

## Statute I—Elections

### SECTION 1—Qualifications

Standards and procedures for judiciary elections are outlined in “The Honor System of Wake Forest as stated by the Judicial Council,” Judicial System Section 3(B). In order to qualify to run for other offices, a candidate must submit a petition to the Elections Committee.<sup>1</sup> Petitions shall contain only names that belong to the constituency of that office. The number required shall be as follows: President, Speaker of the House, Secretary, and Treasurer, 100 signatures; Student Budget Advisory Committee and Senator, 30 signatures. The Elections Committee shall check the validity of the petition no later than five (5) days prior to the election. Any candidate without a valid petition will be unable to appear on the ballot, and must be informed of this no later than five (5) days prior to the election. Any full-time undergraduate student who is not on social or academic probation shall qualify to serve (subject to further restrictions below), but no student shall run for or hold two or more offices concurrently excepting the office of Senator, committee chair, and Student Budget Advisory Committee member, which may be concurrently run for or held.

In the case of the President, Speaker, & Secretary, one academic year of experience in the Senate shall be required.<sup>2</sup> In the case of the Treasurer, one academic year of experience serving on the Student Budget Advisory Committee; or one academic year of experience as a good-standing Treasurer, deemed by the current Student Government Treasurer, of a current chartered organization on campus with a budget; or one academic year of experience in the Senate as well as attending at least one budget review session and Student Budget Advisory Committee training, shall be required. If the candidate for President or Speaker of the House has not had one year’s experience in the Senate, they must ask that these requirements be waived by a three-fourths majority vote of the Elections Committee, who must address the petition prior to the next Senate (if one is scheduled before the candidate’s meeting) and prior to the candidate’s meeting. If that student is denied a waiver by the Elections Committee, they may appeal to the Senate at their next meeting (provided it is an assembly which takes place prior to the candidate’s meeting), which may overturn the committee’s decision by a two-thirds majority vote. A candidate cannot petition either the Senate or elections committee for the right to run after the candidate’s meeting.

---

<sup>1</sup> Any member of the elections committee who decides to run for office and who does not resign his post in said committee more than a week prior to the release of the election petitions will be unable to appear on the ballot.

<sup>2</sup> In the case of Speaker of the House, a candidate must have served for a year as a voting officer of the Senate to be eligible.

<sup>3</sup> The rules governing appointment, election, campaigns, and duties of HEC and BIA candidates are set by the judicial council, rather than the student government. Their governing documents should be consulted for details on these rules.

<sup>4</sup> The rules as determined by the trustees currently state: “Students wishing to be considered for the Student Trustee position will submit applications to the Student Life Committee. Two

### SECTION 2—Interviews and Nominations

The Judicial Elections Committee shall conduct interviews with all potential candidates for the Honor and Ethics Council, Judicial Council, and all applicants for the Board of Investigators and Advisors. Based upon these interviews and the qualifications of candidates, the Committee will prepare a slate of candidates for the Honor and Ethics Council and appoint members of the Board of Investigators and Advisors<sup>3</sup>.

The guidelines covering the selection process for the Student Trustee are set by the Board of Trustees in consultation with the Student Life Committee, not by the Student Government.<sup>4</sup>

### SECTION 3—Campaigning

Campaigns shall be conducted in a competitive but fair and honest spirit under the honor system. The Student Government Elections Committee may make additions or alterations which do not conflict with these statutes to the regulations by means of a majority vote within the Committee. Any minor changes to regulations must be promptly reported to the General Assembly by the chair. Any substantial changes to regulations must be presented to the General Assembly for approval by a two-thirds majority. Candidates shall abide by the regulations coordinated by the Elections Committee and the University posting policy. The Elections Committee shall give each candidate a set of campaign regulations upon receiving their petition. Public campaigning shall not begin earlier than one week before the election, and will be treated as a campaign infraction when campaigning starts no matter how long prior to the campaign it is reported. No candidate shall spend more than the following on their campaign: President, Speaker of the Senate, Secretary, and Treasurer, \$125 each; and Student Budget Advisory Committee, \$60 each; Senators, \$40 each. In a run-off campaign, no candidates shall spend more than the following on their campaign (plus any remaining unspent amount from the first week): President, Speaker of the Senate, Secretary and Treasurer, \$30 each; and Student Budget Advisory Committee, \$16 each; Senators, \$10 each. Donations shall be recognized as expenditures when spent. The Elections Committee shall approve itemized lists of expenditures before any officer is installed. Negative campaigning will not be tolerated by the Election Committee and any negative campaigning will result in immediate and appropriate sanctions. Negative campaigning is defined as any personal attack (in electronic format, speech, or writing) on a

recommendations are required, one faculty or staff and one student. The Student Life Committee will hold a referendum on the best three to five applicants. The referendum will contain a question on whether the student is qualified to be a trustee. The results are released to the Board of Trustees. A subcommittee of the Board of Trustee’s Nominating Committee will interview the prospective student trustees and nominate a person to the Board of Trustees. The student chosen must be at least a junior or a senior in the College when service begins. Service and stewardship will be important considerations in the selection of the Student Trustee. The Nominating Committee will not be bound by the process and may nominate any student that it feels is the best nominee. This is a process rather than a mandate.”

candidate—i.e., ad hominem attacks. A personal attack is defined as any libelous, slanderous, or otherwise defamatory claim made against a candidate's character or person. Campaigning against a candidate's platform or a given policy is NOT negative campaigning and is acceptable behavior.

#### **SECTION 4—Election Dates and Hours**

The Executive Officers, upperclassmen members of the Senate, and upperclassmen members of the Student Budget Advisory Committee shall be elected in the spring. Spring elections shall be held no earlier than the third week in March and no later than the two weeks prior to the last day of classes. Freshmen Senators, freshman members of the Honor and Ethics Council, and the freshman member of the Student Budget Advisory Committee shall be elected in the fall. Fall elections should occur between the third and fifth week after returning to school. Polls shall be open for 24 hours from 12 AM (midnight) until 11:59 PM.

#### **SECTION 5—Voting Procedure**

Voting for all elections shall take place online by a method approved by the Elections Committee. Student Government will adequately publicize the online location of this procedure. Each student will be permitted to vote only once. Should online voting fail due to technical errors, voting will be rescheduled by the Elections Committee in consultation with Information Systems.

Names shall appear in randomized order on the ballot for each office. Write-in votes for Honor and Ethics Council candidates are not permitted. Write-in votes for all other positions will be accepted, provided that the student fulfills all qualifications specified in Section I other than presenting a petition. A write-in candidate must have a minimum of ten (10) votes in order to be elected.

Run-off elections<sup>5</sup> shall be promptly held for those offices with only one seat in contention if a majority has not voted for one candidate. Write-in votes will only be counted for the purpose of calculating majorities if the write-in candidate has more than 5% of total votes cast. If two or more candidates have tied exactly in their vote totals for first place, they (and only they) will be placed on the runoff ballot.<sup>6</sup> Otherwise, the first and second place candidates (and anyone tied exactly with the second place candidate)--and only these candidates--will be placed on a runoff ballot. No runoff election will allow for the possibility of additional write-in candidates.<sup>7</sup> The run-off election shall begin no later than 48 hours after the polls close for the first election. If additional runoff elections are needed, they must each be held no more than two school days after the previous runoff. . In elections choosing more than one person, the top x candidates (with x equaling the number of offices being filled) will be chosen. . If two or more persons in contention for the final seat(s) receive an identical number of votes, they (and no others) shall be subject to a runoff election for that number of seats. The final results shall be tabulated electronically by the

Elections Committee and posted outside the Student Government Office immediately upon verification. In the case of an appeal, the results for that office shall be withheld until the completion of the appeals process.

In any election or runoff election only involving two candidates, if they both tie exactly the decision will be deferred to the Senate of the Student Government who shall decide the winner based on a majority vote of the entire membership.

#### **SECTION 6—Assuming Office**

All officers-elect shall take office no later than the last day of classes in the spring semester. Before assuming office, the President of the student body shall take the oath of office as administered by the President of the University during a Senate meeting. The President shall then administer the oath of office to their fellow officers and to those elected in the fall. The oath of office shall read as follows:

"I, (name), promise to execute the duties and responsibilities of the office of (title of office), to pledge myself to the goals of furthering student welfare, the well-being of the undergraduate University community, and the traditional spirit of the University. I will uphold the Constitution of the Student Government and diligently perform my responsibilities to fellow students."

### **Statute II - Removal from Office**

#### **SECTION 1—Executive Branch**

The President, Speaker of the House, Secretary, Treasurer, and the four elected members of the Student Budget Advisory Committee shall be subject to impeachment for failure to perform duties or for violations of the provisions of this Constitution.

Charges of impeachment may be brought by any member or members of Student Government in the form of a resolution at any given Senate. A majority vote of the full membership of the Senate is required to begin an investigation, to be carried out by the two student co-chairs of the Judicial Branch (the chairs of the Board of Investigators & Advisors and the Honor & Ethics Council) in a timely fashion. The report and recommendation of the co-chairs should be presented before the Senate and a "vote for removal" by two-thirds of the total number of members of the Student Government Senate is required for removal from office.

#### **SECTION 2—Legislative Branch**

Any member of the Senate shall be removed from office for more than two unexcused absences from the Senate, its committees, or a combination of both per semester. Excuses for Senate absences must be submitted to the secretary within two weeks of the absences, and he/she shall rule on the validity of the excuse. The removal can be appealed, and the Senator reinstated with a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate if that Senator has not yet been replaced. The Senator must be given notice

For the case where both candidates in a two person election tied exactly, see the end of the section.

<sup>7</sup> Though if any original write-in candidate received enough votes, his name will obviously be placed on the runoff ballot.

<sup>5</sup> All runoff elections must likewise be conducted in a 24 hour period from 12 AM (midnight) to 12 AM (midnight).

<sup>6</sup> This only applies to cases where other candidates received (and in the case of write-ins, had their votes counted) votes.

of his expulsion and at least three subsequent school days to appeal before the replacement process is initiated.

### **SECTION 3—Judicial Branch**

Any member of the Honor and Ethics Council and the Board of Investigators and Advisors shall be removed from office for failure to perform duties or violations of the provisions of this Constitution. Any student may bring charges against a member and a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate is required for conviction and removal from office.

## **Statute III—Replacement**

### **SECTION 1—Permanent**

**Subsection a**—In the case of a permanent vacancy in the office of the President, Speaker of the House, Secretary, or Treasurer, an undergraduate-wide election shall be held to fill the position. This will be subject to all normal procedures governing the general spring elections, except those dealing with the date of the election.

**Subsection b**—In the case of a permanent vacancy in the office of the Chief of Staff, the president will choose a new one with the advice and consent of the other executive officers.

**Subsection c**—In the case of a permanent vacancy in the Student Budget Advisory Committee or Senate, the President shall appoint a new member with the two-thirds majority approval of the Senate. In the case of a permanent vacancy in the Senate, the Senatorial Appointment Committee shall accept and review applications from prospective Senators, interview prospective Senators if deemed necessary, brief them on the business of the Senate, and submit its suggested replacements to the President, who shall submit one to the Senate for approval for each open spot. The new appointee shall not take office in the respective body until the two-thirds majority approval from the Senate has been granted.

### **SECTION 2—Temporary**

In the case of a temporary vacancy in the office of the President, Speaker of the Senate, Secretary, or Treasurer during the academic year, or in some emergency situation, that officer shall appoint someone to take his/her place with the simple majority approval of the Senate.

## **Statute IV – Amendment**

### **SECTION 1—Amendment**

In order so that the changing needs of the Student Government may be met, these statutes shall be subject to addition, amendment, or abolition by a two-thirds majority of the Senate.

## **Statute V – Legislative By-Laws**

### **SECTION 1—Purpose**

The by-laws that follow these statutes shall be established to regulate and order the specific functions of the Legislative Branch of Student Government.

### **SECTION 2—Amendment**

In order that the changing needs of the Legislative Branch are met, these by-laws shall be subject to addition, amendment, or abolition by a two-thirds majority of the Senate.