



# PITZER COLLEGE

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## STUDENT SENATE

### ELECTIONS COMMITTEE BYLAW

**Approved April 30th, 2017**

**Enacted on May 14th, 2017**

#### **Article I: Name and Definitions**

- I. The official name of the committee under these Bylaws is the “Pitzer College Student Senate Elections Committee”, otherwise abbreviated as “Elections Committee”
- II. The term “election” shall refer to the the Fall election of the Student Senate, the Spring election of Student Senate, the Executive Board election, the General Election of Student Senate, and any other instance where members of the Student Senate are selected by votes cast by the student body of Pitzer College.
- III. The term “referendum” shall refer to any instance where the student body votes on whether to approve an amendment to the Pitzer College Student Senate Constitution passed by the Legislature.

#### **Article II: Purpose and Powers**

- I. The Elections Committee shall oversee and coordinate all Student Senate elections and referendums as delineated in the Pitzer College Student Senate Constitution and these Bylaws.
- II. The Elections Committee shall preserve impartiality, fairness, transparency, and accessibility in all Student Senate elections and referendums, and shall enforce these Bylaws in a manner consistent with the core values of Pitzer College.

#### **Article III: Membership**

- I. The Executive Board shall designate one of its members to serve as Chair of the Elections Committee.
  - A. If the currently designated Chair is running in the upcoming election, or is

- otherwise unable to act as chair, the Executive Board shall designate an eligible member to serve as chair.
- II. The Elections Committee shall additionally consist of the following members:
    - A. The Senior Class Representative.
    - B. The Senior Faculty Executive Committee Representative.
    - C. The Senior Appointments, Promotions, and Tenures Committee Representative.
    - D. One Member of the Legislature in their Senior Year, as appointed by the Executive Board.
    - E. One Member of the Judicial Council in their Senior Year, as appointed by the Executive Board.
  - III. No candidate in the next upcoming or ongoing Student Senate election may serve on the Elections Committee for the duration of the election.
    - A. If an Elections Committee member decides to run for a position after being appointed to the Elections Committee, they must resign immediately in writing to the Chair.
  - IV. If the Elections Committee has less than six members, including the Chair, then the Executive Board may appoint Members of the Legislature in their Senior Year until the Elections Committee has six members.
    - A. If no Members of the Legislature in their Senior Year are available, then the Executive Board may appoint Members of the Legislature from other years, given that the chosen Members of the Legislature do not violate any other requirement to serve on the Elections Committee.
  - V. No member of the Elections Committee shall endorse or collaborate with any candidate in an ongoing Student Senate election.
    - A. If an Elections Committee member chooses to endorse or collaborates with a candidate after being appointed to the Elections Committee, they must resign immediately in writing to the Chair.
    - B. Any public statement in support of a candidate's campaign, including any support for the candidate's campaign on social media, shall qualify as an endorsement for the purposes of this article.
    - C. Discussion of campaign strategies with a candidate, distribution of a candidate's campaign material, and logistical support for any aspect of the candidate's campaign shall be considered collaboration for the purposes of this article.
  - VI. If the advice and support of the entire Elections Committee is unnecessary in a specific election, then the Elections Committee may vote to empower the Chair to carry out all duties of the Elections Committee as delineated by these Bylaws.

- A. If the the Chair becomes ineligible to serve as Chair of the Elections Committee at any point during an election, then they must relinquish this power immediately.
  - B. This Section may not be applied to the Executive Board election or the General Election.
- VII. The Associate Dean of Students for Campus Life shall be the advisor of the Elections Committee.

**Article IV: Quorum and Voting**

- I. The Chair of the Elections Committee shall be a nonvoting member, except in the case of a tie.
- II. All other student members of the Elections Committee shall be voting members.
- III. A vote by a simple majority of those present shall be necessary to pass any motion requiring a vote.
- IV. The presence of the Chair, and four voting members of the Elections Committee shall be referred to as quorum.
  - A. Members may be considered “present” if they are present in person, or if they are in direct communication with other members via telephone, video call, or group messaging service.
- V. Quorum shall be required to perform any duties that require a vote by the Elections Committee.

**Article V: Regulations**

- I. All candidates must comply with all election rules as established in the Student Senate Constitution.
- II. No student or candidate may spread false information or intentionally slander another candidate or member of the student government.
- III. No student or candidate shall encourage others to spread false information or intentionally slander another candidate or member of the student government.
- IV. No student or candidate may interfere or tamper with ballots in any way that might serve to benefit or disadvantage any candidate.
- V. No candidate may vote multiple times or engage in election rigging of any sort.
- VI. No student or candidate may personally remove or deface Student Senate campaign materials. Any possible violations should instead be reported to the chair and committee.
- VII. No student or candidate may intimidate, bully, coerce, pressure, or otherwise harass any other student or candidate in relation to an ongoing election.
- VIII. No student or candidate shall embezzle funds or improperly use funds to finance their campaign or any other candidates campaign, including accepting inappropriate monetary or material donations.
- IX. No student or candidate may in any way bribe or improperly influence another student or candidate in relation to an ongoing election.
- X. No candidate may conduct themselves in a manner that is intentionally inconsistent with the core values of Pitzer College and the professional standards

- of the Student Senate.
- XI. No candidate may violate Pitzer College Policy.
  - XII. No candidate may use any official Pitzer College Student Senate email to campaign for themselves or any other candidate or discuss their respective candidacies.
  - XIII. All candidates must comply with sanctions issued by the Elections Committee, so long as those sanctions remain in effect.

#### **Article VI: Sanctions**

- I. The Elections Committee may impose sanctions against any candidate who violates the regulations listed above.
- II. The Elections Committee shall investigate any reported violation.
- III. The Elections Committee shall oversee the election and investigate any potential violation.
- IV. Following the investigation of any potential violation, the Elections Committee shall vote on whether to impose sanctions.
- V. The Elections Committee may impose the following sanctions:
  - A. The candidate may be disqualified from the election.
  - B. The candidate may be required to remove any campaign materials pertaining to the violation.
  - C. The candidate may be required to remove all campaign materials.
  - D. The candidate may be required to not post any additional campaign materials.
  - E. The candidates campaign funding may be frozen.
  - F. The candidate may be required to issue a public apology for their violation.
  - G. The candidate may have their personal statement struck from the ballot.
- VI. The Chair of the Elections Committee shall publicly post any sanctions issued, including the name of the candidate to which the sanctions have been applied.
  - A. If the sanction is overturned, the Chair of the Elections Committee shall publicly post that the sanction has been overturned, unless the candidate requests otherwise, in which case the post concerning the sanction shall be removed.
- VII. A candidate may appeal any sanctions imposed by the Elections Committee to the Adjudication Board.
  - A. The Executive Board shall not have the authority to review any adjudication case emerging from these Bylaws.
- VIII. If sanctions are overturned, the Elections Committee may not impose the same sanction for the same violation on the same candidate.

#### **Article VII: Applications and Ballots for Elections**

- I. No student shall campaign as a candidate for any Student Senate position until they have submitted an application to run for that position.

- A. Public inquiry into whether or not to run for a position, as well as public inquiry into the nature of a position, prior to the submission of an application shall not be considered a violation of this section.
  - II. The application form shall include a description of the duties and powers of each position.
    - A. This description shall include, but shall not be limited to, the duties and powers of the position as described by the current Student Senate Constitution.
  - III. Applicants for any elected position shall submit a statement, to be posted on the ballot, along with their application.
    - A. The statement shall not include more than one thousand words.
    - B. The ballot statement shall not contain any language which violates the regulations of Article V of these Bylaws or any policy of Pitzer College.
    - C. If the ballot statement fails to meet any of these standards, the Elections Committee may vote to not post any statement on the ballot for that candidate.
    - D. The ballot statement shall be posted publicly as soon as it has been submitted and approved.
      - 1. Ballot statements shall be posted in the order that they were submitted.
  - IV. The ballot shall be made accessible to to all students who are eligible to vote in the election, as defined by the Student Senate Constitution.
    - A. Students shall have the option to vote for any candidate for which they are eligible to vote.
    - B. Students shall have the option to not vote for any candidate for any position contested on the ballot.
    - C. Ballot statements shall be posted on the ballot in the order that they were submitted.
    - D. The order in which candidates are listed for the purpose of voting shall be the same as the order in which their ballot statements are listed.

**Article VIII: Election Procedures**

- I. The Elections Committee shall determine the timeline for every election, in compliance with the Student Senate Constitution.
  - A. The schedule for any election must be finalized and published at least two weeks before the application is opened.
  - B. The schedule shall include the dates and times at which the application is opened, the application is closed, the ballot is opened, and the ballot is closed.
  - C. The application shall be open for at least a five day period which shall conclude no earlier than three days before the ballot is opened.
  - D. The ballot shall be open for at least twenty-four hours.
    - 1. This time period may not coincide with any official recess of the Pitzer College Academic Calendar.
- II. The Chair of the Elections Committee shall publicize the application and the

- ballot, and shall otherwise work to ensure a high rate of student participation in the electoral process.
- III. The Chair of the Elections Committee shall publicly announce the results of any election within twenty-four hours of the time the ballot closes.
    - A. Results shall be announced via an email sent to all students.
    - B. Results shall be posted on the Student Senate website
    - C. Results shall include the precise number of votes cast for each individual candidate, and shall clearly indicate which candidate has been elected.
  - IV. No member of the Elections Committee, or of Student Senate, may release (publicly or privately) sensitive election or ballot information unless the Chair and Committee has explicitly authorized it.
    - A. Sensitive information shall include, but shall not be limited to, contact information and IP addresses of candidates, information regarding the number of ballots cast for any candidate before the ballot is closed, and the status of any ongoing investigation of any candidate.

#### **Article IX: Referendum Ballots and Procedures**

- I. The Elections Committee shall release the ballot for the referendum no more than two weeks after the bill to amend the Constitution is passed by the Legislature.
  - A. The ballot shall be made accessible to all currently enrolled Pitzer College Students.
  - B. The ballot shall remain open for at least twenty-four hours.
    1. This time period may not coincide with any official recess of the Pitzer College Academic Calendar.
- II. The ballot for any referendum shall clearly state the nature of the amendments proposed.
  - A. The ballot shall include the precise alterations to the Student Senate Constitution proposed by the Constitutional Amendment.
  - B. The ballot shall include a link to the the current language of the Pitzer College Student Senate Constitution, or shall otherwise make the Constitution available to students.
- III. If the ballot contains multiple proposed Constitutional Amendments, or if referendums and elections are presented as a single ballot, then students shall have the options to not vote for or against each particular Constitutional Amendment.
- IV. The Chair of the Elections Committee shall publicly announce the results of any referendum within twenty-four hours of the time the ballot closes.
  - A. Results shall be announced via an email sent to all students.
  - B. Results shall be posted on the Student Senate website
  - C. Results shall include the precise number of votes cast in favor of or in opposition to the Constitutional Amendment.

#### **Article X: Amendments**

- I. An amendment to these bylaws shall be proposed to the Legislature as a bill.
- II. The amendment shall go into effect immediately upon its approval by the

Legislature.

**Article XI: Adoption and Enactment**

- I. These Bylaws shall be enacted once approved as a bill by the Student Senate.
- II. These Bylaws shall go into effect on May 14, 2017.