7-27-2016

Senate Bill SB-16SB-3017: Altering the Election Code

Student Government Association University of North Florida

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unf.edu/sgaleg

Suggested Citation
Legislation. 2810.
http://digitalcommons.unf.edu/sgaleg/2810

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Government at UNF Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Legislation by an authorized administrator of UNF Digital Commons.
For more information, please contact Digital Projects.
© 7-27-2016 All Rights Reserved
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: Voting and the Statutes governing Student Government elections at the University of North Florida should be held to the highest democratic standard possible and the existence of a select-all button is exclusive and unbecoming of an institution which strives to promote diversity in its Student Government, and;

Whereas: The Election Code should reflect the true duties of the Elections Commissioner, in that they report to the Senate and the Government Oversight Committee.

Therefore: This bill has been created to amend the elections process to become more inclusive of the entire student body, as well as to change the wording of the formation of the Office of Elections.

TITLE VI: THE ELECTION CODE

Chapter 601: The Office of Elections

601.1 Formation

A. There shall be an Office of Elections responsible for the production and maintenance of all Student Government Elections.

B. The Office of Elections shall be an independent office of Student Government set apart from any one branch and free from political pressures of government and having no reporting duties to, or oversight from, any officer of any branch and free from political pressures.

601.2 Purpose

A. The purpose of this office shall be to conduct the unbiased service of upholding the democratic process through elections.

601.3 Leadership

The leadership of the Office of Elections shall consist of:
SB-16SB-3017: Altering the Election Code

A. The Elections Commissioner, who must:
   1. Be appointed by the Student Government President, and;
   2. Be subject to confirmation by the Government Oversight Committee and the Senate requiring a majority vote, and;
   3. Serve a term of two (2) years and be subject to reconfirmation after the first year by majority vote of the Government Oversight Committee, and;
   4. Have the power to form Ad-Hoc committees, and;
   5. Be responsible for proposing changes to the Election Policies and Procedures to the Government Oversight Committee, when necessary, and;
   6. Shall report to the Senate, and to the Government Oversight Committee when requested;
   7. Make public an election timeline, containing all important dates, deadlines, and statutes of limitation prior to the start of each semester as they pertain to the upcoming General Election, and;
   8. File all witnessed and reported violations of the Election Code and Election Policies and Procedures as Judicial Complaints against the accused candidate(s) within the constraints of the Election Policies and Procedures, and;
   9. Update the Senate on matters concerning the Office of Elections.

Chapter 602: Elections Policies and Procedures

602.1 Creation

A. There shall be Election Policies and Procedures formed to govern the production and maintenance of Student Government elections, and;

B. They shall be formatted in such a way that they may be easily distributed to, and understood by, the Student Body, and;

C. The Election Policies and Procedures shall serve as an extension of statute, bearing full authority, and;
SB-16SB-3017: Altering the Election Code

D. The Election Policies and Procedures shall not appear in full within statute, and;

E. The Election Policies and Procedures shall be outlined within statute for the purposes of continuity and the establishment of principles held paramount to our elections process, and;

F. All policies and procedures dictated in statute may not be superseded by the Elections Policies and Procedures.

602.2 Purpose

A. The Election Policies and Procedures shall serve as the binding guidelines for both the Office of Elections and all prospective candidates for election.

B. The Election Policies and Procedures shall dictate the manner and scope in which this government does apply restriction, resolution, and restitution in all election related matters.

602.3 Election Code of Ethics

A. There shall be an Election Code of Ethics that all students involved with the system of elections must agree to uphold.

B. The Election Code of Ethics shall exist as an accord established between all individuals participating in the system of election and the Student Government Association, and furthermore, the Student Body.

C. An Election Code of Ethics shall be provided within the Election Policies and Procedures and shall include, but are not limited to, the following provisions:

1. No person shall physically, emotionally, or mentally abuse any other candidate, student, or university employee.

2. No person shall misrepresent any material fact(s) through any campaign material(s) or action(s).

3. No person shall misrepresent any campaign material(s) or action(s) as being the property or undertaking of any other candidate or political party organization.

4. No person shall condone or authorize the destruction or theft of any candidate’s or political party organization’s campaign material(s).
SB-16SB-3017: Altering the Election Code

5. No person shall commit written, printed, or verbal defamation.

6. Candidates and political party organizations are responsible for the actions of other individuals and/or organizations acting on their behalf at the direction of the candidate or political party organizations beyond a reasonable doubt.

602.4 Timeline

A. The Election Policies and Procedures shall maintain a section concerning election timelines.

B. Such a section shall contain, at a minimum, the following applicable provisions:

1. All General Elections, to be held once during the fall semester and once during the spring semester, shall be held between the eighth (8th) and the twelfth (12th) week of the semester.

2. All General Elections shall last for at least two (2) business days held in succession from the hours of 9:00AM to 7:00PM, at a minimum.

602.5 Candidacy

A. The Election Policies and Procedures shall maintain a section concerning candidates.

B. Such a section shall contain, at a minimum, the following applicable provisions:

1. Any student who meets the constitutional requirements for candidacy shall be able to avail themselves as a candidate for any election through the submission of a Candidate Declaration of Intent.

2. Candidate Declarations of Intent shall include:

   a. An agreement on the part of the candidate to abide by the Elections timeline published by the Elections Commissioner.

   b. An agreement on the part of the candidate to abide by and uphold the Election Code of Ethics.

   c. An agreement on the part of the candidate to submit a Candidate Financial Statement, as dictated under the Election Policies and Procedures.

   d. An agreement on the part of the candidate to indicate his or her chosen Student Government political party affiliation, whereas “Independent” is an option.
3. An agreement on the part of the candidate to the SG Authorization and Release form to allow for verification of records. Candidacy may be withdrawn up to the time the ballot may no longer be changed by presenting a written and signed Statement of Withdrawal to the Elections Commissioner.

C. The following Student Government Positions must resign from their office once they declare candidacy or obtain a position of leadership within a political party during an election season due to a conflict of interest:

1. Elections Commissioner
2. Attorney General
3. Student Advocate
4. Government Oversight Chairman
5. Supreme Court Justices

D. Members of the Government Oversight Committee must be removed from the committee by the Senate President once they declare candidacy.

602.6 Political Party Organizations

The Election Policies and Procedures shall maintain a section concerning political party organizations.

Such a section shall contain, at a minimum, the following applicable provisions:

1. Political party organizations may herein be known as PPOs.

2. PPOs shall be registered with the Office of Elections.
   a. PPOs shall need only file a Party Declaration of Intent containing the signatures of two (2) currently enrolled student members to become registered.
   b. PPOs shall, by registering with Student Government, agree to operate under the laws of Student Government.

3. PPOs shall select a chairperson.
   a. The two (2) currently enrolled student members must consent to place the name of the party
chairperson on the Party Declaration of Intent and verify it with their signatures.

4. PPOs shall be able to file joint campaign finance reports.

a. Political party organizations shall designate at the time of formation whether or not they intend to file a joint campaign finance report.

5. There shall be reasonable naming restrictions for PPOs.

6. The submission of a Declaration of Intent for a PPO shall render the party registered for a full year from the date of submission. Once an annual registration expires, a new Party Declaration of Intent must be filed.

7. The name of a PPO shall have a maximum life span of two (2) years at which point it shall be retired for two (2) years. The Elections Commissioner reserves the right to retire a PPO’s name early should their registration lapse.

a. This life span of two (2) years shall be constituted by any two (2) years, consecutive or nonconsecutive, within a four (4) consecutive year period beginning the semester of first registration.

b. Retired PPO names shall be kept on record by the Office of Elections.

c. Retired PPO names are afforded the same naming protections as active PPOs.

602.7 Campaigning

A. The Election Policies and Procedures shall maintain a section in regards to campaigning.

B. Such a section shall contain, at a minimum, the following applicable provisions:

1. There shall be restrictions on campaign signage location and duration of placement.

2. There shall be restrictions regarding the manner in which a person may campaign.

602.8 The Ballot

A. The Ballot shall serve as the vehicle for the democratic process, carrying the will of the Student Body on all Constitutional and statutorily granted affairs.
SB-16SB-3017: Altering the Election Code

B. The Election Policies and Procedures shall maintain a section concerning ballots.

C. Such a section shall contain, at a minimum, the following applicable provisions:

1. Each ballot produced for a Student Government election shall be created and formatted by the Office of Elections.

2. The final version of each ballot must be made public by the Elections Commissioner five (5) business days preceding the nearest upcoming election.

3. Absentee ballots shall be made available by the Office of Elections.

4. All proper Constitutional Referenda and Plebiscites shall be placed on the ballot.

5. Candidates affiliated with the same political party organization shall appear together in a grouping.

6. There shall be no select all option on the ballot that selects up to twenty (20) candidates from one party. Instead, voters must only have the ability to select candidates one at a time. Voters shall have the ability to select up to twenty (20) candidates within a single party with a select all box. This option shall be made available for each party on the ballot. If a party has more candidates than offices available that party will forfeit the select all option.

7. Candidates choosing to run as independents shall appear together in a grouping.

8. There shall be a presentation of all candidates' platforms to be available to the individual voter upon viewing of the ballot. Such platforms shall be regulated by the Election Policies and Procedures.

9. No changes shall be made to an election ballot within two (2) business days of the election.

10. Further format regulations may be established by the Elections Policies and Procedures if they do not conflict with those statutorily mandated.

602.9 Polls

A. The Election Policies and Procedures shall maintain a section concerning the polls.

B. Such a section shall contain, at a minimum, the following applicable provisions:

1. There shall be at least two (2) polling stations provided by Student Government made


**SENATE LEGISLATION**

**SB-16SB-3017**

**SB-16SB-3017: Altering the Election Code**

1. Available to the Student Body during an election.

2. A protected polling region shall exist surrounding all Student Government polling stations not to exceed seventy-five (75) feet within which all applicable Election Policies and Procedures shall be strictly monitored and enforced.

3. There shall be poll workers who meet the requirements dictated within the Election Policies and Procedures who are selected and overseen by the Elections Commissioner.

Therefore: Let it be enacted that these amendments to Title VI of the Student Government Constitution and Statutes be effective immediately.

**Legislative Action**

Author: Chairman Warren Butler

Sponsor: Chairman Warren Butler

Committee: Government Oversight

Committee Action: 5-0-0

Senate Action: 14-0-2

Date of Action: July 20th, 2016

Signed and Delivered to the Student Body President on this 27th day of July, 2016.

Signed: Dallas Burke, Student Senate President

**Executive Action**

Let it be known that SB-16SB-3017 is hereby APPROVED / VETOED on this 27th day of July, 2016.

Signed, [Signature]

Caleb Grantham, Student Body President

Signed and Delivered to the Senate Secretary

[Signature]

Dallas Burke, Student Senate President