



University of New Hampshire

General
Election
Procedure
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2017

The following University of New Hampshire General Election procedures have been approved by the Election Committee and the Student Senate of the University of New Hampshire. It is the responsibility of the candidates, their supporters, and any other students involved in the 2017 UNH General Elections to follow these procedures. Penalties shall be assessed in accordance with these policies and the Student Senate Bylaws.

Approved by
the Student
Senate Election
Committee

Article A. Election Dates and Times

1. Election Dates:
 - a) The 2017 General Elections shall take place from March 29th through March 31st2016.
2. Election Times:
 - a) Elections shall be open from 12:00 a.m. until 11:59 p.m. on the election dates.

Article B. Candidate Filing Requirements

Section A. Student Body President/ Vice President

1. Ticket
 - a) Candidates for Student Body President and Student Body Vice President shall run jointly and be elected on as a ticket.
2. Qualifications
 - a) The Student Body President and Student Body Vice President shall retain full time undergraduate status from time of election through their term of office.
 - b) The Student Body President shall have been enrolled in classes for no less than three (3) semesters at the University of New Hampshire at the beginning of their term of office.
 - c) The Student Body Vice President shall have been enrolled in classes for no less than one (1) semester at the University of New Hampshire at the beginning of their term of office.
3. Term of Office
 - a) The Student Body President and Student Body Vice President shall hold office from May 1st of the current year until April 30th of the following year.
4. Responsibilities
 - a) The Student Body President and Student Body Vice President shall be expected to fulfill all responsibilities of Executive Board Members of the Student Senate as listed in Article III, Section II, Subsection III of the Student Senate Bylaws.
 - b) The Student Body President shall be expected to fulfill all responsibilities of their position as listed in Article III, Section II, Subsection V of the Student Senate Bylaws.
 - c) The Student Body Vice President shall be expected to fulfill all responsibilities of

their position as listed in Article III, Section II, Subsection V of the Student Senate Bylaws.

5. Candidate Petitions

- a) Any qualified student may petition for candidacy.
- b) Petitions shall include both the name of a candidate for Student Body President and a candidate for Student Body Vice President.
- c) A petition for candidacy shall require the non-duplicated signatures of no fewer than 300 undergraduate students.
- d) Petitions will be made available in the Student Government Complex (MUB Room 119) no later than 10pm on January 24th, 2017.
- e) Completed petitions shall be due to the Student Senate Speaker by no later than noon on Friday, March 10th, 2017.

Section B. Student Trustee/USSBR

1. Qualifications

- a) The Student Trustee/USSBR shall retain full time undergraduate status from time of election through their term of office.
- b) The Student Trustee/USSBR shall have been enrolled in classes for no less than three (3) semesters at the University of New Hampshire at the beginning of their term of office.

2. Term of Office

- a) The Student Trustee/USSBR shall hold office from July 1st of the current year until June 30th of the following year.

3. Responsibilities

- a) The Student Trustee/USSBR shall be expected to fulfill all responsibilities of Executive Board Members of the Student Senate as listed in Article III, Section II, Subsection III of the Student Senate Bylaws.
- b) The Student Trustee/USSBR shall be expected to fulfill all responsibilities of their position as listed in Article III, Section II, Subsection VI of the Student Senate Bylaws.

4. Candidate Petitions

- a) Any qualified student may petition for candidacy.
- b) A petition for candidacy shall require the non-duplicated signatures of no fewer than 300 undergraduate students.
- c) Petitions will be made available in the Student Government Complex (MUB Room 119) no later than 10pm on January 24th, 2017.
- d) Completed petitions shall be due to the Student Senate Speaker by no later than noon on Friday, March 10th, 2017.

Article C. Voting Procedures

- 1. Voting Location**
 - a) Voting will take place on wildcatlink.unh.edu or blackboard.com or mycourses.unh.edu
- 2. Voting Method**
 - a) Votes shall be cast using a ranked ballot.
- 3. Eligibility of Voters**
 - a) All undergraduate students of the University of New Hampshire shall be eligible to vote in the General Elections.
- 4. Counting of Votes**
 - a) Votes shall be counted using the Borda count method.
 - b) Votes shall be separately counted by no fewer than two members of the Election Committee.
- 5. Voting Results**
 - a) The Election Committee Chairperson shall announce the results of the General Election no more than (2) days after receiving the results, except when they deem it necessary to investigate any part of the election.
 - i. If the Election Committee Chairperson is unavailable during the scheduled announcement time, they shall delegate the responsibility to another member of the Election Committee.
 - b) Results of the Election shall tentatively be announced at 2:10pm on March 31st, 2017 in the Student Government Complex (MUB Room 119).
 - i. The Election Committee Chairperson shall have the authority to change the date, time, and/or location of the announcement up until 12:00pm of the aforementioned date for any reason. This change must be communicated to

the candidates immediately upon the decision being made.

Article D. Campaign Conduct and Procedures

Section A. Campaign Policies

1. Campaign locations:
 - a) No candidate shall conduct campaigns from the Student Government Association, or the following: Student Body President/Student Body Vice President Office, Student Senate Office, Memorial Union Building Board of Governors Office, Interfraternity/ Panhellenic Council Office, Graduate Student Senate Office, Senate Speaker/Student Trustee/USSBR Office, the Student Activity Fee Office, the Student Government Association Lounge, or the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership Complex.
 - i. Conducting a campaign shall be defined as: eliciting support, distributing campaign resources, or requesting endorsements.
2. Candidates shall not in any way deface or damage University property.
 - a) This includes any violations of the University chalking policy.
 - b) No campaign matter is to be attached to trees or University property with the exception of authorized posting places.
 - c) Further posting in areas deemed illegal during campaigning by the Election Committee will be prohibited.
 - d) All campaigning matter must be removed by the candidates no more than three (3) academic days after final election tabulation.
3. Candidates shall not in any way deface, damage, or alter:
 - a) Property of another candidate
 - b) Any official posted notice of the Election Committee
4. All candidates must adhere to University regulations, and shall not violate any local, state, or federal law.
 - a) All candidates must adhere to Residence Hall Policies
 - b) All candidates must adhere to Computing and Communications Policies
 - c) All candidates must adhere to Memorial Union Building Policies
 - d) All candidates must adhere to University Dining Policies
5. Campaign Finance:
 - a) Candidates shall not be permitted to solicit funds to be used to campaign.
 - b) Candidates may accept voluntary donations from individuals to be used to

6. SAF Resources:
 - a) Candidates shall not use Student Activity Fee printing resources to produce campaign materials or any other resources provided by the Student Activity Fee for the purpose of campaigning.
7. Campaign Endorsements
 - a) Student Organizations recognized by the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership shall be permitted to endorse candidates in the General Elections.
 - b) These recommendations shall be communicated in election promotions and may appear on the ballot.
8. Debate
 - a) The Election Committee shall hold a debate no later than one week prior to the first day of elections.
 - b) If no more than petition for each position has been accepted the Election Committee shall hold a town hall style meeting in place of a debate.
9. All Candidates must specify to any signatories of their petition, the purpose of the petition and the signatories must have the capacity to understand to what they are affixing their signature.
10. The Election Committee shall immediately notify all candidates of any campaign rule changes.

Section B. Violations

1. All candidates and campaign staffs shall be held responsible for their campaigning and conduct. Candidates shall be held responsible for the campaigning and conduct of their campaign staff.
2. Campaign staffs shall be defined as any individual(s) who agree to assist a candidate in campaigning.

3. Violations include:
 - a) Any disregard for Campaign Policies
 - b) Slander, Libel, and Harassment
 - i. Slander is defined as "the act of uttering false charges or misrepresentations which defame and damage the reputation of another."
 - ii. Libel is defined as "a written statement in public form that damages a person's character or reputation."
 - iii. Harassment is defined as "the act of disturbing constantly."

Article E. Complaints and Violation Reporting

Section A. Complaints

1. All complaints, with the exception of Formal Petitions of Protest, must be filed between 1 a.m. of the first campaigning day to one (1) hour following the close of the voting period.
 - a) The first campaigning day shall be defined as the day in which petitions become available.
2. All complaints filed after the deadline will not be accepted by the Election Committee.

3. General Election incident reports will be available by the petition deadline
 - a) Incident Reports must contain the following: who the alleged violator is, what the specific violation is, when and where the alleged violation occurred, evidence of the specific violation, and sufficient contact information of any and all witnesses.

Section B. Sanctions

1. The sanction of disqualification from the election may be resultant due to:
 - a) Candidates found in violation of slander, libel, or harassment.
 - b) Candidates arrested due to a state, local, federal law or University policy violation

- due to campaign behavior.
- c) Candidates found in violation of damaging or defacing of University property at the discretion of Election Committee.
2. A candidate who has been disqualified from running for a position shall not be recognized as a qualified write-in candidate.
 3. The disqualification of a candidate shall be communicated to the student body.
 4. Other violations to the policies explained here and set forth in the Student Senate Bylaws will be enforced at the discretion of the Election Committee.

Section C. Formal Petitions of Protest

1. Filing Procedures
 - a) A Formal Petition of Protest will state the reason and the non-duplicated signatures, class, and college of no less than one hundred (100) eligible voters and must be presented to the chairperson of the Election Committee no more than five (5) academic days after final election results have been announced.
 - i. The Election Committee will confirm all signatures on a Formal Petition of Protest.
 - ii. The Petition will be presented to the Student Senate at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
 - (a) The Petition must be approved by the Student Senate by a two-thirds (2/3) majority for any action to be taken.
 - (b) Student Senate approval of a Petition requires another election.
2. After five (5) days with no Formal Petitions of Protest submitted, an election will be considered valid and complete.

Section D. Appealing a Decision of the Election Committee

1. Appeal Procedures:
 - a) Election Committee appeals shall follow procedures based on the SAFC Appeals Standard Operating Procedures.

- b) The Student Senate Judiciary Committee shall serve as the Elections Committee Appeals Board.
 - i.) Voting members of the appeals process within the Judiciary Committee may not be current members of Election Committee.