

Associated Student Government  
Election Rules

(A) General

(1) Election

(a) Appeals to ineligibility decisions.

- (i) All appeals of eligibility or ineligibility must be submitted in writing to the elections commissioner within two (2) working days following the candidates' meeting. The elections commissioner will not entertain anonymous appeals of eligibility or ineligibility.
- (ii) The commissioner's decision may be appealed to the judicial branch within five (5) working days following said decision.

(b) Order of events up to and including the election

- (i) The following is the order of events that should occur up to and including the election
  - a)* Open election positions are advertised.
  - b)* Open house is held and application packets are made available.
  - c)* Deadline for candidates to submit application packets
  - d)* Candidate's meeting is held. The names of those running for office will be announced and campaigns will be permitted to begin.
  - e)* Deadline for submission of petitions with required number of eligible signatures. Signatures may be collected during a member's campaign.
  - f)* Notification of each candidate stating whether he or she will be placed on the ballot. Approval for a candidate to be placed on a ballot requires validation of application packet and petition.
  - g)* Commencement of elections.

(c) Application and petition instructions.

- (i) Each candidate may seek and/or be elected to only one (1) "ASG" position as listed in paragraph (B)(5)(d) of the "ASG" constitution.

- (ii) Applications are to be made on an individual basis and must bear the signature of the candidate. President/vice president candidates must run as a ticket and submit separate applications.
  - (iii) The printed names of petitioners as well as student ID numbers must be clearly legible and must be accompanied by the signature of petitioners in order for names to count towards the total needed.
  - (iv) College senate representative candidates must compile a petition of 100 eligible signatures in order to be placed on the ballot. Signatures considered eligible are to be from those undergraduate students considered eligible voters who are currently enrolled at the University of Akron.
    - (a) Eligible voters that can sign a petition for any at-large senator are those undergraduate students currently enrolled at the university of Akron. Eligible voters that can sign a petition for a college senator are those undergraduate students currently enrolled in the same college as the college senator running for office.
  - (v) At large one (1) year senate must compile a petition of 100 eligible signatures in order to be placed on the ballot.
  - (vi) At large two (2) year senate must compile a petition of 200 eligible signatures in order to be placed on the ballot.
  - (vii) The presidential and vice presidential ticket must compile a petition of 300 unique eligible signatures in order to be placed on the ballot.
  - (viii) All applications and petitions must be correctly and completely filled out or will not be accepted for consideration by the election commissioner.
  - (ix) All applications and petitions must be submitted to the stated location by the posted deadline. Late applications will not be accepted.
  - (x) All applications will remain confidential, and the names of potential candidates will not be released until the official candidates' meeting.
- (d) Candidates' meeting.

- (i) There is a mandatory meeting for all eligible candidates. The purpose of this meeting is to review campaign rules, review elections procedures and to answer any questions that the candidates might have. If a candidate is not able to attend the candidate's meeting, a written excuse must be submitted to the elections commissioner at least 24 hours before the posted meeting time.
  - (ii) Any candidate who does not attend the candidates' meeting will be subject to disqualification at the discretion of the election commissioner.
  - (iii) There will be no campaigning allowed prior to the candidates' meeting. Campaigning is defined by the elections commission as any activity promoting the candidacy of any party through any means whatsoever including but not limited to the posting of print materials, the distribution of campaign literature, the dissemination of materials promoting internet web site(s), promoting a party's candidacy by either conventional or electronic means to students of the university, and otherwise promoting a party's candidacy en masse.
  - (iv) Each candidate is required to handout an election staff compliance statement to all staff giving aid to his or her campaign. The candidate's staff is to read the guidelines, sign, and adhere to the rules set forth by the election commissioners to the candidates and staff. The election staff compliance statement is to be turned in with the petition signatures.
- (e) Campaign rules and guidelines.
- (i) All candidates must follow the guidelines of each building on campus in which the candidate is campaigning. Guidelines can be obtained from the building coordinator of each facility.
  - (ii) All campaign material is expected to be fair and in good taste. All campaign materials (e.g., flyers, posters, electronic advertisements and advertisements in the newspaper) must follow the guidelines set forth in the elections packet. All materials must clearly state that the candidate is seeking election to "ASG" as well as stating the specific position sought.

- (iii) The use of the “ASG” logo and/or the use of the university of Akron copyrighted symbols (e.g., zippy, the university of Akron seal, etc.) on campaign material is forbidden.
- (iv) There shall be no campaign material placed in or on the trees of the university of Akron property.
- (v) Writing or postings of any kind on university of Akron property by candidates and their staffs, with the exception of chalkboards, whiteboards and “The Rock” in front of Crouse Hall, is strictly forbidden.
- (vi) Should a candidate wish to distribute campaign material that states or implies that another candidate or student group endorses and/or supports their campaign, the candidate must receive prior written permission of the endorser/supporter and must submit the endorsement/letter of support in writing to the elections commission prior to using said endorsement/letter of support in campaign materials.
  - (a) For the purpose of this document, endorsement is defined as supporting a candidate with financial compensation. Support is defined as recommending the candidate without financial compensation.
- (vii) No campaigning of any sort shall be allowed inside of university computer labs or public areas (such as libraries, information stations, or kiosks) with online capabilities during any time voting is being conducted. No one may support a candidate while using a portable electronic device to promote voting while voting is being conducted.
- (viii) Candidates are responsible for removal of their campaign materials within three (3) days of the election. If university maintenance is required to remove the materials the responsible candidate will be billed accordingly. The posting of campaign material in any campus buildings must be done during regularly scheduled building operating hours.
- (ix) Candidates will be permitted (and are encouraged) to use the official “URL” directing voters to the voting web site. Allowing the use of this “URL” shall not constitute endorsement of candidates by “ASG”.

- (x) No campaign activities shall be conducted within the office of “ASG” at anytime. Candidates and their staffs may not use “ASG” tangible or staff resources to conduct or facilitate campaign activities except as otherwise noted. Members of “ASG” are not permitted to wear campaign regalia expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate/ticket while working in an official “ASG” capacity (e.g. while serving office hours, manning the front desk, speaking to student organizations as a representative of “ASG”).
- (xi) Promoting illegal voting shall be strictly prohibited. An example of illegal voting includes voting for a senator position of a college in which the voter is not enrolled. Punishment will be at the discretion of the elections commissioner.
- (xii) Any violation of these campaign rules and guidelines as determined by the elections commissioner will result in the following:
  - (a) Campaign workers (staff members) in violation of these rules will be barred from any further campaigning in that election. If violation continues, the candidate for whom that worker is campaigning will be subject to disqualification.
  - (b) Any candidate who engages in the public defamation of another candidate as determined by the election commissioner will be subject to disqualification upon the first offense. Campaign workers (staff) engaging in said offense will be barred from any further campaigning in that election and the candidate for whom they are working may also be subject to disqualification as determined by the elections commissioner.
  - (c) Violations or questions thereof should be reported immediately in writing to the elections commissioner. There will be an official grievance form to serve as a guide when filing grievances to the elections commissioner. The elections commissioner will not entertain anonymous grievances against candidates.

- (xiii) Failure to comply with any of the aforementioned procedures may result in a candidate's disqualification at the discretion of the election commissioner.
  - (xiv) Decisions of the elections commissioner may be appealed to the judicial branch in accordance with paragraph (A)(1)(g) of the Elections Rules.
- (f) Election.
- (i) Application for fall first term elections will be made available at the commencement of the fall semester, and must be returned to the designated place no less than seven regular days prior to the candidates' meeting.
  - (ii) All applications and petitions must be validated and approved by the "ASG" secretary within five (5) working days after the stated deadline for turning in applications and petitions. Applicants for candidacy will be notified whether or not their names will be placed on the ballot.
  - (iii) Preference for appointment to non-college constituency shall be at the discretion of the senate chair.
  - (iv) If no undergraduate student runs for a college represented seat, the senate chair shall appoint an at-large senator to fill the vacancy.
  - (v) The election commissioner shall announce those colleges without a candidate that have been changed to at large positions. All candidates shall be notified of any changes in seats.
  - (vi) Elections will be held over the internet and will be facilitated by a web site to be designed by the elections commissioner in conjunction with the appropriate university resources.
  - (vii) Candidates' names shall appear as links that may be taken to the candidates' biographical pages, which shall be designed and maintained by the elections commissioner with the assistance of the candidates. Candidates must complete their online biographies by the date determined by the election commissioner. Electronic portraits will be

taken at the candidates' meeting and will be inserted into each candidate's biographical page.

- (viii) Voters must have a valid "UANET ID" and password in order to vote in the online election. (The "UANET ID" can be obtained at the computer center on Carroll Street.)
- (ix) No person shall be allowed to vote more than once. Voters may not vote for more than the number of one (1) year senate vacancies and the number of two (2) year senate vacancies.
- (x) Voters need not vote for all vacancies for any available position, nor must they vote for each and every position and/or ballot issue in order for their vote to count.
- (xi) No person shall cast a vote on behalf of another except as shall be required in order to facilitate voting for individuals with disabilities.
- (xii) The election commissioner shall monitor online voting to determine whether any breach of security has occurred and whether such breach has compromised the integrity of the election.
- (xiii) Online voting shall open and close at times to be announced by the elections commissioner at the candidates' meeting.
- (xiv) Should the university network become unavailable for a period of time greater than twenty percent (20%) of the total polling time, the elections commissioner shall invalidate the results of the election and shall reschedule the elections for one (1) week hence with the format of the election to be determined at the sole discretion of the elections commissioner. Should such unavailability of the network be due to the sabotage by any candidate or any candidate's campaign staff or agent, the elections commissioner shall disqualify that candidate and may allow the election to stand provided that the commissioner determines the election has not otherwise been compromised.
- (xv) The identity of any individual suspected of tampering with the online voting system or otherwise sabotaging or attempting to unduly influence the outcome of the election

by electronic means will be forwarded immediately by the elections commissioner to the appropriate university, local, state, and federal authorities.

- (xvi) The winners of the elected positions shall be those candidates that receive a plurality of the valid votes cast.
  - (xvii) Results of the election shall not be posted on the university web site prior to the results being announced to the candidates.
  - (xviii) Should the elections commissioner determine that the elections are unable to be held in an online format, then he/she shall implement another system of balloting to be used for that election. In the event that this occurs, any references in the election rules pertaining exclusively to online elections may be suspended upon direction of the elections commissioner.
- (g) Request for recount.
- (i) All requests for a recount must be submitted within two (2) working days following the election to the election commissioner. Anonymous complaints will not be considered by the election commissioner.
  - (ii) The commissioner's decision concerning recounts will be rendered as promptly as possible in writing to candidate(s) requests such action.
  - (iii) The commissioner's decision may be appealed to the judicial branch of "ASG" within five (5) working days following said decision.
- (g) Grievance procedure.
- (i) Grievances may be found online and must be typed and signed. All grievances must be time stamped in student union room 211 and filed in the chief justice "ASG" mailbox within two (2) working days of the conclusion of the election during regular "ASG" business hours from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Anonymous complaints and appeals will not be considered by the court.
  - (ii) Within three (3) working days of the grievance being filed, a hearing will be conducted consisting of the election

commissioner, chief justice, complainant and the accused. During this hearing the complainant will be asked to clarify the grievance and be given the opportunity to continue the proceedings upon his/her agreement.

- (iii) Within three (3) working days the judicial branch will hold a closed meeting to conduct the “vote of four.” The vote of four shall be conducted as it is defined by the judicial branch case procedures. The vote determines whether there is any evidence to support the claims made by the complainant.
  - (iv) If the grievance does not pass the vote, the complainant will be notified of the decision.
  - (v) After the passing of the grievance, there will be notification sent out three (3) working days prior to the hearing via electronic response e-mail sent by the “ASG” secretary. The hearing will be no later than ten (10) working days after the vote has been conducted.
- (h) Trial procedure.
- (i) For each piece of evidence that will be used in the trial, a copy and/or the original piece of evidence must be submitted to the chief justice thirty-six (36) hours prior to the hearing.
  - (ii) For each witness that will be used in the trial, a witness deposition must be submitted to the chief justice thirty-six (36) hours prior to the hearing.
  - (iii) Any witness deposition or evidence not submitted properly will not be allowed to be referenced in the trial unless arrangements were previously made with the chief justice.
  - (iv) For the hearing to occur, the election commissioner, “ASG” faculty advisor, chief justice and no fewer than two (2) justices must be present for the duration of the hearing. Wherein the chief justice has any firsthand knowledge of the case pending, it is his duty to step down for the trial at hand and select a justice to preside over the court hearing.
  - (v) At the conclusion of the case the justices will go into a closed deliberation. The verdict must be decided by a vote of the majority of the Justices present. The court must

present a verdict in writing within three (3) working days. The verdict may be one of the following: responsible, not responsible, dismissal by lack of evidence.

- (vi) There must be an opinion of the majority of the court written, stating the justices reasoning and if there is a dissenting vote, there must also be a dissenting opinion written as to the reasoning.
  - (vii) The chief justice must write an opinion and the court must submit the opinions in writing to the “ASG” secretary within seven (7) days of the hearing.
  - (viii) Should the judicial branch determine that violations of university policies or local, state, or federal laws may have occurred (election rules and the “ASG” constitution shall not be considered as “university policies” for the purpose of this article), it shall forward the matter to the office of leadership and development for a determination of fact. Should the office of leadership and development or another prevailing authority determine that such a violation has occurred, the judicial branch shall reconsider the matter under such resumption and shall render a decision on said appeal.
  - (ix) The judicial branch shall furnish the election commissioner with a copy of its decision.
  - (x) All appeals and supporting documentation shall be considered public records and shall be made available for inspection upon written request to the “Chief Justice, c/o Associated Student Government, The University of Akron, Student Union Room 133, Akron Ohio 44325-4606.”
- (i) Role of the elections commission.
- (i) The election commissioner is the official spokesperson for the elections. Any and all questions should be directed to the elections commissioner. In the event that the elections commissioner is unavailable or in the event that the position of election commissioner is vacant, questions regarding the election should be directed to the faculty advisor or “ASG”.
  - (ii) The elections commission shall be responsible for organizing, officiating, and promoting all “ASG” elections

and shall maintain records of all election procedures and results.

- (iii) The elections commission shall be responsible for the enforcement of the enacted election rules with ultimate adjustment of any enforcement actions subject to appeal to the judicial branch.
- (iv) No candidate for any popularly elected “ASG” position shall be a member of the elections commission during the semester in which the election for that office is held.