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Senate Bill SB-11SB-2539A Title VI Revisions of 2011

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1		SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011
2 3	Whereas:	The Student Government of the University of North Florida was established to represent student concerns in all University wide matters; and
4 5 6	Whereas:	The Student Senate is the legislative body of the University of North Florida's Student Government given the responsibility of carrying out such legislative acts that are necessary and proper for the Student Body of the University of North Florida; and
7 8	Whereas:	Legislation dealing with necessary and proper statutory revisions shall be considered by Student Senate; and
9	Whereas:	Title VI is in need of revision.
10 11 12	Whereas:	Title VI is replete with statutory and constitutional defects. Through these necessary changes Title VI will be a more coherent and consistent statute. Additionally, the fall and spring elections shall be more coordinated in its processes.
13	Therefore;	The following revisions are being made to Title VI;
14 15 16	Chapte	TITLE VI: THE ELECTION CODE
17 18		600.1 Introduction
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		A. In accordance with Florida Statutes (Title XLVIII Chapter 1004.26), "Each student government shall be organized and maintained by students and shall be composed of at least a student body president, a student legislative body, and a student judiciary. The student body president and the student legislative body shall be elected by the student body; however, interim vacancies and the student judiciary may be filled in a manner other than election as prescribed by the internal procedures of the student government." Therefore, the University of North Florida Student Government will hold General, Special, and/or Inter-Collegiate Elections occurring during the Fall and Spring Semesters to elect a Student Body President, Vice-President, and Student Senators.
31 32 33 34		B. The standing committee of the University of North Florida (UNF) Student Senate assigned the responsibility for oversight, review, and periodic update of the policies expressed in the Election Code shall be known as the Elections & Appointments Committee (E&A).



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SENATE LEGISLATION SB-11SB-2539A

1 SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011 2 C. The ad-hoc committee of the UNF Student Senate assigned the responsibility for 3 oversight, review and enforcement of the Election Code during an election cycle 4

D. Amendments to the Election Code are subject to the normal legislative process Article 2, Section 10A and also require a majority two-thirds (2/3) approval from E&A Senate.

shall be known as the Elections Commission (EC).

Senatorial Elective Offices 600.2

- A. Seats one (1) through twenty (20) and Seat forty-one (41) shall be open for election during the Fall General Election.
- В. Seats twenty-one (21) through forty (40) and Seat forty-two (42) shall be open for election during the Spring General Election.
- C. With the exception of seat forty-one (41) and forty-two (42), Senatorial Seats offered during a General Election shall be at-large, with vacant seats being occupied by the candidates receiving the most votes, except for those left vacant by a disqualifications, which shall be left vacant until appeals have been resolved. If a candidate is disqualified with finality (e.g. Candidate did not seek appeal or appeal upheld disqualification), the seat shall be filled by the next candidate receiving the most votes.
- Seat forty-one (41) and forty-two (42) shall be occupied by the candidate D. receiving the most votes who also fulfills the requirements outlined in Section 4B of Article II. This seat shall take priority over the remaining atlarge seats in that it, if possible, shall be allotted to the qualified candidate with the most votes prior to the allotment of At-large Seats. Reference Title VI, Section 601.1E of this title for further explanation.
- E. Seats forty-one (41), forty-three (43), forty-five (45), forty-seven (47), fortynine (49), and fifty-one (51) shall be open for election during the Fall Inter-College Election and shall be subject to the restrictions enumerated in Section 3B 4B of Article II and Section 1 of Article V.
- F. Seats forty-two (42), forty-four (44), and forty-six (46), forty-eight (48), fifty (50), and fifty-two (52) shall be open for election during the Spring Inter-College Election and shall be subject to the restrictions enumerated in Section 4B of Article II and Section 2 1 of Article V.



SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

G. The Student Body may, upon written petition presented to the Student Government Chief Justice bearing the names and signatures of at least ten percent (10%) of the <u>student body constituency of that seat</u>, call a Special Election as outlined in Article V, Section 4, O. of the Constitution. for one (1), several, or all of the seats occupied by appointed Student Senators or left vacant by elected ones. This Special Election shall be held within twenty (20) business days from the date of presentation.

600.3 Executive Elective Offices

- A. The Presidential/Vice-Presidential Election shall be held during the Spring General Election.
- B. All Presidential/Vice-Presidential candidates must are required to run on a two person ticket as outlined in Article V, Section 2, A of the Constitution. run as a ticket.
- C. A vote for a Presidential/Vice-Presidential ticket will count equally for each candidate on that ticket.

600.4 Definitions

The following words and phrases, when used in this title, shall be defined as the following:

- A. Billboard Campaigning Placement of constructed materials (i.e.: road signs, plywood billboards, posters, etc.), advertising or calling for support of a specific candidate(s) or party for an elective office of Student Government.
- B. Campaigning All publicizing and/or distribution of campaign materials (i.e.: flyers, handbills, food, etc) on campus which solicits or calls for support of a candidate(s) or party for an elective office of Student Government during the campaign period.
 - 1. Active Campaigning Campaigning in which the person engages individuals in an unsolicited manner on campus. One example is a candidate passing out flyers or other promotional materials to a constituent.
 - 2. Passive Campaigning <u>Campaigning in which individuals call for support of a candidate without soliciting others in an active or verbal manner.</u> All campaigning which is neither_not active_nor verbal. One



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SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

example is a constituent_wearing a campaign button to promote a candidate.

- 3. Verbal Campaigning Campaigning with sign language and/or speech (including internet).
- C. Campaign Expense the full cost of any goods or services paid for by the campaign.
- D. Candidate Any student who has properly submitted all of the necessary paperwork and has met the eligibility requirements for seeking an elective office of Student Government (i.e.: Senator, Student Government President, etc.).
- E. Certificate of Election A document certifying a candidate's proper election.
- F. Day as referred within the Election Code or mentioned as business day, shall be defined as being weekdays (Monday through Friday), 8am-5pm, during academic sessions. Academic Sessions include Spring, Summer, and Fall semesters only. Spring Break and University Holidays shall not be considered as business days.
- G. Election Cycle The Election Cycle will begin on the first day that a candidate application is properly submitted to the Election's Supervisor and will end after all Election related disputes have been resolved.
- H. Full Cost The total dollar amount spent toward the purchase of a good or service.
- I. General Election Elections held once (1) during both fall and spring semester for the purpose of determining which candidates will assume all Student Government Elective Offices, with the exception of Senatorial apportioned seats forty-two (42) three (43) through fifty-two (52), and any Special Election called pursuant to Section 4J of Article V of the Constitution.
- J. Inter-College Election Elections held during the Fall and Spring semesters for the purposes of determining which candidate will assume Senatorial apportioned seats forty-two-(42) three (43) through fifty-two (52).
- K. Party- A political group comprised of three (3) two (2) or more election candidates, organized to promote and support common goals and/or candidates for public office through the use of shared campaign materials and/or monetary resources.



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3	L.	Polling Region - A seventy-five foot (75') radius surrounding the polling station.
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5	M.	Polling Station - Area containing polls and/or ballot boxes.
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7	N.	Exit Polling – A sample poll taken by any A&S Fee paying student, immediately
8 9		following the casting of votes.
.Ó	O.	Exit Polling Barrier - A twenty foot (20') radius surrounding the polling station
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.2	P.	Referendum - A senatorially approved question or legislative act which is placed
.3		on the official ballot during an election for majority vote by the electorate. The
.4 =		decision of the majority of votes that are cast is not a final decision but will stand
.0 .1 .2 .3 .4 .5		as a strong suggestion to Student Government, with the exception of a Constitutional Referendum, which is binding upon validation of the election.
•,		Constitutional referendant, which is blitting upon validation of the election.
.8	Q.	Special Election - Any election other than a General Election or an Inter-College
9	•	Election.
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.1 .2	R.	Statute of Limitations - A statute setting a time limit on legal action. A statutorily
.Z 13		prescribed time limit in which any election complaint may be filed.
4	S.	Ticket - Two (2) candidates cooperatively engaged in a campaign for Student
.5		Government President and Vice-President.
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27	T.	Total Campaign Cost - The sum of all campaign expenditures as reported by a
.8 .0		candidate <u>, ticket, or party</u> .
20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 0 1 2 3 4	U.	Unbiased – to negate an unknown or publicly known inclination or prejudice.
$\overset{\circ}{1}$	0.	onombed to negate an annioun of publicly infown memmator of projection
2	V.	Validation - Action taken by the Student Senate that formally acknowledges and
3		ensures the accuracy of the vote totals as presented by the Elections Supervisor.
	G1	M ATT
5		Types of Elections General Elections
6 7	001.1	General Elections
8	_	A. Fall and Spring Elections shall take place six (6) to twelve (12) weeks into
9		the Semester, excluding spring break.
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1	-	B. Students of UNF Any student will be allowed to collect published candidate
		information (i.e.: Candidate Application and Student Endorsement) from



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SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

Student Government, <u>Public Requests</u> before <u>can be made</u> at any time before <u>after</u> the <u>Application</u> deadline.

- C. The Elections and Appointment Committee shall set all dates and deadlines for the fall and spring Elections.
- D. <u>Billboard and Active Campaigning may commence ten (10) business days</u> before the first day of elections; with the exception of verbal and passive campaigning, which can commence at anytime.
- E. Billboard Campaigning may commence ten (10) business days before the first day of elections.
- F. The graduate student receiving the most votes in the Spring General Election shall receive seat forty-two (42). The graduate student receiving the most votes in the fall General Election shall receive seat forty-one (41). This will not affect other graduate students running in that election. If no graduate students become candidates in the election, the seat will remain open for appointment according to the Student Government Constitution.
- G. Unopposed candidates shall be deemed to have voted for him or herself and declared the winner by acclamation. No election for the respective seat shall be held.

601.2 Inter-College Elections

- A. Inter-College elections shall take place at the same time and location as a fall or spring General Election.
- B. In the fall, seat forty-three (43) will be elected from the College of Arts and Sciences; seat forty-five (45) from the College of Computing, Engineering, and Construction; seat forty-seven (47) from the Brooks College of Health; seat forty-nine (49) from the Coggin College of Business; and seat fifty-one (51) from the College of Education and Human Services.
- C. In the spring, seat forty-four (44) will be elected from the College of Arts and Sciences; seat forty-six (46) from the College of Computing, Engineering, and Construction; seat forty-eight (48) from the Brooks College of Health; seat fifty (50) from the Coggin College of Business; and seat fifty-two (52) from the College of Education and Human Services.



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Chapter 602:

Responsibilities within Student Government

602.1 Duties of the Elections Supervisor

The acting Chairperson of the Elections & Appointments Committee will serve as the Elections Supervisor and shall assume the following powers, duties, and responsibilities once the Election Cycle has commenced:

SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

- D. Senate candidates may run for their respective college seat as long as the candidate has been accepted into the said college. If a candidate has two or more majors, the candidate may only run for one college seat.
- E. Students with a declared major shall vote in that specified Inter-College Election. These students are still eligible to vote in General and Special Elections.
- F. Campaign rules shall be the same as those outlined in the Candidate's Packet for General Elections. Inter-College Elections shall be conducted in the same manner and under the same rules and regulations as regular elections.
- G. If no candidates submit a Declaration of Intent to run in an Inter-College Election by the close of filing deadline prescribed by the Elections Supervisor, the seat shall remain empty until a student who is enrolled in the given college is appointed to it or until the next election cycle.
- <u>G. H.</u> Unopposed candidates shall be deemed to have voted for him or herself and declared the winner by acclamation. No election for the respective seat shall be held.

601.3 Special Elections

The Elections Supervisor shall, at the request of the Student Body President, or of the majority of the Student Senate, or by petition of the Student Body; shall call for and supervise a Special Election not otherwise covered in the Student Government Constitution or the Student Government Election Code. The rules and regulations of the Student Government Constitution and the Election Code shall govern all Special Elections. Special Elections shall be conducted in the same manner and under the same rules and regulations as regular elections.



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SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

- A. Appoint a collection of nonpartisan poll workers from within Student Senate and train these poll workers in their responsibilities and duties in the operation of the polls.
- B. Inform the Student Government Attorney General, the Student Government Advisor, or designated replacement in accordance with this Title, of all alleged violations of the Election Code.
- C. Shall serve as the Chair of the Elections Commission.
- <u>D.C.</u> May seek an opinion interpretation of an the Student Government Elections Code from the Student Government Attorney General. In the event of a conflict of interpretation, the interpretation of the Attorney General will supersede.
- <u>E.</u>D. Compile/Revise the Campaign Guidelines Document.
 - The Campaign Guidelines Document is derived separately from the Election Code, and is designed to inform candidates of University and University-related regulations relevant to campaigning.
 - 2. This standard document shall be revised <u>only biannually</u> if there are changes to University regulations.
 - 3. Violations of the Campaign Guidelines document shall be subject to punishment by the University or respective University department. Candidates who violate the Campaign Guidelines Document are subject to potential violations penalties assessed by the Judicial Council.
 - Omissions, additions, revisions, and any other changes to the Campaign Guidelines Document must be approved by the Elections and Appointments Committee. prior to it being given to candidates.
- F.E. Invalidate ballots cast by members of the electorate that are contrary to the Student Government Statutes Election Code, pending approval of the Elections Commission.



SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

- G.F. Publish adequate information concerning elections in the official campus newspaper and, at least ten (10) business days prior to the elections, publicize its date, time, location of voting booths, candidates and appropriate procedures for voting. After the election, the Elections Supervisor will publish results in the official campus newspaper.
- <u>H.G.</u> Adequately publicize and conduct at least one (1) public debate or forum during the period of active campaigning where any and all candidates are invited to present their platforms. The debate It should be held in an area centrally located and accessible to students.
- H.I. Shall ensure that all absentee ballots submitted and awaiting tabulation are secure form from damage, loss, theft, or alteration.
- J.H. Issue Certificates of Election to each officer elected in accordance with this Title, which must be signed by the acting Student Body President and the Elections Supervisor.
- K.J. Maintain the final results of all elections as permanent public record.
- K. Invalidate votes east contrary to the Student Government Statutes, pending approval of the Elections Commission.
- L. Mark off the polling region and exit polling barrier with tape or other tangible items two (2) business days before the first day of the election. The Elections Supervisor or a designee must then remove all posters and campaign literature from this designated area.
- M. Create a Candidate Portrait Board picturing all candidates wishing to appear. It is to be displayed at each polling station 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.

602.2 Duties of the Chair Person of the Elections Commission

The acting Vice-Chairperson of the Elections & Appointments Committee will serve as the Chairperson of the Elections Commission and shall assume the



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SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

following powers, duties, and responsibilities once the Election Cycle has commenced:

- A. Form and preside over the Elections Commission, assuming an unbiased role in all cases.
- B. Call and set the agenda for meetings of the Elections Commission, as well as ensure that accurate minutes are taken at each meeting.
- C. May seek interpretation of the Student Government Elections Code from the Student Government Attorney General. In the event of a conflict of interpretation, the interpretation of the Attorney General will supersede.
- D. Vote only in the case of a tie among the Commission.
- E. The Chairman of the Election Commission shall notify the <u>Attorney General</u> of any campaign violations.

602.3 Duties of the Elections Commission (EC)

- A. The Elections Commission shall be composed of the following people:

 1. The membership of the E&A committee who are not candidates.
 - a. Each member shall have one (1) vote in all decisions made by the commission.
 - Each member shall work at the polls for a total of two
 (2) hours per Election Day.
 - 1.5. The Student Government Elections Supervisor shall serve as the Chair of the Elections Commission.
 - 1.2. All other Senators not running in an election or declaring a conflict of interest must actively participate with the commission and work the polls.
 - a. Each member shall have one (1) vote in all decisions made by the Commission.
 - b. A senator must declare a conflict of interest at least (12) business days prior to an election. The Senator must go before the Elections and Appointments Committee and validate the conflict of interest by a majority vote.



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SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

- b. Senators are considered members of the Elections Commission twelve (12) business days prior to the first day of Elections.
- c. Each member shall work at the poles polls for a total of two (2) hours per election day or be assessed three (3) absentee points per day.
- d. Senators are prohibited from engaging in passive, verbal and/or active campaigning while serving on the Elections Commission.
- 32. The Student Government Attorney General and Student Government Student Advocate shall serve as non-voting ex-officio members of the Elections Commission prior to election violation hearings. During the Violation period, their duties are as follows:
 - a. The Student Government Attorney General shall assume the role of Chief Prosecutor in all cases pertaining to specific campaign violations.
 - b. The Student Government Student Advocate shall act as advisor to all students requesting defense counsel in matters concerning elections violations.

 However, the accused candidate(s) or party have the right to retain their own defense representative.
- 3.4. The Student Government Advisor shall be unbiased and aware of all policies and procedures surrounding the election. He/she shall be a non-voting ex-officio member of the Elections Commission.
- 4.5. The Student Government Elections Supervisor shall serve as the Chair of the Elections Commission.
- 5. The Elections Commission shall meet to discuss the policies for polling stations on election days.
- 6. The Elections Commission shall meet to invalidate the election, if necessary.
- B. Members are responsible for enforcing all rules and procedures outlined herein and all other rules/laws applicable to the candidates. The procedure for enforcing the Election Code shall be the following:



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2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9			1. Violations Alleged violations of the Election Code must be reported to the Attorney General Chairperson of the Elections Commission who will then forward the complaints to the Chief Justice.
7 8 9 10 11			2. Formally written violations submitted to the Chairperson by a member of the Elections Commission will result in that member abstaining from all votes pertaining to said violation during the Elections Commission hearings.
12 13 14		C.	All members of this committee shall oversee the General and Inter-College Elections. They may meet in regard to other Special Elections as well.
15		D.	The Elections Commission must meet at least once during the two (2) weeks prior to the election.
18 19 20 21		E.	May seek interpretation of the Student Government Elections Code from the Student Government Attorney General. In the event of a conflict of interpretation, the interpretation of the Attorney General will supersede.
22 23 24 25		F.	At the conclusion of the election, the elections commission shall draft and approve, by majority vote, a bill validating the election notwithstanding an extenuating circumstance. Following passage, the bill shall be placed on second reading and is subject to the normal legislative process.
26 27	602. <u>4</u>]	Duties o	of the Student Government Advisor
28 29 30		A.	The Student Government Advisor shall be unbiased and aware of all policies and procedures surrounding the election. He/she shall be a non-voting ex-officio member of the Elections Commission.
31 32		В.	The Student Government Advisor shall assist the Election Supervisor in investigating the qualifications of all candidates.
33 34		C.	In the event of an election code violation, the Student Government Advisor is to be made aware of the violation by the <u>Attorney General</u> .
35 36	Chapter 603: 0	Candida	су
36 37	603.1		ying for Candidacy alify as a candidate for Student Government elective office, one must:



SENATE LEGISLATION SB-11SB-2539A

SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

- A. Be an A&S fee paying student, enrolled in at least one (1) class at the University of North Florida.
- B. Have at least a 2.25 grade point average, unless one has attended the University of North Florida for less than one (1) semester.
- C. Attend one (1) full Senate and at least two (2) Committee meetings in the academic semester in which the student will run for office. An attendance form shall be provided in the Candidate Packet to be signed by the candidate and cosigned by the Senate President and Committee Chair.
 - *NOTE: In the event of an extenuating circumstance the candidate may be excused from attending one or both attendance requirements through a written appeal request a meeting with the E&A Committee. If the E&A Committee finds by a majority vote that an extenuating circumstance is present, the candidate may be excused from the requirement to attend a Senate meeting. to the Judicial Council.
- D. Attend a mandatory Candidate Seminar which shall be held on at least three
 (3) separate dates prescribed by the Elections Supervisor to discuss the
 Election Code and obtain all necessary election documents; including but
 not limited to the Candidate Seminar Document, University Guidelines
 Document, and the Election Signage Policy. All candidates must attend
 one of the scheduled seminars or meet with the Election Supervisor to
 qualify for eandidacy. All information discussed in seminars shall be
 previously approved by the E&A committee. All additional questions
 answered will be shared via public notice and email.
 - *NOTE: In the event of an extenuating circumstance the candidate may request a meeting with the Elections Supervisor, prior to the close of the last Candidate Seminar, in replacement of the Candidate Seminar by obtaining the signatures of at least four (4) the E&A committee Chair and Vice Chair. members (excluding the chair). This will only be granted in extenuating circumstances at the purview of the E&A committee.
- E. Presidential Tickets must meet individually with the Election Supervisor to discuss the Candidate Seminar Document and the Election Code before candidate application deadline. Candidates must obtain a signature from the Election Supervisor documenting the meeting. This is an opportunity to obtain clarification on all election regulations, dates and procedures.



SENATE LEGISLATION SB-11SB-2539A

SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

*NOTE: In the event of an extenuating circumstance the candidate may request a meeting with the E&A Committee prior to the Application Deadline. If the E&A Committee finds by a majority vote that an extenuating circumstance is present, the candidate may be granted an extension.

F. Elected candidates shall not be requires required to attend a candidate seminar, however, they are responsible to obtain all information from the Election Supervisor.

603.2 Becoming a Candidate

To become a candidate for Student Government elective office, whose name appears on the Official Ballot, one must submit a completed Candidate Application no later than fifteen (15) business days before the start of the election <u>by</u> 5:00 PM. All Candidate Applications must be officially <u>dated time stamped</u> by the machine located in <u>the Student Government Rotunda</u> on the day of submission. Candidate Applications without <u>this the official date time stamp</u>, or that are missing any of the following documents will not be accepted.

A. Components of Candidate Application:

- 1. Declaration of Intent form shall be signed and turned into the Elections Supervisor by 5:00 pm twenty (20) business days before the start of the election. The form shall be signed by the candidate ensuring (s)he has read and understood the guidelines and consequences expressed within the Election Code, and pledges to adhere to the guidelines set forth in the Student Government Constitution, Statutes, Election Code, and all other applicable university policies.
- 2. Student Government Authorization and Release Form:
 A document that every Student Government Officer must complete for authorization of GPA verification. Additionally, all candidates must complete for authorization of GPA verification and a release providing their directory information as defined by FERPA.

3. Candidate Information



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SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

A document containing a candidate's contact information (i.e.: phone number, email address, student N-number, etc.) and academic status (classification, major).

4. Student Endorsement

- Those seeking Senatorial seats must submit one hundred fifty (150) signatures.
- Those seeking College Seats must obtain one hundred fifty (150) signatures, with at least fifty (50) being of students from their respective college.
- Elected or appointed senatorial candidates, who are running as incumbents for an At-Large Seat or for the same college seat, are not required to receive student endorsement.
- d. Elected or appointed Senatorial Candidates, who hold an At-Large Seat and are running for a college seat, are required only to obtain fifty (50) signatures. However all fifty (50) signatures must be of students from their respective college.
- Elected or appointed Senatorial Candidates, who hold a college seat and are running for an at-large seat, are not required to receive student endorsements.
- Those seeking a Presidential/ Vice Presidential ticket must submit four hundred fifty (450) signatures per ticket.
- Presidential/ Vice Presidential incumbents, in which both individuals are the same and running for the same office, are not required to receive student endorsement.
- h. Each signature must be of a an A&S fee paying student of the University of North Florida and include accompanied by the student's N-number.

5. Attendance Forms

A. One (1) Senate and Committee attendance form: The prospective candidate must submit a Senate and Committee attendance form, signed by the student and co-



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SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

signed by the Senate President and Committee Chairs affirming that the student has attended one (1) full Senate and two (2) full Committee meetings in the academic year semester in which the student is to run.

B. Election Supervisor Attendance Form:
All presidential tickets must submit a time stamped form confirming a meeting with the Elections Supervisor to discuss election regulations, dates, and procedures.

B. Application Procedures

- 1. The filing date for those wishing to appear on the Official Ballot shall be no earlier than the beginning of the semester in which the student is to run and no later than fifteen (15) days before the start of the election by 5:00 PM. The Elections Supervisor must post notice of the close of filing ten (10) business days preceding that date.
- 2. Failure to submit by the close of filing will result in the candidate's name not appearing on the official ballot. The Elections Supervisor will enforce this policy.
- 3. No one may declare candidacy for more than one (1) office during a given election cycle.
- 4. Candidacy may be withdrawn up to the time the Ballot is printed by presenting a statement of withdrawal to the Elections Supervisor.
- 5. Students must declare candidacy under their current legal name.
- 6. A current Senator may not run in an Election if their seat is not up for Re-Election. For example: a Fall Senator may not run in the Spring Elections for a Spring Senatorial Seat while holding a Fall Seat.

603.3 Approval for Candidacy

A. The Elections Supervisor, with the assistance of the Student Government Advisor, shall investigate the qualifications of all candidates and may reject candidates unqualified according to requirements specified within the Election Code.



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SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

- B. Unopposed candidates shall be deemed to have voted for him or herself and declared the winner by acclamation. No election for the respective seat shall be held.
- C. The Elections Supervisor shall disqualify candidates who make false statements about their qualifications for office.
- D. The Elections Supervisor shall disqualify candidates who fail to submit all forms correctly by set deadlines.
- E. The Elections Supervisor shall notify unqualified candidates in writing. The Elections Supervisor has three (3) business days to check the qualification of all candidates and deliver the Notice of Disqualification in writing to all disqualified candidates. The Notice of Disqualification shall be delivered to the candidate(s) no later than three (3) business days after the candidate's disqualification has been decided. Any disqualified candidate(s) may appeal to the Judicial Council.

Chapter 604: Election Code of Ethics

The Code of Ethics shall be applicable to all candidates for Student Government elective and appointed office and all persons associated with a candidate's, ticket or Group of Like Minded Candidates campaign. All reported complaints must be submitted within two (2) days of the close of polling stations. These complaints shall be reviewed by the Elections Commission at the next meeting of the Commission.

- A. No candidate, ticket or party shall misrepresent any material fact(s) through any campaign material(s) or while campaigning.
- B. No candidate or party may misrepresent any campaign material as being the property of any other candidate or party.
- C. No candidate or party shall condone or authorize the destruction or theft of another candidate's campaign material.
- D. No candidate or party shall commit written, printed, or verbal defamation.
- E. Candidates and parties are responsible for the actions of other individuals and organizations acting on behalf of the given candidate or party, and may be subject to review by the Elections Commission Judicial Council for these actions.



The Code of Ethics shall become a part of the Candidate Application that is

SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

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distributed to prospective candidates. The Code of Ethics Agreement must be signed, dated, and submitted.

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Chapter 605: Election Timeline

F.

The following timeline will aid in the Election in that it outlines the specific time requirements set forth in this title. The Election Supervisor shall compile a candidate timeline with relevant dates. This timeline shall be distributed with the Candidate Application. This timeline shall be distributed with the Candidate Application.

Election Timeline	
Attribute	Time Period
Declarations of Intent due	Twenty (20) business days before the
	start of the first day of elections.
 Candidate must attend a one (1) Senate and two (2) 	Within the same school semester as the
Committee meetings	Elections
Candidate Applications Due	Fifteen (15) business days before the
	start of the first day of elections
 Three Candidate Seminars must be held 	Three times between the Application
	deadline and Elections
Sample Ballot must be posted and remain up for three four	
(4)business days	Application deadline
Candidate qualifications must be checked	Three (3) business days after the
All unqualified candidates must be notified	application deadline.
Candidate may petition to the <u>Judicial Council</u> Student	Within two days of notification of
Judiciaty	disqualification
Elections information must be posted in the Spinnaker	At least ten business days prior to
Absentee Ballot information must be posted in the Spinnak	ker Elections before the start of the first day
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	of elections.
Absentee ballots may be requested	Within one week of Elections
 Supervisor must tape off Polling regions 	Two days prior to Elections the start of
 Supervisor must remove campaign materials from inside the polling regions 	the first day of elections.
No campaigning allowed inside the polling regions	
Ballot cannot change	
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SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

 ELECTIONS Absentee ballots due at closing of polls 	Six to twelve weeks into the Semester (Fall/ Spring)
 Financial Statements due Complaints to Invalidate Elections due All candidates are responsible for removing campaign materials 	Within one business day after Elections
 Supervisor must release unofficial results as long as they are available Elections Complaints due 	Within two business days after Elections
Elections Commission The Chief Justice will meet to decide merit of Elections Complaints	Within three business days after the Complaint Deadline
 The Elections Commission will meet to hear all merited complaints and decide violations 	Within eight business days after the Complaint Deadline
 Elections Commission The Judicial Council must hear and vote on all Complaints to Invalidate the Elections 	
 Candidates may appeal Violations—to the Student Judiciary Invalidation decisions may be appealed to the Student Judiciary 	Within three business days after Violations and Invalidation hearings
The Senate must vote on Validation of the Elections and swear in newly elected Senators	At the Senate meeting following Elections
Ballots may be destroyed	Thirty days or more after conclusion of violations hearing

Chapter 606: Campaigning

606.1 Campaign Material

- A. Campaign Material includes all written or printed materials and items that are distributed in a manner which advertises or calls for support of a specific candidate(s) for elective office.
- B. The Spinnaker, UNF's campus-wide newspaper, shall reserve sufficient space for Student Government's election notices and candidate profiles in each issue during the three week period prior to any Student Government election. The Student Government Elections Supervisor is responsible for notifying The Spinnaker of the amount of ad space that will be needed and for providing the final design ready for print to the Spinnaker in accordance with all established deadlines. The Elections Supervisor will supply the newspaper with general information regarding these candidates

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SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

(i.e.: name, classification, and major). It is the responsibility of each candidate to submit their platform and have a photograph taken by the <u>Elections Supervisor newspaper</u>. Any additional information beyond the free platform/photograph that a candidate wishes to submit to the newspaper shall be sold to the candidate as an advertisement, which must be claimed by the candidate as an expense.

- C. Campaign materials may not be distributed in such a way as to create excessive litter or to willfully deface or destroy any property, public or private. Each candidate is liable for all campaign materials relating to his/her campaign, and shall see to their proper disposal, except as outlined in Chapter 607.2.D.3 of this title.
- D. No campaigning or advertising may take place within a classroom while class is in session, unless the candidate is enrolled in said class and has received prior written permission from his/her instructor to do so.

606.2 Other Regulations

- A. No individual may stand over voters while they complete their ballot unless the voter needs assistance, such as someone with a disability, in which case (s)he is permitted to request a poll worker or a representative from the Disability Resource Center to assist them while voting.
- B. Verbal Campaigning may occur at any time and at any place except within the polling region (as expressed in Letter 606.2 C), or in the Senate chambers during Senate, cabinet, or committee meetings. Common courtesy is expected in other settings such as classrooms, the Library, the Academic Resource Center or the Computer Labs.
- C. The Elections Commission may hold debates at any time in the ten (10) days prior to the election. These debates shall include any (and invite all) candidates who have submitted a complete application prior to the time of the debate, and shall be open for attendance to all candidates and the public. Other students and/or organizations have the liberty to hold debates freely. Organizations receiving A&S funds may hold debates during this period, but shall need the approval of the Elections Supervisor regarding date, time, place, format, and notification of candidates, but not of content.



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SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

- D. No campaigning of any kind shall be allowed within the polling region beginning two (2) business days prior to the first day of an election and continuing through election day(s). This shall not include the wearing of apparel in the polling regions as long as the individual is not actively soliciting a vote.
- E. No campaigning may occur at any time in the Senate chambers during Senate, cabinet, or committee meetings. Common courtesy is expected in other settings such as classrooms, the Library, the Academic Resource Center or the Computer Labs.

Chapter 607: Voting

607.1 Eligible Voters

Every student currently registered and paying A&S fees to the University of North Florida shall be entitled to vote in all General and Special Elections, and in Inter-College Elections for the college in which they are registered.

607.2 Polls

- A. Placement General and Special Elections
 - 1. There must be at least two (2) booths for every five thousand (5000) registered UNF students.
 - 2. The Elections Supervisor may place additional voting booths at his/her discretion, pending approval of the Elections Commission.

B. Placement - Inter-College Elections

- 1. These regulations must be followed only in the event that the Inter-College Elections are held separate from the General Elections.
- 2. There must be at least one (1) booth for every three thousand (3000) students registered in that college.
- 3. A minimum of two (2) booths per college.



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SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

4. Inter-College Elections booths shall be placed in the respective colleges during elections.

C. Hours

- 1. Voting booths shall be open from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.
- 2. The Elections Supervisor, upon majority approval by the Elections Commission, may extend but not shorten the hours of the election.
- 3. All Senators not appearing on the ballot or running in the election are required to supervise a polling station for at least two (2) hours during the time of elections. Any Senator not meeting this requirement will be issued an absence.

D. Polling Station Procedures

- 1. The Elections Supervisor must mark off the polling region with tape or other tangible items two (2) business days before the first day of the election. The Elections Supervisor or a designee must then remove all posters and campaign literature from this designated area. Two (2) business days before the first day of 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 stated in this statute.
- 2. 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.
- 3. Poll workers shall be responsible for keeping the polling station clear of campaign materials at all times during elections. Candidates shall not be held responsible for campaign materials discarded on polls, polling stations, or on the ground directly beneath polls and polling stations.
- 4. Voters shall be entitled to vote in privacy, which will be provided by the sides of the voting booths.
- 5. No candidate shall serve as a polling station worker.



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SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

- 6. Authorized polling station workers will maintain the student registrar list or other means of preventing students from voting more than once.
- 7. The University of North Florida Student Identification card shall serve as a student voter registration card for campus elections. If necessary, a valid Driver's License, Military Identification card, Passport, or State issued Identification card may be accepted, but must be cross-referenced immediately with a student registrar list.
- 8. No students may conduct exit polling within twenty (20') feet of the polling stations.

607.3 The Ballot

A. Format

- The official ballot must contain the list of all vacant offices to be filled by the election, referendum questions, and constitutional amendments.
- 2. Candidates shall be listed in alphabetical order by their last names in accordance with their party affiliation. There shall be separate columns for each party. If there are independent candidates then there shall be a separate column for them, and the name shall be printed in the same form as requested at the time of filing.
- 3. 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. The candidates' names shall be printed in the same form as requested at the time of filing.
- 4. A sample ballot must be posted in the Student Government Lobby within one (1) business day following the deadline for applications and shall remain posted for two (2) four (4) business days. Any errors must be reported to the Elections Supervisor who will make corrections at this time.



SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

- 5. <u>Disqualified candidates omitted</u> from the sample ballot may petition to be reinstated through an appeal by an order of revision from to the Judicial Council, provided such an order is filed no later than two (2) business days within the notice of disqualification three (3) business days to any election.
- 6. The Official Ballot may not be changed or altered within the two (2) business days preceding any election.

B. Referenda

- 1. The Elections Supervisor shall include referenda on the official ballot upon two-thirds (2/3) approval of the Student Senate or upon receipt of a Student Body petition (Article VI of the Student Government Constitution).
- 2. 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. Any ballot not clearly marked "YES" or "NO" will not be counted.
- If completed copies of all proposed referenda or revisions cannot be printed on the Official Ballot itself, copies shall be available for inspection at the voting booths.
- 4. 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.

C. Constitutional Referenda

1. Use of Constitutional Referenda shall coincide with <u>Article VI of the Constitution</u>, regulations stated in 607.3.B.

D. Absentee Ballots

 Students away from campus on Election Day may request absentee ballots from the Elections Supervisor no later than seven (7) business days preceding the election. This ballot must be returned to the Elections Supervisor no later than the last day of elections by



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SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

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 (time stamped or postmarked).

- 2. The Elections Supervisor must post in a newspaper of general campus circulation the accessibility of absentee ballots at least ten (10) business days before the date of the election.
- 3. <u>The Elections Supervisor must submit all absentee ballots to the University's IT Department to prevent students casting multiple votes.</u>

E. Collecting and Handling

- 1. Two (2) student government 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.
- 2. The Elections Supervisor 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.
- 3. 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.
- 4. The Elections Supervisor shall ensure that the ballots are secure from damage, loss, theft, or alteration.
- 5. The Elections Supervisor and members of the Elections Commission shall ensure that no one attempts to use their Osprey identification number or their social security number to determine the names of voters.
- 6. The Elections Supervisor, under the direction of the Student Government Advisor, shall destroy the ballots thirty (30) business days after the deadline for contesting the elections, or thirty (30)



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SENATE LEGISLATION SB-11SB-2539A

SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

business days after the conclusion of a court challenge to election, whichever comes later.

F. Tabulation

- 1. The method of counting shall be done as the Elections Supervisor deems proper; i.e. Duval County tabulation, computer tabulation or scantron. The official count must be made in the presence of the Elections Supervisor and two (2) Election Commission Members.
- 2. 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 Elections Supervisor and two (2) Election Commission Members must be present.
- 3. The Elections Supervisor shall order an immediate recount if the difference between two (2) or more candidates is five (5) 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.
- 4. 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.

Chapter 608: Monetary Requirements

608.1 Campaign Contributions and Expenses

- A. Campaign Contributions shall include but are not limited to:
 - 1. Indirect campaign materials (i.e.: staplers, paint brushes, hammers, shovels, printers, etc.). These items shall not be seen as Campaign Expenses and do not need to be listed on a candidate's Financial Statement.
 - 2. Donated material items that are used towards campaigning must be submitted as Campaign Expenses and claimed at full cost.



SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

- B. Campaign Expenses of candidates shall be limited to the following:
 - 1. A Presidential Ticket shall be limited to Three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500)
 - 2. Senate Candidates
 - a. Senate At-Large and the graduate seats (Seats 1-42) shall be limited to five hundred dollars (\$500) per candidate.
 - b. College Seats (Seats 43-52) shall be limited to five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per candidate.
 - 3. If candidates are affiliated with a party, costs can be split for campaign materials that support the entire group. Otherwise, items that individual candidates/ Parties use must be claimed at full cost.
 - 4. Reused campaign materials shall be claimed at 40% of fair market value. These items must be itemized under the List of expenses. Those who claim reused campaign materials must submit a receipt, with a date prior to the previous election dates.
- 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. Each candidate is responsible for claiming all Campaign Expenses while remaining within their respective monetary limits.

608.2 Financial Statements

Financial Statements shall be submitted by all candidates to the Elections Supervisor no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day following the conclusion of elections. Upon submission, Financial Statements become public record. <u>Financial Statements will be reviewed by the Elections Commission to ensure compliance with statutes.</u> Complete Financial Statements shall include:

A. List of Contributions



SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

An itemized list of all individuals and businesses who contributed any money or goods to a campaign along with the amount of money contributed and/or a list of contributed goods.

- B. List of Expenses
 - 1. This itemized list of all expenses must include a description of the good/service purchased and the full cost of each item.
 - 2. The list of expenses must also state the Total Campaign Cost.
- C. Copies of receipts and/or invoices proving purchase of all campaign expenses and gifts in kind.
- D. Campaign expenditures of a purely off-campus nature (e.g., off-campus announcement dinners) do not have to be claimed as expenses on the Financial Statements.

Chapter 609: Violations of the Election Code

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

Any offense that aims to cause a major effect on the outcome of an election, such as, but not limited to:

- 1. Tampering with election machinery
- 2. Casting multiple ballots
- 3. Falsification of facts or information
- 4. Intentionally causing another candidate to incur violations
- 5. Failure to submit a Candidate Expense Statement three (3) business days following any election



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SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

- 6. Knowingly spending over the maximum amount allowed
- 7. Spending two (2) percent or more over the expense limit
- 8. Intentionally failing to report applicable expenditures in an expense statement
- 9. Involvement with an effort to falsify the election in any way
- 10. Any other offense deemed inappropriate by the elections commission to the level that said individual acts in a way unbecoming of his/her desired office (i.e. conviction of a felony, discrimination etc.).
- 11. Five minor offenses shall constitute a major offense.

B. Minor Offenses

- 1. Any violation of the university guidelines document
- 2. Failure to submit a Candidate Expense Statement as written in this Statute
- 3. Minor miscalculation on an expense statement.
- 4. Any other violations of this Statute not deemed a Major offense.

609.2 Statute of Limitations

- A. The intent of the Statue of Limitations is to quickly address alleged violations of the code; not to overturn the vote of the students.
- B. Complaints under this Chapter must be submitted to the Chairperson of the EC, the Student Government Attorney General and the Student Government Student Advocate—in writing within two (2) business days following the election or be forever barred.
- C: The decision(s) reached by the Elections Commission may be appealed to the Judicial Council Judiciary within three (3) business days or forever be barred.



SENATE LEGISLATION SB-11SB-2539A

SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

D. The Judicial Council must consult with the University of North Florida's General Counsel on all election related matters, and the decision of the <u>Judicial Council Judiciary</u>-will be final.

609.3. Expense Violations

- A. Any offense related to the Candidate Expense Statement will be deemed an Expense Violation. Candidates committing Expense violations are subject to the review of the Elections Commission and will be assessed appropriate penalties.
- B. Candidates and Parties are responsible for all Campaign Expenses made on their behalf.
- C. It is the responsibility of all candidates to inquire about expenses and services made by persons, parties or organizations on their behalf.

609.4 Campaign Violations

- A. Any offense of the Election Code or the Campaign Guidelines Document will be deemed a Campaign Violation. Candidates committing campaign violations are subject to the review of the Elections Commission and will be assessed appropriate penalties.
- B. Candidates and Parties are responsible for the actions of other individuals and organizations acting on behalf of the candidate or party, and may be subject to review by the Elections Commission for these actions.
- C. It is the responsibility of all candidates to inquire about actions performed by persons, parties or organizations on their behalf.

609.5. 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 Attorney General, Student Government Student Advocate and the Chairperson of the Elections Commission in accordance with the Statute of Limitations.
- B. The Chief Justice will review each filed complaint and determine its their validity. If the Chief Justice finds a filed complaint to have validity the Judicial Council shall hear the complaint and determine the appropriate sanction. The



SENATE LEGISLATION SB-11SB-2539A

SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

Judicial Council may assess minor and/or major violations. All decisions rendered by the Judicial Council shall be final.

- C. The Chairperson of the EC will hold a meeting of the Elections Commission within three (3) business days after the Statute of Limitations has past. All rulings on complaints will be made at this meeting by majority vote of the commission, excluding any members directly involved in the complaint. The student filing the complaint shall present to the committee, and all involved parties may be present to speak on their own behalf.
- D. The Attorney General shall prosecute all violators of the Election Code,
- E. All decisions of the Elections Commission are subject to appeal to the Student Government Judicial Council, whose decision shall be final.

609.6 Penalties

- A. Persons found to have committed any major violations must be disqualified from the election and/or removed from office, as is appropriate.
- B. Five minor violations shall constitute a major violation.
- C. Due to the fact that Financial Statements are due on the first day immediately following on the elections, failure to submit a Candidate Expense Statement no later than 5:00 PM will result in the Elections Supervisor filing a complaint to the Judicial Council. on the first (1st) business day following any election shall incur a Minor Violation, a second Minor Violation on the second (2nd) business day, and a Major Violation on the third (3rd) business day following an election. Late submissions must be reviewed by the Elections Commission for approval.

Chapter 610: Invalidation

- 610.1 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.
- 610.2 The Elections Supervisor may invalidate the election at any time prior to the release of election results with a two-thirds vote of the Elections Commission.



SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

- Other students may call for invalidation of the election within twenty-four (24) hours of the end of the election. Such students must file their written complaint to the Elections Supervisor, the Student Government Attorney General, and the Student Advocate. It will then be investigated and brought before the Elections Commission within three (3) business days from the end of the election for a decision.
- 610.4 The decision(s) reached by the Elections Commission may be appealed to the Judiciary within two (2) business days or forever be barred.
- 610.5 The Elections Commission must deny all invalidation complaints before the Senate can validate the election. The chairperson of the Elections Commission must report the decision to invalidate to the Senate before they vote to validate the election. Any current senators 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.
- 610.6 Referenda can be invalidated by the same process but separately from a general or inner-collegiate election.
- 610.7 Following posting of the results, official or unofficial, no more complaints calling for invalidation of the election will be accepted.
- 610.8 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 the approval of the Elections Commission. 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.

Chapter 611: Assuming Office

- 611.1 Announcement of Election Results
 - A. The Elections Supervisor must release "unofficial" results within two (2) business days after the end of the election, as long as results are available. In the event that they are unavailable within two (2) business days of the election, the Elections Supervisor must release the results as soon as they are available.



SENATE LEGISLATION SB-11SB-2539A

SB-11SB-2539A: Title VI Revisions of 2011

- B. Election results must be sealed from view until unofficial publication. The Elections Supervisor, the Elections Commissioner, and the Attorney General may view the results after the polls close on the final day of the election. Official election results can be neither posted nor disclosed to any other parties until complaints or charges calling to invalidate the election have been resolved by the Senate.
- C. At the next Senate meeting, the Senate must vote on validation of the election. The election can only be validated if a majority of Senators present at the meeting vote "yes" on the bill to validate the election. The Elections Supervisor shall then 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.
- E. The Elections Supervisor, the Chairperson of the Elections Commission, or the Attorney General shall not disclose election results, either partial or full, before official publication.

611.2 Certificates of Election

- A. Certificates of Election shall be issued to candidates upon validation of the election.
- B. Certificates of Election shall be of a form prescribed by the Elections Supervisor.
- C. The Student Government President and the Elections Supervisor must sign the Certificate of Election to certify the candidate's proper election.

611.3 Installation

The Installation process shall begin within five (5) business days of the last day of any election. Candidates with the most votes shall assume all abilities and responsibilities of office when and only when, in accordance with specifications of this title and in this order:

A. A bill to validate the election is posted by the Election Supervisor,



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2	В	. The bill	to validate the election is passed,		
4 5	C	And eacl	n Elected Candidate is sworn into office.		
6 7 8 9		anot	ted candidates shall be sworn into office by the Chief Justice or her member of the Judicial Council as designated by the Chief ce, using the following oath:		
9 10 11 12 13 14 15		(Title Cons Flori	name of Individual), do hereby affirm to uphold the office of e), and to abide by the laws of the United States of America, the stitution of the Student Government of The University of North da, and to represent the Student Body to the best of my ability, so me God."		
18 19 20 21		Sena the assur	ted senatorial candidates shall be sworn into office at the first te meeting following the <u>validation of the</u> election. They will take both of office immediately after validation of the election and me the duties and responsibilities prescribed for the office. dents- and Vice Presidents-elect will be sworn in as dictated by III.		
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29 30	Furthermore: Let it be enacted, by the University of North Florida Student Government that the proposed revisions to Title VI be made effective immediately.				
	Sena	ite Action	Executive Action		

Respectfully Submitted: Elections and Appointments Committee

Introduced by: Brittany Stromquist

Senate Action: Unanimous Consent

Date: September/26th, 2011

Signed, Carlo Fassi

Carlo Fassi, Student Senate President

PASSED VETOED / LINE-ITEM VETOED on this day of Seed 2011.
Signed, Matthew Brockelman

Matthew Brockelman, Student Body President