

The Student Council of the Missouri University of Science and Technology



2324B1 – Revisions to By-Law 400

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400. ELECTION AND REFERENDUM PROCEDURES

Section 1. Election Procedures Committee (EPC)

The Election Procedures Committee (EPC) will be responsible for overseeing the student body presidential election procedures and solving election disputes and violations of written election procedures and has the power to ~~disqualify~~ **issue penalties to** candidates by 2/3 vote, and waive timelines or rules mentioned in the sections hereafter including voting procedure by a unanimous vote ~~from being eligible for President for extreme violations~~. The EPC must meet before the end of the fall semester.

~~There~~**The EPC shall be comprised of; a chair as defined in Section 3, four voting members of Student Council that are to be elected at the last general body meeting of the fall semester, as well as** two representatives from **each** of the following organizations:

- a. The student programming board (Student Union Board)
- b. The student state representative board (Associated Students of the University of Missouri – Missouri S&T Chapter)
- c. The residence hall governing board (Residence Hall Association)
- d. The Greek governing boards (Interfraternity Council, Panhellenic Council, National Panhellenic Council, Greek Independent Board)
- e. The graduate student governing board (Council of Graduate Students)
- f. The club sports governing council (Club Sports Council)
- ~~g. Four voting members of Student Council, elected at the last general body meeting of the fall semester.~~

Section 2. EPC Members

Every member of the EPC committee must adhere to the following standards

- a. No member of the EPC can be a **current** candidate for President, **and with the exception of the right to vote no member of the EPC may** serve and/or aid a candidate's campaign team in any form, show partisanship towards any candidate, or campaign for any of the candidates individually.

- b. No comments regarding the policies or personal life of a candidate, whether true or false, may be expressed by the members of the ~~Election Procedures committee~~ EPC. The only ~~negative~~ information allowed to be expressed shall be **in regard to confirmed campaign -violations of written procedure** as determined by **a vote of the committee as a whole**-EPC
- c. Any member of the committee who is unable to fulfill ~~their~~his/her expectations may resign ~~their~~his/her position or face removal with a two-thirds majority vote of the committee or the general Student Council body.
- d. All members of the committee must complete bias training no later than the second week of the Spring Semester
- ~~d.e.~~e. **As the members of the EPC have the right to vote in the election, in any internal votes that take place during or after the voting period regarding the candidate that a member has voted for, the member may recuse themselves from the vote and therefore will not be counted in the calculations for determining the result of said vote.**

Section 3. EPC Chair

The EPC Chair may request a Student Council advisor or Student Involvement staff member to be in attendance if necessary. The Chair of the Election Procedures Committee shall be the highest-ranking officer of Student Council that could be eligible, **or their designee to serve on the Election Procedures Committee**. To be eligible they must ~~not be running for president or aiding a candidate in their campaign~~ **meet all requirements of an EPC member as listed in Section 2**. If no officer is eligible to serve as EPC Chair, Student Council will elect the chair by majority vote at the ~~first~~**last** Student Council meeting of the ~~spring~~**fall** semester.

- a. The Chair shall make all decisions for the committee in the interim between Election Procedures Committee meetings, with the exception of ~~disqualifying candidates from eligibility~~ **handling disputes or violations**. These decisions may be reversed by ~~a the~~ **simple majority vote of the EPC** Election Procedures Committee at large if necessary.
- b. The EPC Chair may be brought up for removal by anyone to ~~a~~ Student Council's Advisor, on the grounds that; they have failed to fulfill their duties as described, fail to represent themselves, Student Council, or the election in a professional manner, or break any state or federal laws. The advisor(s) will inform the chair of the charges against them, and they will have the opportunity to defend themselves. Removal will be upon a simple majority vote of the EPC during a special meeting held by an advisor ~~lectoral Procedures Committee~~. **The removed chair shall be ineligible, and a new chair shall be selected according to the procedures outlined above.**

Section 4. EPC Meetings

The EPC Shall hold a minimum of two private meetings. The first meeting being scheduled to a time before the end of the fall semester by the EPC chair, and the second being scheduled to a time determined by a majority vote of the EPC during the first meeting. The following items of business are to be included within these two meetings:

- a. Review and confirmation of the Presidential information packet.
- b. Review, confirmation, and/or modification of the election calendar, with consideration given to the academic calendar set by the Registrar's office.
- c. Review of rules and regulations pertaining the election of Student Body President.
- d. Completion of bias training no later than the second week of the Spring Semester.

The EPC shall hold a special meeting in the case of the following circumstances:

- a. The EPC chair receives notice of a possible dispute or violation.
- b. Exigent circumstances call for use of the powers of the EPC stated in Section 1.

All votes of the EPC shall be made during an EPC meeting where at least 50% of the members are present. EPC meetings shall follow parliamentary procedures except for; utilizing open discussions in place of discussions following a speaker's list and obfuscating identifiable information within the minutes if the vote shows that the concern was invalid. Minutes shall be made available through the student council website upon request.

Section 4.5. Student Body Presidential Election Disputes and Penalties

Any election dispute or violation must be submitted in writing or sent via email to the EPC Chair. Upon notification of a dispute or violation the chair will convene a meeting of the EPC within **three business days** ~~36-72 hours~~ to determine the validity of the dispute or violation by a two-thirds majority vote. **The submitter must be notified of the result.**

If a candidate is deemed **to be** in violation of election policies or procedures ~~their candidacy will be nullified.~~ **the EPC may apply penalties and must notify the candidate and relevant individuals. Penalties can include but are not limited to the following by order of severity:**

- a. -Publication of the dispute or violation to the student body.
- b. Restriction on campaign finance reimbursement.
- c. Cessation of further campaigning.
- d. Exclusion from EPC sponsored events/materials.
- e. Nullification of candidacy.

If ~~any candidate~~ **member of the student body** wishes to dispute an EPC ruling they must **notify the EPC chair within three business days (72 hours) of the publication of the ruling. The EPC chair must then** follow the proper procedure to ~~be placed as an Elections Procedure Committee appeal on the Student Council agenda~~ **of the next Student Council meeting.** The candidate will have three days (72 hours) to notify the EPC Chair if they plan to appeal the decision made by EPC. The subsequent vote by Student Council must be a two-thirds majority vote to overturn the ruling.

Section 5.6. EPC Events

Officially sponsored events that the Election Procedures Committee might sponsor include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Publication of a packet of deadlines and other important information for entering a Presidential campaign.
- b. Publication of the names of the candidates, campaign dates, voting dates, and dates of special events.
- c. A debate **between candidates** over **policies, fitness for the position**, student issues, or other relevant topics. ~~at a Student Council meeting~~

- d. Publication of self-written biographies of candidates and their goals **within neutral spaces** in the Miner and electronically.

Section 6.7. Student Body President Requirements

To be eligible to run, campaign, serve, and/or be elected for Student Body President, each candidate must meet the following qualifications, **as verified by the department of Student Involvement:**

- a. A cumulative 2.75 GPA at the end of the semester prior to the election.
- b. Must be enrolled in courses at Missouri S&T during **the academic year of their his/her** term.
- c. No higher ~~class~~**course** load than 18 **credit** hours per semester during ~~the~~ **their** presidential term.
- d. **Undergraduate students must have at least 45 hours of completed credit hours** on the Missouri S&T campus at the end of the semester prior to the election. **Graduate students must have at least 18 completed credit hours on the Missouri S&T campus at the end of the semester prior to the election.-**

Section 7.8. Petition for Student Body Presidential Candidacy

Students wishing to be a candidate for Student Body President must declare their campaign as outlined in the presidential information packet and submit a petition to Student Council with at least two hundred signatures with student ID numbers of Missouri S&T students, indicating their support of the candidate on the Monday preceding the beginning of the campaign period. A student may sign a petition for more than one candidate. The Election Procedures Committee will reserve the right to confirm the validity of these signatures.

Section 8.9. Campaigning for Student Body President

The open campaign period shall begin on the second or third Monday in February and shall continue for three full weeks. Campaigning includes, but is not limited to distribution of campaign materials, and any action declaring a candidate's position on campus issues or any issues affecting the election. Candidates are expected to run an ethical campaign. Election procedures include the following:

- a. The candidate may announce their candidacy when they begin collecting signatures, but campaigning may not begin until the date specified by the EPC committee. ~~Campaigning shall be defined as: any action declaring a candidate's position on campus issues or any issues affecting the election; posting any physical partisan advertisements; any meetings scheduled or unscheduled with student organizations or groups.~~
- b. The Student Council office and Student Council voting tables must remain completely neutral. No campaign materials nor campaigning for individual candidates, nor soliciting of signatures may occur at or near the Student Council office or the Student Council voting tables. Also, no resources, outside of EPC sponsored items, of Student Council may be used to aid ~~in~~ an individual's campaign.
- c. Negative campaigning is not allowed. A candidate may refer to his/her strengths in relation to the other candidates, but no candidate may refer to the weaknesses of any other candidate.
- d. Candidates may not intentionally promise/give ~~gifts after the student places their~~ in return for a vote.
- e. Candidates may not give their personal electronic devices to students to vote with.
- f. Candidates may not knowingly be within fifty feet of a student while they are voting.

Section 9.10. Rules for Campaign Financing

- a. Candidates may spend no more than \$500 for all campaign expenses.
- b. Student Council ~~will~~ may reimburse a candidate for up to half the amount spent.
- c. No candidate may sell anything to help finance his/her campaign.
- d. No persons other than the candidates may spend any money buying campaign materials for any candidate.
- e. Candidates may raise funds for the “out-of-pocket” portion of their expenses through monetary donations only.
- f. All receipts of campaign expenditures must be reported to the Student Council office within **two business days** ~~48 hours after~~ **from** the conclusion of voting.

Section 10.

~~The open campaign period shall begin with the second or third Monday in February and shall continue for three full weeks. The election calendar shall be set by the EPC at their first meeting in the fall semester with consideration given to that academic year's university calendar and approved by a majority vote of the Election Procedures Committee.~~

Section 11. Voting for Student Body President

Voting shall occur from Monday through Friday of the third week of the campaign period and shall be open to all undergraduate and graduate students of Missouri S&T. Votes must be submitted using official ballots only. Ballots may be either written, electronic, or both. Written ballots may be submitted at the Student Council office or at official voting tables.

- a. Student Council voting tables must be setup on campus in neutral sites. Student Council voting tables may not be setup in University housing units.
- b. Written ballots may not be given out to be filled out at a later time. Written ballots must remain at the Student Council office or at Student Council voting tables at all times.

Section 12. Procedures if there is only one Presidential Candidate

- a. If there is only one candidate for Student Body President, that candidate must receive a majority of affirmative votes in order to be declared the winner of the election.
- b. If the candidate does not receive a majority, Student Council will elect an alternate candidate by a majority vote at its next regular meeting. This candidate and the original will then campaign until the conclusion of the election.
 - i. A second campus ballot will be held starting the two weeks from the start of the first campus ballot and ending two weeks from the end of the first campus ballot.
 - ii. The candidate receiving the majority of the votes in the second campus ballot will be declared the winner of the election.

Section 13. Procedures if there is no Presidential Candidate

- a. If no one runs for Student Body President, then the general body will nominate at least two people at the second meeting of the spring semester. The people nominated will accept or deny the nomination by the third meeting of the Spring Semester. At the third general body meeting, the general body will vote to add each name to the all-student referendum.

- b. If all candidates withdraw from the race prior to the conclusion of the election, then candidates will be chosen following the guidelines in Section 12.a except that nominations will be first opened at the general body meeting immediately following the election. The election timeline will be decided by the EPC
- c. In the event that no nominee accepts their nomination, the highest ranking eligible Student Council Officer shall serve as Student Body President. If no officer is eligible, then the highest ranking executive committee member shall serve as Student Body President as determined by report order as described in Bylaw

Section 14. Procedures if no candidate receives a majority:

- a. If no candidate receives a majority, the two candidates receiving the most votes will have a run-off ~~the week~~ following the first campus ballot.
- b. The candidate receiving the majority of the votes in the second campus ballot will be declared the winner of the election.

Section 15. Ballot Additions

The Student Council may include any items on the ballot, which are deemed important enough to call for a student referendum, as well as any items that are required by the By-Laws or constitution.

Section 16. Officer nominations and elections

Nominations for officer positions other than Student Body President shall be taken beginning at the Student Council meeting before the conclusion of the Presidential election and remain open until **the first regular meeting after the election of the student body president.** ~~the elections are held at the constitutionally specified meeting-~~

If, for each of the remaining officer positions, no candidate receives a majority, the two candidates receiving the most votes will have a run-off immediately thereafter and the candidate receiving a majority of the votes will be declared the winner.

Section 17.

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Section 18. Officer Requirements

To be eligible to run for any of the remaining officer positions, each candidate must meet the following qualification, **as verified by the department of Student Involvement:**

- a. A cumulative 2.50 GPA at the end of the semester prior to the election.
- b. Must be enrolled in courses at Missouri S&T during **the academic year of their** ~~his or her term.-~~
- c. No higher ~~class~~**course** load than 18 **credit** hours per semester during ~~their~~ ~~officer~~-term.
- d. Must be able and willing to devote 5 office hours a week within the Student Council office.

- e. Must have ~~12 completed hours~~ **at least one full time semester** on the Missouri S&T Campus.

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