate office and must include the vote totals for all candidates appearing on the ballot and all write-in candidates. After any timely requested recounts have been performed, election winners may take office.

Since elected senators take office the Monday following elections, it shall be the responsibility of all candidates to become informed of the results of the election before that time.

The Elections Committee Chair will certify the results of the election and shall ensure that the results of the election are posted as soon as possible, but no sooner than 6 p.m. on the final day of elections at the Student Senate office and on the two Senate Bulletin Boards in Davies Center.

**CAMPAIGN VIOLATIONS:**

Campaign violations shall be defined as any activity committed by or given prior approval by a candidate contrary to the Election and Campaign Procedures, given to prospective candidate at the time a petition is taken out for an elected Student Senate position, as well as university policies. Write-in candidates shall be responsible to know and adhere to all election and campaign rules.

**GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES  
AND PENALTIES:**

All complaints concerning elections and violations of the Election and Campaign Procedures or campus regulations concerning campaigning shall be submitted in writing to the Student Senate Program Assistant no later than three school days after the alleged violation. The complaint must include a description of the evidence, or the names of witnesses of the alleged violation. All violations shall be submitted in writing on the official Election-Campaign-Violation form approved as to form by the Student Senate. The Elections Committee will not act on a verbal complaint. The Elections Committee will investigate all written complaints and submit a written and signed recommendation and report to the Executive Board regarding the alleged violation or complaint.

Any accused candidate will be given a copy of the written complaint prior to a hearing before the Elections Committee.

The Report and Recommendations of the Elections Committee will be open to the public. Members of the Elections Committee may not publicly discuss any grievances before the Report and Recommendations regarding the grievance has been submitted to the Executive Board.

The Report and Recommendations of the Elections Committee may state their belief regarding the validity of the

complaint and its status as a campaign violation. The Elections Committee may recommend:

- A. Dropping the case.
- B. Holding a formal hearing by the Executive Board.

Following the recommendation of the Elections Committee, the Executive Board shall consider the report and recommendations.

Following a formal and public hearing, the Executive Board may, if it votes to, take the following actions:

- A. Make the student ineligible for commission membership for certain time period.
- B. Make the student ineligible to run for any elected Student Senate position for a certain time period.
- C. Make the student ineligible to hold an executive position (including Executive Board) for a certain time period.
- D. May request the University Investigating to require restitution for damages under Chapter 17 of the University of Wisconsin Administrative Code.
- E. Recommend a formal meeting with the President and Vice President regarding the alleged violation. Senate office.
- F. Make a motion to the entire Student Senate for the removal of the person from Student Senate office.
- G. Write a resolution regarding the alleged violation.
- H. Any other disciplinary action approved by the Executive Board.

The Elections Committee, Executive Board, and the Student Senate may not penalize an executive or senatorial candidate with the subtraction of votes.

If the Student Senate, by its own motion, votes to hear the appeal, this shall stop the action taken of the Executive Board Board.

If the Elections Committee, Executive Board, or entire Student Senate at the time of an appeal, find the alleged violator innocent of a campaign violation, this shall not be appealed.

All grievances and the Reports and Recommendations of the Elections Committee should be kept for a five-year period to aid the Elections and Campaign Procedures Review

Committee.

*Once the Student Senate Executive Board has ruled on all timely election complaints, the results will be considered finalized, unless the full Senate moves otherwise.*

**EXPENSES:**

Both members of an Executive ticket and senatorial candidates must submit expense reports.

All receipts for campaign expenses must be attached to the submitted expense report. These expense reports shall be kept until the final date of the next Student Senate election and then they may be destroyed. Failure to submit the completed expense report within the one-week time limit will constitute a campaign violation and be treated as such by the Election and Campaign Procedure Grievance Committee.

A presidential ticket may not exceed \$1,500 in spending for an election unless all presidential tickets agree to waive the cap. The presidential ticket(s) who wish to exceed the cap must make their request to the elections committee by the same day that the presidential candidate petitions are due. The place and manner in which the separate presidential tickets shall vote whether to exceed the cap is up to the discretion of the elections committee. A senator may not exceed \$500 in spending for an election. Failing to stay below these limits will constitute a campaign violation and be treated as such by the Election and Campaign Procedure Grievance Committee.