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Legislation

Student Government

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10-5-2020

## **CR-20F-3520: Constitution Revision Committee Amendments to Article V**

Student Government Association University of North Florida

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# SENATE LEGISLATION

## CR-20F-3520

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- 1   Whereas:  
2   The Student Government of the University of North Florida was established to represent  
3   student concerns in all University wide matters, and;  
4   Whereas:  
5   The Senate is the legislative body of the University of North Florida's Student Government given  
6   the responsibility of carrying out such legislative acts that are necessary and proper for the  
7   Student Body of the University of North Florida; and;  
8   Whereas:  
9   The Student Government constitution requires additional clarification on the requirements  
10   needed in order to run for a Senate, or executive position; and;  
11  
12   Whereas:  
13   These changes provide transparency as to what is expected of students that seek to run for  
14   elected positions within Student Government; and;  
15  
16   Whereas:     Senate meetings are now held on Friday afternoons instead of Monday nights; and;  
17  
18   Whereas:     The Student Government constitution does not provide enough time to allow the Senate body  
19   to validate an election with the exception of an emergency meeting; and;  
20  
21   Whereas:     This change to the constitution would update the document in accordance with the new schedule  
22   of the senate and again provide transparency and consistency to the process, allowing students  
23   to have better expectations and a better understanding of organizational procedures within  
24   Student Government.  
25   Therefore:  
26   The following necessary and proper revision to the Student Government Constitution is being  
27   proposed to provide a clearer understanding of necessary procedures required in order to  
28   participate in and conduct elections in the Student Government.  
29  
30

## ARTICLE V: ELECTIONS

### Section 1: Organization

- 34   A. There shall be an Office of Elections responsible for the unbiased production and maintenance  
35   of all Student Government elections.  
36  
37   B. The leadership of the office of Elections shall consist of an Elections Commissioner whose  
38   qualifications, purpose, and duties shall be prescribed by law.  
39

### Section 2: Eligible Voters



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42  
43A. Every student currently registered and paying A&S Fees to the University of North Florida shall be  
44 entitled to vote in all General and Special Elections.

45  
46B. All Students paying A&S fees to the University of North Florida shall be eligible to vote for Senatorial  
47 Seats one (1) through forty (40).

48  
49C. Student Government will enact no law to this section which adds any additional eligibility criteria  
50 or law which unfairly hinders a registered student's right to vote.

51  
52 **Section 3: Candidacy**

53  
54A. To qualify as a candidate for Student Government Presidential/Vice Presidential elective office and or  
55 Senatorial elective office, one must:

56  
571. Be an A&S Fee paying student

58  
592. Be enrolled in at least one (1) class during the semester in which the election is taking place.

60  
613. Currently hold a 2.5 institutional grade point average or higher, and not be restricted from participation  
62 in Student Government by the University of North Florida's Student Conduct Office. A student is exempt  
63 from the GPA requirement if this is their first semester with the University,

64  
654. Be capable of fulfilling a full term.

665.  
676. A student who is graduating at the end of the semester in which the election is taking place is not  
68 qualified for Student Government elective office.

69  
70 Exclusive qualifications for Student Government Presidential/Vice Presidential elective office one  
71 must run on a two-person ticket, with a clear distinction of which office each individual is seeking.

72  
73 Be capable of fulfilling a full term. A student who is graduating at the  
74 end of the semester in which the election is taking place is not qualified for Student  
75 Government elective office.

76  
77 All Presidential/Vice Presidential candidates are required to run on a two person ticket, with  
78 a clear distinction of which office each individual is seeking.

79  
80 To qualify for Student Government Senatorial elective office, one must:

81  
82 Be an A&S Fee paying student

83  
84 Be enrolled in at least one (1) class during the semester in which the election is taking place.

85  
86 Currently hold a 2.5 institutional grade point average or higher, and not be restricted from

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87 ~~participation in Student Government by the University of North Florida's Student Conduct~~  
88 ~~Office. A student is exempt from the GPA requirement if this is their first semester with the~~  
89 ~~University.~~

90  
91 A student who is graduating at the end of the semester in which the election is taking place is not  
92 qualified for Student Government elective office.

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#### 93 94 Section 4: Types of Elections

95  
96 General Elections: Elections that will be held exactly once (1) during the fall and spring semesters  
97 for the purpose of determining which candidates will assume all Student Government elective offices,  
98 with the exception of any Special Election called pursuant to Section 4 of this article.

99  
100 Special Elections: All other elections which are not General Elections.

#### 101 102 Section 5: Senatorial Elective Offices

103  
104A. Seats one (1) through twenty (20) shall be at-large Senatorial Seats open for election during the fall  
105 General Election.

106  
107B. Seats twenty-one (21) through forty (40) shall be at-large Senatorial Seats open for election during the  
108 spring General Election.

109  
110C. The Student body may, upon written petition presented to the Elections Commissioner bearing the  
111 names, student numbers, and signatures of at least ten percent (10%) of the student body call a  
112 Special Election for one, several, or all of the seats occupied by appointed Senators or left vacant by  
113 elected ones. This Special Election shall be held within twenty (20) business days from the date of the  
114 presentation.

115  
116D. All further Senatorial election requirements and procedures shall be prescribed by law.

#### 117 118 Section 6: Executive Elective Offices

119  
120A. The Presidential/Vice-Presidential Election shall be held during the spring General Election.

121  
122B. All further executive election requirements and procedures shall be prescribed by law.

#### 123 124 Section 7: Validation

125  
126 In the absence of a legitimate challenge to the validity of the entire General, or Special Elections, the  
127 Senate shall validate election results no later than twelveen (12~~0~~) business days after the last day of  
128 the election if all appeals to the Judicial Branch have been resolved.

#### 129 130 Section 8: Installation



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131  
132A. The installation process shall begin at the next Senate meeting following the validation of  
133 either the General, or Special Elections results, as in accordance with Section 6 of this Article. Upon  
134 installation, elected officials shall assume all abilities and responsibilities of their respective office.

135  
136B. The swearing in of elected candidates must be held within fifteen (15) business days after the election  
137 has been validated by the Senate.  
138

139C. Elected candidates shall be sworn into office by the Chief Justice or another member of the Judicial  
140 Branch as designated by the Chief Justice, using the following oath:

141  
142 "I (name of Individual), do hereby swear (or affirm) to uphold the office of (Title), and to  
143 abide by the laws of the United States of America, the Constitution of the Student  
144 Government of the University of North Florida, and to represent the student body to the  
145 best of my ability, so help me God."  
146

147 D. If one affirms, they may omit the words, "so help me God."  
148  
149

150 **Therefore:**

151 Let it be enacted that the following changes to Article V of the Student Government  
152 constitution be made effective immediately upon passage by the Student Body and  
153 validation of the fall Student Government elections.  
154

### Legislative Action

Author: Constitution Revision Committee  
Sponsor: Thatcher Hart  
Committee: R30  
Committee Action: 5-70  
Date of Committee Action: 9/25/20  
Senate Action: 17-0-0  
Date of Senate Action: 10/22/20

Signed and Delivered to the Office of Elections  
on this 5 day of Oct, 20.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Rachel Saunders, Student Senate President*

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