

Spring 1-1-2000

Senate Bill SB-00S-1293 Changes Title VI: The Election Statute

Student Government Association
University of North Florida

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UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



SENATE LEGISLATION

NUMBER SB-2000S-1293

SB-2000S-1293 Changes to Title VI: The Election Statute

Whereas: The Student Government Association of the University of North Florida must be a functional organization, and;

Whereas: The Constitution and Statues of the University of North Florida dictate procedure and boundaries for the Student Government Association, and;

Whereas: Title VI: The Election Statute of that Constitution does not adequately dictate the procedures and boundaries of University of North Florida elections, and;

Whereas: The Elections, Selections, and Appointments Committee of the Student Senate is responsible for maintaining and enforcing this Title, and;

Therefore: Let it be enacted that the following changes be made to Title VI in order to better serve the students of this university (see attached pages).

Respectfully submitted, Elections, Selections and Appts. Comm

Introduced by ESAC Chairperson, Erin Blazek

Senate Action Passed 26 - 4 - 0

Date January 28, 2000

Be it known that SB-2000S-1293

is hereby PASSED VETOED on 2000

This 1 day of FEB, 1900

Signature Alexander Diaz

Student Body President

TITLE VI: THE ELECTION STATUTES

Chapter 600 Definitions

- 600.1 The following words and phrases, when used in this title, shall be defined as the following:
- A. Campaign contribution- a gift of money, materials, supplies, professional services, or any in-kind contribution to any campaign in any form whatsoever.
 - B. Campaign Expense- the fair market value of any goods or services paid for or received by the campaign, with the exception of discounted items. Campaign contributions shall be included in compilation of campaign expenses.
 - C. Campaign Materials- any materials including, but not limited to posters, placards, signs, signboards, leaflets, folders, handbills, fliers, handwritten announcements and circulars of any size and consistency that publicize a candidate for an elected office of the Student Government Association, and/or call for the action of voting.
 - D. Campaigning- the publicizing of a candidate for an elected office of the Student Government Association, and/or calling forth the action to vote. This does not include verbal campaigning. The date on which campaigning shall begin will be set by ESAC.
 - E. Candidacy- the process whereby one is proposed for an office or honor by election.
 - F. Certificate of Election- A document certifying that a candidate has been properly elected. The SGA President and the Elections Supervisor must sign this document.
 - G. Constitutional Referendum- a referendum held for the purpose of amending the Student Government Association Constitution.
 - H. Debate- Two or more candidates/tickets discussing issues pertinent to the election or the elected office in a public forum/event.
 - I. Elections Commission- The committee led by the Elections Supervisor and responsible for all decisions and commitments surrounding all University of North Florida general and special elections.
 - J. Electorate- The entire registered student body.

- 601.1 The chair of the Elections, Selections and Appointment Committee will serve as the Elections Supervisor and shall have the following powers and duties:
- A. Call and set the agenda for meetings of the Elections, Selections and Appointment Committee and submit minutes following each meeting.
 - B. Refer all alleged violations of the Student Government Association Statutes regarding the Election Statutes to the Student Government Association Attorney General.
 - C. Interpret, with the advice of the Student Government Association Attorney General, any part of the Student Government Association Election Statutes.
 - D. Invalidate votes cast contrary to the Student Government Association Statutes, pending approval of the Elections Commission.
 - E. React appropriately to all violations of this statute by means stated in the statute Chapters 609 and 610.
 - F. Issue Certificates of Election to each officer elected in accordance with this Statute, which must be signed by the SGA President and the Elections Supervisor.
 - G. Publish adequate information concerning elections in a paper of general campus circulation, and, beginning two (2) weeks prior to the election, publicize its date, time, location of the voting booths, candidates and appropriate procedures for voting. After the election, the Elections Supervisor will publish results in a paper of general campus circulation.
 - H. Conduct at least one public debate during the period of active campaigning where any and all candidates are invited to present their platforms verbally and to be seen by the electorate. Weather conditions permitting, this forum should be outdoors and in an area centrally located and accessible to students.
 - I. Create a Candidate Portrait Board picturing all candidates to be displayed near the voting booths while they are open. These portraits shall be categorized by office and placed in alphabetical order. All portraits should be generally the same size. Each portrait must be accompanied by the candidate's name and may also include a paragraph of fifty (50) words or less written by the candidate and approved by the Elections Supervisor.
 - J. Mark off the polling region with tape or other tangible items 48 hours prior to Election Day. The Elections Supervisor or a designee must then remove all posters and campaign literature from this designated area.

- K. Financial Statement- All receipts identifying sources in regard to campaign fees, and/or contribution in kind; receipts of expenditures (cash or check): all back statements and their proper relatives; deposit slips, and personal record keeping, etc.
- L. General Election-An election held once every Fall and Spring Semester, for the purpose of determining the candidate who will assume office by majority vote.
- M. Official Ballot- The official medium used by which a vote is recorded.
- N. Plurality Candidate- the candidate who receives the most votes cast in an election, but not necessarily the majority.
- O. Polling Region- Area seventy-five feet (75') around voting booths.
- P. Polling Station- Area containing voting booths and ballot box.
- Q. Referendum- A senatorially approved question or legislative act which is placed on the official ballot during an election for majority vote by the electorate. The decision of the majority of votes that are cast is not a final decision but will stand as an extremely strong suggestion to the Student Government Association.
- R. Recall Election- A type of special election that is held for the purpose of determining whether an SGA official will remain in office after an Impeachment hearing.
- S. Sample Ballot- A ballot posted to the public prior to printing of ballots for an election. Any errors must be reported to the Elections Supervisor who will make corrections at this time.
- T. Special Election- An election held at any time other than a General Election.
- U. Ticket- Two (2) candidates cooperatively engaged in a campaign for president and vice-president of SGA. A vote for that ticket will count equally for each candidate on the ticket. All candidates must declare themselves as an individual or a ticket, but not both.
- V. Verbal Campaigning- campaigning with sign language and/or speech, which can commence at any time except those stated in Chapter 606.1 C4.

Chapter 601 Elections Supervisor

- K. Form an ad-hoc committee, which will be called the Elections Commission, to include the Attorney General or designee from the Executive branch, the Chief Justice or designee from the Judicial branch, The Assistant Vice-President of Student Affairs, and the membership of the Elections, Selections and Appointments Committee who are not candidates. This committee will oversee the Fall and Spring Elections. This Commission must meet during the two weeks prior to the elections.
- L. Report all campaign violations to the Attorney General within five (5) academic days following the election.

Chapter 602 General Elections

602.1 Fall Elections

- A. Fall elections shall take place no less than four weeks and no more than six weeks from the beginning of the Fall Semester.
- B. Students of UNF will be allowed three weeks to collect published campaign information from the Student Government Association.
- C. Application deadlines for candidates wishing to appear on the ballot will be a minimum of two weeks before the set election date. Write-in candidates must submit appropriate forms at least 24 hours prior to the election.
- D. Campaigning will commence fourteen calendar days before the elections date, with the exception of verbal campaigning, which can commence at anytime.
- E. The Elections, Selection, and Appointment Committee shall set all dates and deadlines for the Fall Elections.

Chapter ~~603~~ Spring Elections

602.2 Spring Elections

- A. Spring Elections shall take place no less than two weeks and no more than six weeks prior to the end of the Spring Semester.
- B. Spring Elections shall follow the same guidelines as the Fall Elections as in Chapter 602.1 sections B, C, D and E.

Chapter 603 Referendum, Constitutional, Recall and Other Special Elections

603.1 Special Elections

The Elections Supervisor shall, at the request of the Student Government Association President or of the majority of the Student Senate, call for and supervise a special election not otherwise covered in the Student Government Association Constitution or the Student Government Association Statutes. The rules and regulations of the Student Government Association Constitution and Statutes shall govern all Special Elections.

603.2 Referenda

- A. The Elections Supervisor shall conduct referenda upon two-thirds (2/3) approval of the Student Senate or upon receipt of a Student Body petition (Article VI of the Student Government Association Constitution).
- B. The official ballot for a referendum shall give a brief statement regarding the proposed changes. Voters shall be given the opportunity to vote “YES” or “NO” for the proposed changes. A non-vote will be counted as neither yes nor no.
- C. If completed copies of all proposed referenda or revisions can not be printed on the Official Ballot itself, copies shall be available for inspection at the voting booths.
- D. Referenda may be placed on the official ballot of a general election or a special election may be held. Discretion shall be left up to the majority of the Student Senate at the time of passage of the referendum.

603.3 Constitutional Referenda

Use of Constitutional Referenda shall coincide with regulations stated in 603.2.

603.4 Recall Elections

- A. The Elections Supervisor shall conduct recall elections upon receipt of a Student Body petition in accordance with Article VII of the Student Government Association Constitution.
- B. The official ballot shall state the name of the office of the official in question and, in not more than two hundred (200) words, the reasons for demanding recall of the officer as set forth in the recall petition. It must also state, in not more than two hundred (200) words, the officer’s defense. Voters shall vote “YES” or “NO” on the recall. A sample ballot shall be available at the voting booths in accordance with Article VII of the Constitution.

- C. If a majority vote elects to recall the official, his/her term of office shall cease upon certification of the election results by the Election Supervisor. The vacancy created shall to be filled as provided by the Student Government Association Constitution and Statutes.
- D. The Elections Supervisor shall announce the recall petition and publish the officer's defense in a campus newspaper during the week preceding the recall election.

Chapter 604 Voting Booths

604.1 Placement- General and Special Elections

- A. There shall be at least one (1) voting booth for every four thousand (4000) registered UNF students.
- B. A minimum of one (1) voting booth shall be placed at the following location:

Book Store

~~If for any reason a poll is not able to be opened, the Supervisor of Election shall have the authority to close a poll upon reasonable grounds, and such action shall be approved by a majority vote of the Elections, Selections and Appointment Committee.~~

- C. The Supervisor of Elections shall place additional voting booths at his/her discretion, pending approval of the Elections Commission.

~~606.1 Referendum Elections and Constitutional Amendments~~

~~All polls shall be open for referendum elections and constitutional amendments, which must be in accordance with section 604.~~

~~606.2 Special Elections~~

~~Polling places shall be placed at locations designated in section 606.1.~~

~~606.3 Recall Elections~~

- A. ~~All polls shall be open in a recall election of the following officials:~~

~~Student Government Association President~~

~~Student Government Association Vice President
Cabinet Members
Senators~~

604.2 Hours

- A. Voting booths shall be open from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.
- B. The Supervisor of Elections, upon approval by the Elections Commission, may extend or shorten the hours of the election.
- C. All Senators not appearing on the ballot or running in the election are encouraged to supervise a polling station for at least two hours during the time of elections.

604.3 Polling Station Procedures

- A. The Elections Supervisor must mark off the polling region with tape or other tangible items 48 hours prior to Election Day. The Elections Supervisor or a designee must then remove all posters and campaign literature from this designated area. From 48 hours prior to the election through election day(s), any campaign material or vote-soliciting within this polling region will be considered a violation of this statute and subject to the repercussions mentioned in Chapter 609.
- B. Bands and loud speakers audibly promoting candidates or parties shall not be allowed within two hundred (200) feet of any voting booth, but a candidate may yell or project his/her voice outside the 75 foot perimeter.
- C. Voters shall be entitled to vote in privacy, which will be provided by the sides of the voting booths.
- D. No candidate shall serve as a polling station worker.
- E. Authorized polling station workers will maintain the student registrar list or other means of preventing students from voting more than once.
- F. The University of North Florida Student Identification card shall serve as a student voter registration card for campus elections. If possible, a valid Drivers License can be accepted, but it must be cross-referenced immediately with a student registrar list.

Chapter 605 Qualifying for Office

605.1 General Qualifications

- A. All candidates must be currently enrolled at the University of North Florida as either a full-time or part-time student.
- B. All candidates must have at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point average, unless the candidate has only attended the University of North Florida for less than one (1) full semester.
- C. ~~No candidate shall be on conduct probation, and all candidates must be in good standing as defined by the Student Handbook of the University of North Florida.~~

605.2 Declaration of Intent for Candidacy

- A. Any candidate who has not properly filed a Declaration of Intent for Candidacy or filled out a Candidate Application Packet by the appropriate deadline shall not be placed on the ballot. The Elections Supervisor will enforce this policy.
- B. ~~Declaration of candidacy shall be filed as prescribed by the Elections Supervisor.~~
- C. ~~Only a candidate may change the office for which (s)he had declared candidacy any time prior to the closing date for filing.~~
- D. No student may declare candidacy for more than one office at a given time.
- E. Declaration of Intent for Candidacy may be withdrawn up to the time the ballot is printed by presenting a statement of withdrawal to the Elections Supervisor.
- F. No student may declare candidacy under an assumed name unless he/she has legally changed his/her name through the court system and has the proper documentation.
- G. After the submission of the Declaration of Intent for Candidacy, no campaigning (except for verbal campaigning) shall take place until the date for campaigning to begin—fourteen days before the first day of the election.

605.3 Statement of Understanding

All candidates must sign a statement upon filing Declaration of Intent for Candidacy. This statement shall confirm that (s)he has received a copy of the

most current Student Government Association Election Statute and that they have read and pledge to abide by all provisions of this statute.

~~An oral statement on record constituting the agreement stated in 607.5 A is also acceptable.~~

605.4 Other Requirements

- A. Students seeking presidential or vice-presidential candidacy must submit 125 signatures as part of their application packet. Students seeking senatorial seats must submit 75 signatures as part of their application packet. Students running together on a ticket must each submit the required number of signatures.
- B. Signatures must be of registered University of North Florida students and must be accompanied by that student's social security number or university identification card number (located directly under photo on university i.d.).
- C. Each student seeking candidacy must also submit candidate Questionnaire. This form should be part of the application packet.
- D. All applications must be officially dated on their date of submission by the machine located in the Student Government Office. Applications without this official date stamp will not be accepted.

605.5 Ruling on Candidate Qualifications

- A. The Elections Supervisor shall investigate the qualifications of all candidates and may reject candidates unqualified according to requirements made in this Title, Chapter 605.1.
- ~~B. The Elections Supervisor may disqualify candidates who make false statements about their qualifications for office.~~
- ~~C. The Elections Supervisor may disqualify candidates who fail to submit all forms correctly by set deadlines.~~
- ~~D. The Elections Supervisor shall notify unqualified candidates in writing. The notice of disqualification shall be delivered to the candidate(s) no later than three (3) school days after the candidate's disqualification has been decided. Any disqualified candidate may appeal to the Judicial Council.~~

605.5 Write-in Candidates

- A. Write-in candidates must file a Declaration of Intent for Candidacy and all other required paperwork by 5:00 p.m. the day preceding an election and

must be approved by the Elections Supervisor in accordance with this Chapter.

- B. Write-in candidates are bound by all provisions of this Statute not in conflict with this Section and must meet all eligibility requirements outlined herein. ~~outlined in the campaign guidelines and Senate Policies and Procedures.~~
- ~~C.~~ Should a write-in candidate be found ineligible to hold the office sought, then the remaining candidates shall still be eligible.

Chapter 606 Campaigning Rules and Finances

606.1 Regulation of Campaign Material

- A. Violations of this Chapter are subject to the repercussions addressed in Chapter 609. Each candidate/ticket will be held responsible for the actions of all paid/volunteer assistants and supporters as if the actions were made directly by that candidate.
- B. Printed Material
 - 1. Printed material shall include banners, posters, signs, flyers, handbills, cards, freestanding/road signs, printed advertisements, and apparel calling for support of a specific candidate(s)/ticket.
 - a. Banners shall be defined as any printed material greater than six (6) feet in length. They may be hung from the railings of buildings across campus as allowed by University regulations. Discretion as to number and size is placed in the hands of the Office of Student Development (OSD).
 - b. Posters and signs shall be defined as any printed material ranging in size from eight and one half by eleven inches (8 1/2" by 11") to eleven by seventeen inches (11" by 17").
 - c. Flyers shall be defined as any printed material equal to eight and one half by eleven inches (8 1/2" by 11").
 - d. Each candidate may submit up to 49 copies of each flyer, poster, and sign to the Elections Supervisor who will forward them to OSD for dispersion across campus. No candidate may hang up his/her own flyers, poster, or signs on campus with the exception of departmental bulletin boards, which requires explicit permission of that department.
 - e. Handbills/cards shall be defined as any printed material smaller than eight and one half by eleven inches (8 1/2" by 11"). Candidates and supporters may disperse these. However, each candidate/ticket is responsible for litter created by their campaign materials. The Elections Supervisor must also approve these.

- f. The Spinnaker, UNF's campus-wide newspaper, guarantees one full page dedicated to all official presidential and vice-presidential candidates. This space will be divided between all of these candidates equally, and no other candidates may appear on this page. The Elections Supervisor will supply the newspaper with information regarding these candidates. Any additional information that candidates wish to submit for this advertisement must be given to the Elections Supervisor before campaigning begins. Other advertisements in campus-wide newspapers will be permitted. Space will be sold to as many candidates as possible in a fair manner as designated by the Editor of that newspaper. If the Elections Supervisor sees that space is not being issued fairly, (s)he may forbid further campaigning with that newspaper for the remainder of that election period. This applies only to UNF Activities and Service Fees funded newspapers.
- g. Free-standing/road signs shall be defined as any printed material that is self-supporting. It may be up to three feet by three feet (3' by 3'), but the top of the sign may be no more than six feet (6') from the ground. Each candidate is allowed up to eight (8) free-standing/road signs on campus. These signs may not present a danger to pedestrians or in direct pathways of travel.
- h. Apparel shall be defined as any printed material designed to be worn not limited to buttons, stickers, hats, and shirts. These items do not have to be approved by OSD, but do have to be submitted to the Elections Supervisor, who will approve or disapprove of their use based on appropriateness.
2. Each candidate is liable for all printed materials relating to his/her campaign and shall see to the proper disposal of all materials.
3. Printed materials may not be placed on doors, columns, walls, floors, ceilings, windows, trees, light posts, chalk boards, dry-erase boards, cork strips above chalk boards, mirrors, or on/in vehicles located within campus grounds.
4. Prior to placement on a structure (bulletin boards, etc.) on campus, all materials, excluding apparel, must be approved by the OSD. The OSD will imprint the original with a stamp of approval. No material may be posted without this approval. Upon request, candidate must submit stamped original to the Elections Supervisor for verification of OSD approval.
5. No campaign material may be distributed or posted within a classroom during class time.
6. All printed materials must be removed from campus within 48 hours of the closing of elections. This is the responsibility of the candidate.

C. Other Campaigning

1. Candidates may not stand over voters while they complete their ballot or inquire as to how a particular person cast their vote.
2. The Elections Commission may hold debates at any time. These debates shall include any candidates (and invite all) who have submitted a Declaration of Intent prior to the time of the debate. Other students and/or organizations can only hold debates after campaigning has begun. These debates should also be open to all candidates and to the public. Any debates not directly sponsored by the Elections Commission must be approved by the Elections Supervisor prior to the debate. The approval will be of the date, time, place, format, and notification of candidates, but not the content.
3. No campaigning of any kind shall be allowed within the polling region beginning 48 hours prior to the election and continuing through election day(s).
4. Verbal Campaigning may occur at any time and at any place except within the polling region (See Chapter 604.3), within a classroom while class is in session, or in the Senate chambers during Senate or committee meetings. Common courtesy is expected in other settings such as the Library, the Academic Resource Center, the Learning Resource Center, or the Computer Labs.

606.2 Campaign Expenses

- A. Campaign expenses shall include but are not limited to:
 1. Cash expenditures on items used for the purpose of campaigning.
 2. Campaign contributions received for the purpose of campaigning including but not limited to campaign materials, professional services, or the donation of billboards, advertisements, or the equivalent. Donations received can total the campaign expenses.
- B. Campaign expenses of candidates shall be limited to the following:
 1. President and Vice President- Combined total of one thousand-five hundred dollars (\$1500.00). Candidates running individually will be allowed half of this amount.
 2. Senate Candidates- Two hundred- twenty-five dollars (\$225.00) per candidate.

- C. No student may use Activities and Service fees (unless it is monies collected from salary wages) or things purchased with Activities and Service fees to further their campaign, ~~allowed to use things purchased by A & S fees that are re-useable (i.e. metal road signs, etc.)~~ The only exception to this is found in this statute, Chapter 606.1 B1 d.
- D. A candidate/ticket may not accept monetary donations from any clubs, bodies, or organizations recognized by UNF and funded through Activities and Service fees.
- E. ~~No entity may contribute more than \$75 to a candidate except the candidate him/her self.~~
- F. The Elections Supervisor shall rule on all questions of value regarding campaign expenses. At the request of any Activity and Service Fee-paying student, the Elections Commission must review this ruling.
- G. ~~Specific violations of this Chapter are enumerated in Chapter 609 of this Statute, and unless otherwise noted, all election violations constitute major violations of the Student Government Statutes, subject to penalties of this Statute.~~

606.3 Expense Statements

- A. Expense statements shall be submitted to the Elections Supervisor no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day following any election and shall include:
 1. Statement of the known cumulative campaign expenses based on the retail market value signed by the candidate(s) and/or party chairman.
 2. An itemized list of all campaign expenses.
 3. A statement attesting to the validity of the total campaign expenses and contributions.
 4. An itemized list containing the full name and residence or business address of each person who has made one or more contributions to the campaign over the amount of thirty (\$30) dollars.
- B. Expense statements shall be submitted on forms as prescribed by the Elections Supervisor.
- C. Radio, television and newspaper advertisements shall not be considered a campaign expense if free, equal time is available for each candidate for a

particular office. Should free, equal time not be made available, cost of broadcast time must be included in expense statements.

- D. In correlation with University Policy, discount coupons cannot be given out during campaign.
- E. Candidates/parties that have no expenditures must still file an expense statement.
- F. Campaign Expense Statements become public information upon submission.
- G. ~~Specific violations of this chapter are enumerated in Chapter 609 of this Statute, and unless otherwise noted, all constitute major violations of the Student Government Association Election Statutes, subject to penalties in accordance with Chapter 612 of this Statute.~~

Chapter 607 The Official Ballot

607.1 Ballot Form

- A. ~~The official ballot must contain the list of all vacant offices to be filled by the election, referendum questions, and constitutional amendments. More specific regulations for special elections can be found in Chapter 603 of this statute. Absentee ballots shall consist of a copy of the official ballot, and instructions for voting. A copy of the students' UNF I.D. card will be required for obtaining this absentee form.~~
- B. Candidates shall be listed in alphabetical order by their last names and the name shall be printed in the same form as requested at the time of filing.
- C. Space for write-in candidates shall be placed on the official ballot during general elections. The number of spaces left for write-in candidates will be left up to the discretion of the Election Supervisor.
- D. For elections to office, the ballot shall only contain the names of the candidates who properly filed all appropriate paperwork by the deadline as set by the Elections Supervisor and are otherwise qualified to hold the office they seek.
- E. Candidates omitted from the sample ballot may petition to be reinstated by an order of revision from the Judicial Council, provided such an order is filed no later than seventy-two (72) hours prior to any election.

- F. The Official Ballot may not be changed or altered within the forty-eight (48) hours preceding any election.

~~607.2 Write-in Ballots~~

- A. ~~Appropriate blank spaces will be provided on the official ballot in the general election for qualified write-in candidates names to be entered, the number of blank spaces is at the discretion of the Elections Supervisor.~~

607.2 Absentee Ballots

- A. Students away from campus on Election Day may request absentee ballots from the Elections Supervisor no later than seven days preceding the election. This ballot must be returned to the Elections Supervisor no later than the last day of elections by 7:00 p.m. along with a photocopy of their UNF I.D. card. Absentee ballots shall consist of a copy of the official ballot and instructions for voting.
- B. The Elections Supervisor must post in a newspaper of general campus circulation the accessibility of absentee ballots at least ten (10) days before the date of the election.

607.3 Collecting and Moving Completed Ballots

- A. ~~Ballots shall be handled only in the presence of at least Two members of the Elections, Selections, and Appointments Committee.~~
- B. Two SGA members not candidates in the election and/or the Elections Supervisor must attend the polling station at all times to ensure that this Statute is fairly enforced.
- C. The Supervisor of Elections shall lock or seal the ballot boxes before the polling station opens, and no ballot box shall be opened or removed from the polling station except in the company of the University Police Department. Ballot boxes cannot be opened until votes are ready to be tabulated.
- D. Following collection, ballots shall be locked and securely sealed in the presence of the Elections Supervisor. They are to be moved only in the presence of the Election Supervisor or a designee and any person from the University Police Department. Candidates are allowed to be present.

607.4 Counting of Ballots--Vote Tabulation

- A. The method of counting shall be done as the Elections Supervisor deems proper; i.e. Duval County tabulation, scantron in presence of Elections Commission, or computer tabulation.
- B. If any ballots are hand-counted, which can occur only in unforeseen, emergency situations, counting shall be done in a public place designated by the Elections Supervisor. The majority of the Elections Commission and a member of the University Police Department must be present.
- C. The Elections Supervisor shall order an immediate recount if the difference between two or more candidates is five percent or less of the total votes cast. If the results of the recount reveal that a different candidate would be elected, then the Elections Supervisor shall immediately order a third count. If the Elections Supervisor does not order a recount, the Election Commission must convene and order one.
- ~~D. The Elections Supervisor shall permit a minimum of 2 poll watchers to be present during the entire election procedure.~~
- E. No ballot shall be disqualified if the voter's choice is clear. Any parts of a ballot that is marked correctly and legally shall be counted.
- ~~F. All absentee ballots received in a good condition prior to closing of polls will be tabulated.~~
- ~~G. All votes cast for a write-in candidate shall be tabulated provided the candidate meets requirements of this Statute.~~

607.5 Security of Ballots

- A. The Elections Supervisor shall ensure that the ballots are secure from damage, loss, theft, or alteration. ~~This shall be insured as proved by the Election Statute.~~
- B. The Elections Supervisor and members of the Elections Commission shall ensure that no one attempts to use their library identification number or their social security number on voter affidavits to determine the names of voters.
- C. The Elections Supervisor, under the direction of the Student Government Association Advisor, shall destroy the ballots thirty (30) days after the deadline for contesting the elections, or thirty (30) days after the conclusion of a court challenge to election, whichever comes later.

Chapter 608 Assuming Office

608.1 Announcement

- A. The Elections Supervisor may release “unofficial” results at 2 p.m. on the day following the election if no requests for invalidation of the election have been filed. All requests for invalidation of the election must be filed according to Chapter 610 of this Title.
- B. Election results must be sealed from view until official publication. No person may view the results until publication. No election results can be posted until complaints or charges calling to invalidate the election have been resolved by Senate.
- C. As soon as it is practical, at the next Senate meeting, the results will be validated by a majority vote, and then the Elections Supervisor shall post the official results.
- D. The Election Supervisor shall prepare and distribute a press release announcing the final results immediately following validation. All announcements of the final results shall include a statement that the results may be challenged to the Judicial Council.

608.2 Certificates of Election

- A. No Certificate of Election shall be issued to a candidate whose election is being contested.
- B. No candidate shall be installed, given the oath of office, or take elective office unless the Supervisor of Elections has authorized a Certificate of Election for that candidate. ~~This shall not apply to those appointments when appointed to fill a vacancy in accordance with the Student Government Association Constitution and the Student Government Association Statutes.~~
- C. Certificates of Election shall be of a form prescribed by the Elections Supervisor.

608.3 Installation

- ~~A. The Elections Supervisor shall provide for the appropriate installation ceremonies for students who have been certified as duly elected in accordance with the Student Government Association Constitution and Student Government Association Statutes.~~
- ~~B. Any duly elected officer who misses the formal installation ceremonies will be installed separately by the Elections Supervisor with ten (10) days after the formal installation ceremonies, or their offices shall be~~

~~considered vacant. No duly elected official may be sworn in before the formal ceremony.~~

- C. In general elections, candidates with the most votes shall assume office immediately upon receipt of their Certificate of Election and installation by the Chief Justice. This will occur at the first Senate meeting following the validation of the election.
- D. The following oath will be used for validating the installation of elected candidates. This is to be administered by the Chief Justice of the Judicial Council or designee.

“I (name of Individual), do hereby swear to uphold the position of (title of office) and to abide by the Constitution of the University of North Florida and the Statutes of the Student Government Association, and to strive to maintain a working and unified Student Government.”

Chapter 609 Violations

609.1 Major and Minor Offenses

Violations of this Statute shall be designated as either a major or minor offense as follows:

- A. Major Offenses- attempts to perpetrate a fraudulent election such as, but not limited to, tampering with elections machinery, casting more than one ballot, falsification of facts or information, intentionally causing another candidate to incur violations, involvement with effort to falsify the election in any way, and failure to submit a Candidate Expense Statement by the deadline, ~~or any other attempt to prevent a fair and impartial election. All other offenses listed as major offenses in the Election Statute shall be penalized as such.~~
- B. Minor Offenses- All violations of this Statute not designated as major offenses.

609.2 Expense Violations

- A. Candidates are responsible for all ~~authorized~~ campaign expenses made on their behalf.
- B. It is the responsibility of all candidates to inquire about expenses and services made by persons or organizations on their behalf. Failure to account for any of the contributions on one's expense statement is a major offense.

- C. Cases of expenditures over the maximum amount allowed or expenditures unreported in the final expense statement will be termed a major offense.
- D. Failure to submit an Expense Statement, as provided for in Chapter 606.3, shall be considered a major offense.

609.3 Procedure for Filing Charges for Campaign Violations

- A. Any student who has a campaign complaint must file said complaint in writing with supporting evidence to the Student Government Association Attorney General and the Student Government Association Elections Supervisor in accordance with the Statute of Limitations.
- B. The Elections Supervisor will call a meeting of the Elections Commission at the end of the Statute of Limitations. All rulings on complaints will be made at this meeting by majority vote of the committee, excluding any members directly involved in the complaint. The student filing the complaint will present to the committee, and all involved parties may be present to speak on their own behalf.
- C. All decisions of the Elections Commission are subject to appeal to the University of North Florida's Judicial Council, whose decision shall be final.

609.4 Statute of Limitations

Complaints under this Chapter must be submitted to the Elections Supervisor and Attorney General in writing within five (5) academic days following the election or be forever barred.

609.5 Other Specifications

- A. All positions filled by the election may be filled according to the procedure outlined in Chapter 608 of this Title and regardless of charges pending.
- B. Guilty parties will be removed from office upon the return of a verdict from the Judicial Council.

Chapter 610 Penalties

610.1 Major and Minor Violations

- A. Persons committing major violations must be disqualified from the election and/or removed from office, whichever is appropriate.

B. Three minor violations shall constitute a major violation.

610.2 Invalidation

- A. Individual and small groups of ballots may not be invalidated for any reason except in the instance that an individual is caught in the action of voting multiple times and the votes of that person can be removed. Only the Elections Supervisor may invalidate the vote in this situation, subject to the approval of the Elections Commission.
- B. The Elections Supervisor may invalidate the election at any time prior to the release of election results with a two-thirds vote of the Senate, discounting members who are also candidates in that election.
- C. Other students may call for invalidation of the election any time prior to the publication of the results of that election. Such students must file their written complaint to the Elections Supervisor, the Attorney General, **and** the Chief Justice. It will then be investigated and brought before the Senate within three (3) school days from the end of the election for a decision. The Senate President must call a special session at the end of this time.
- D. All invalidation complaints must be denied by the Senate before the Senate can validate the election. Any students running in the election may be present for this decision but may not vote. They will not count for or against quorum at this time.
- E. Following posting of the results, official or unofficial, no more complaints calling for invalidation of the election will be accepted.
- F. Upon invalidation of the election, the Elections Supervisor must call another election within three weeks or before the end of the semester, whichever comes first. This election does not require Senatorial approval. The same ballot must be used for this election; exceptions are limited to candidates who wish to or are required to be removed from the ballot and any referenda the Student Senate chooses to add to the ballot.