

9-29-2017

Senate Bill CR-17F-3226: Constitutional Revision Committee Amendments to Article V

Student Government Association University of North Florida

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Student
Government
University of North Florida

SENATE LEGISLATION

CR-17F-3226

CR-17F-3226: Constitutional Revision Committee Amendments to Article V

- Whereas: The Student Government of the University of North Florida was established to represent student concerns in all University wide matters, and;
- Whereas: The 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;
- Whereas: The Student Government Constitution has inconsistent formatting;
- Whereas: The current formatting of the Student Government Constitution wastes space;
- Whereas: The Student Government Constitution unnecessarily repeats information;
- Whereas: The Florida Oath of Office allows individuals to omit "so help me God" from the oath of office;
- Whereas: The Student Government Constitution is subservient to the First Amendment in the United States Constitution;
- Therefore: The following necessary and proper revision to the Student Government Constitution is being proposed in order to ensure consistent formatting, decrease the size of the document, eliminate repetitions, and clarify language.



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ARTICLE V: ELECTIONS

Section 1: Organization

- A. There shall be an Office of Elections responsible for the unbiased production and maintenance of all Student Government elections.
- B. The leadership of the office of Elections shall consist of an Elections Commissioner whose qualifications, purpose, and duties shall be prescribed by law.

Section 2: Eligible Voters

- A. 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.
- B. All Students paying A&S fees to the University of North Florida shall be eligible to vote for Senatorial Seats one (1) through forty (40).
- C. Student Government will enact no law to this section which adds any additional eligibility criteria or law which unfairly hinders a registered student's right to vote.

Section 3: Candidacy

- A. To qualify as a candidate for Student Government Presidential/Vice Presidential elective office or Senatorial elective office, one must:
 - 1. Be an ~~Activity and Service~~ A&S Fee paying student
 - 2. Be enrolled in at least one (1) class during the semester in which the election is taking place.
 - 3. Currently hold a 2.5 institutional grade point average or higher, and not be restricted from participation in Student Government by the University of North Florida's Student Conduct Office. A student is exempt from the GPA requirement if this is their first semester with the University.
 - 4. Be capable of fulfilling a full term. A student who is graduating at the end of the semester in which the election is taking place is not qualified for Student Government elective office.
 - 5. All Presidential/Vice Presidential candidates are required to run on a two person ticket, with a clear distinction of which office each individual is seeking.
- B. To qualify for Student Government Senatorial elective office, one must:



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1. Be an ~~Activity and Service A&S Fee~~ paying student
2. Be enrolled in at least one (1) class during the semester in which the election is taking place.
3. Currently hold a 2.5 institutional grade point average or higher, and not be restricted from participation in Student Government by the University of North Florida's Student Conduct Office. A student is exempt from the GPA requirement if this is their first semester with the University.
4. A student who is graduating at the end of the semester in which the election is taking place is not qualified for Student Government elective office.

Section 4: Types of Elections

- A. General Elections: Elections that will be held exactly once (1) during the fall and spring semesters for the purpose of determining which candidates will assume all Student Government elective offices, with the exception of any Special Election called pursuant to Section 4 of this article.
- B. Special Elections: All other elections which are not General Elections.

Section 5: Senatorial Elective Offices

- A. Seats one (1) through twenty (20) shall be at-large Senatorial Seats open for election during the fall General Election.
- B. Seats twenty-one (21) through forty (40) shall be at-large Senatorial Seats open for election during the spring General Election.
- C. The Student body may, upon written petition presented to the ~~Elections Commissioner~~ Chief Justice bearing the names, ~~student N numbers~~, and signatures of at least ten percent (10%) of the student body; call a Special Election for one, several, or all of the seats occupied by appointed Senators or left vacant by elected ones. This Special Election shall be held within twenty (20) business days from the date of the presentation.
- D. All further Senatorial election requirements and procedures shall be prescribed by law.

Section 6: Executive Elective Offices

- A. The Presidential/Vice-Presidential Election shall be held during the spring General Election.
- B. All further executive election requirements and procedures shall be prescribed by law.

B.

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Section 7: Validation

In the absence of a legitimate challenge to the validity of the entire General, or Special Elections, the Senate shall validate election results no later than ten (10) business days after the last day of the election if all appeals to ~~Supreme the Judicial Branch Court~~ have been resolved.

Section 8: Installation

A. The installation process shall begin at the next Senate meeting following the validation of either the General, or Special Elections results, as in accordance with Section 6 of this Article. Upon installation, elected officials shall assume all abilities and responsibilities of their respective office.

B. The swearing in of elected candidates must be held within fifteen (15) business days after the election has been validated by the Senate.

A. _____

B.C. _____ Elected candidates shall be sworn into office by the Chief Justice or another member of the ~~Supreme Judicial Branch Court~~ as designated by the Chief Justice, using the following oath:

"I (name of Individual), do hereby swear (or affirm) to uphold the office of (Title), and to abide by the laws of the United States of America, the Constitution of the Student Government of the University of North Florida, and to represent the student body to the best of my ability, so help me God."

D. If one affirms, they may omit the words, "so help me God."

Therefore: Let it be enacted that the following changes to Article V be made effective immediately upon passage by the Student Body and validation of the Fall Student Government elections.

Legislative Action

Author: Constitution Revision Committee
Sponsor: Senator Pluchon
Senate Action: Unanimous Consent
Date of Senate Action: September 29, 2017

Signed and Delivered to the Office of Elections
on this 6th day of October 2017

Place Time Stamp Here

Signed: _____
Thomas Beaucham, Student Senate President

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