XI. ELECTION RULES
A. GENERAL INFORMATION
1. The Elections Commission shall be chaired by a member of the Dean of Students Office, who shall
either be any ranking Dean or the SGA Advisor. The chair shall be chosen within the Dean of
Students office, to be ratified by a majority vote of those present and voting of the Senate.
2. In order to be eligible to run for a position in the Student Government Association, each candidate
must fulfill the requirements stipulated in Section 203 of the Student Government Association By-
Laws.
3. All Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates must run as a ticket. If either the presidential
and/or vice presidential candidate does not meet the requirements, stated in Section 203 of the
Student Government Association By-laws, or cannot continue his/her candidacy, the remaining
eligible member of the ticket shall have twenty-four (24) to seventy-two (72) hours to pick a
replacement, and the Elections Commission shall have the discretion over the timeframe by which
the remaining eligible person can pick his/her replacement. Candidates for positions other than
President and Vice President must run as individuals.
   a. Should a Presidential or Vice Presidential candidate not be a member of the Student
Government Association for any period of time, they are ineligible to run.
   b. The Elections Commissioner will only see a new ticket comprised of at least one candidate
from a previously disqualified ticket.
4. Candidates for the position of Justice shall adhere to requirements stipulated for Senator-At Large
in Section 203 of the Student Government Association By-Laws.
5. All tickets shall be placed on the ballot according to the last name of the Presidential candidate. If
an unsuccessful ticket receives the minimum amount of votes for Senator-at-Large, the candidates
may choose to be elected to the position of Senator-at-Large.
6. Candidates running for the position of Senator-At-Large and Justice shall be listed on the ballot in
alphabetical order according to last name.
7. Any questions relating to the debates or advertising of the election shall be directed to the
Elections Commission.
   a. The question must be answered physically outside the SGA office.
8. Members of the Elections Commission shall not endorse any candidate, sign any petition,
campaign on behalf of any candidate, or campaign for or against any referendum. Any Elections
Commission member found doing so shall be immediately removed.
9. All members of the Elections Commission shall be graduating students in the spring semester of
the election except for the chair. The following people are prohibited from serving on the Debate
Commission:
   a. Any former President or Vice President whose counterpart (i.e. Vice President or
President) is eligible to run for the position of President or Vice President.
10. There shall be an odd number of members of the Elections Commission.
11. Each ticket may send one representative who is not a candidate in the Student Government
Association election or a member of the Student Government Association to witness the closing of
the voting polls.
12. The Elections Commission must submit and post on the SGA Door any and all minutes of
meetings.
   a. The Elections Commission will not allow a representative to witness the opening and
closing of the voting stations if they possess any means of electronic communication.
B. DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY
1. On a date specified by the Elections Commission, Candidates for President, Vice President,
Senators, and Justices must attend a meeting to declare their candidacy.
2. From the time of declaration, the Elections Commission will have three (3) business days to verify each candidate meets the requirements stated in Section 203 of the Student Government Association By-Laws.

C. CAMPAIGNING
1. The start of campaigning shall begin at 9:00am, three (3) business days after the annual declaration meeting.
2. There shall be no election discussion at any of Hofstra University’s computer labs or workstations or around the Student Government Association office as well as at any Student Government Association sponsored event, including but not limited to Senate, Cabinet, and Committee Meetings.
3. Publicity:
   a. No candidate, ticket, or endorsing group, individual, or department shall publicize prior to the start of campaigning. The Elections Commission may publicize prior to campaigning and during campaigning to advertise the election in general.
   b. Flyers may not be hung in off-campus business establishments under any circumstances.
   c. All mediums of campaigning must be in good taste and may not libel or slander another candidate, and/or destroy any campaign materials of another ticket.
   d. All flyers must, and may only be approved by the Office of Student Leadership and Activities, which shall keep a file of all approved flyers to which the Elections Commission may refer.
4. Finances:
   a. No candidate for the position of Senator-At-Large or Justice may personally spend more than $100.00 to finance his/her campaign. No candidate may accept donations totaling more than $100.00, notwithstanding The Chronicle advertisement referred to in item 6 of Section XI, subsection C of the Student Government Association Policy Series.
   b. No ticket may personally spend more than $500.00 to finance their combined campaign. No ticket may accept donations totaling more than $500.00, notwithstanding The Chronicle advertisement referred to in item 6 of Section XI, subsection C of the Student Government Association Policy Series.
   c. The fair market value of all items given or sold to prospective voters shall be included in the spending limits stipulated in a. and b. of item 5 under Section XI, subsection C of the Student Government Association Policy Series.
   d. Receipts must be kept for all purchases and must be submitted to the Elections Commission immediately following the end of voting. If a receipt is not produced, the fair market value, as determined by the Election Commission, shall be used in determining the prices of any items used in the campaign.
5. Ads may be placed in The Chronicle for a combination of up to two pages. The breakdown of these pages is at the discretion of the candidate or ticket.
6. Endorsements:
   a. Candidates may seek the endorsement of any group, department or individual on campus. Any financial endorsements are subject to the spending limits stipulated in sub-sub-sub sections “a” and “b” of item 5 under Section XI, subsection C of the Student Government Association Policy Series.
   b. A Student Government Association club or organization may officially decide to endorse a ticket or candidate through a majority vote of the members present and voting, unless otherwise stipulated in said club or organization’s constitution. No candidate or ticket that does not have the official endorsement of a Student Government Association club or organization may use any of said club or organization’s resources.
i. The Elections Commission will give ticket endorsement forms to be completed by clubs to be submitted to the Elections Commission.

ii. Department heads must submit in writing official endorsements of tickets to the Elections Commission.

c. A Student Government Association club or organization may only donate income funds to any candidate or ticket. No funds generated from the Student Activities Fee may be used to support any candidate or ticket.

7. The use of unsolicited phone calls, text messages, e-mails, or any other forms of unsolicited online messages by candidates are strictly prohibited. If evidence is presented to the Elections Commission of this, the ticket shall be disqualified. Clubs may provide phone and e-mails lists if they are officially endorsing said candidate or ticket.

8. The use of online community websites or online messenger systems, including, but not limited to, facebook.com, myspace.com, and AOL Instant Messenger is allowed. Any messages sent or posted using these online community websites or messenger systems must be in good taste and not slander or libel any other candidate(s) or ticket(s).

9. Any candidates or supporters of candidates who send out anonymous, libelous or slanderous messages via AOL, MSN, or Yahoo Instant Messenger, myspace.com, facebook.com or any other means of communication may be subject to sanction from the Elections Commission. Candidates must therefore monitor their supporters and instruct them not to send such messages.

D. DEBATES
1. The Elections Commission shall organize two debates.
   a. The first debate shall be held on the first day of campaigning. It shall be in question/answer format and consist of pre-prepared questions voted on by two-thirds of the Elections Commission.
   b. The second debate shall be held the first day of voting, prior to the beginning of voting. It shall be a town hall style debate where students may ask questions at the discretion of the mediator.

2. Only members of the Elections Commission shall act as the mediators for all the debates.

3. The Elections Commission shall advertise one full week in advance of the debates.

E. ELECTIONS
1. Elections shall begin on the third Wednesday of classes of April at the conclusion of the second debate and shall conclude at 6:00 PM on the third Thursday of classes of April, as stipulated by Article II, section one, sub-section B of the Student Government Association Constitution.

2. Elections shall be done online through Hofstra University’s Blackboard website.
   a. No student may proxy his/her vote by giving another student his/her 700 number and/or password.

3. Voting Stations
   a. Voting stations shall be set up by the Election Commission in Memorial Hall and in the Student Center.
   b. The Election Commission, may, at its discretion, add additional voting stations subject to approval of Senate through a majority vote.
   c. No ticket or candidate may set up unofficial voting stations stipulated in item 3 of section XI, subsection C of the Student Government Association Policy Series.

4. The Elections Commission, Dean of Students Office, or Office of Student Leadership & Activities, with the exception of undergraduate assistants, shall be present at the official voting stations to enforce the rules set forth in section XI of the Student Government Association Policy Series. Failure to follow these rules shall result in disciplinary action.

5. A list of all official representatives shall be posted at all official voting stations are stipulated in Section XI subsection C.3 of the Student Government Association Policy Series for the public to see.
6. To obtain the position of Senator-At-Large the candidate must secure one hundred (100) votes. In the case where more senators have been elected than Senate seats available, the candidates receiving the highest votes shall be elected.

7. To obtain the position of Justice the candidate must secure fifty (50) votes. In the case where more justices have been elected than seats available, the candidates receiving the highest votes shall be elected.

8. All tickets must secure a minimum of five hundred (500) votes and a plurality of total votes cast for the office of President and Vice-President.

9. In case a re-election is necessary, the rules outlined under Section XI of the Student Government Policy Series shall apply.

F. DISPUTES AND APPEALS

1. Any disputes concerning the elections must be directed in writing to the Elections Commissioner. The Elections Commission must present documentation of any and all disputes to the Senate for information purposes only.

2. All appeals must be submitted prior to the release of the election results. Appeals shall be accepted up to one hour after the end of voting on the third Thursday of April.

3. Election results shall not be posted until all pending appeals have rendered decisions.

4. All decisions of the Elections Commissioner concerning the election rules and processes can be appealed to the Senate. The only time a decision may not be appealed is regards to the final outcome of the campaign.

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214. ELECTIONS

214.1 ELIGIBILITY: No student who is either graduating immediately following the election or not returning for the fall semester following the election shall be a candidate for election. Any other student eligible to vote in the Student Government Association elections is eligible to run for a position in the Student Government Association, except as provided for under this Section.

214.2 ELECTIONS COMMISSION: The Student Government Association shall, by the last Senate meeting of November form an Elections commission. The membership of which is to be determined by the Rules committee Chair and President, subject to the ratification by a majority vote in the Senate. No person serving on the Elections commission shall compete for any SGA election in the season that said person shall serve.

A. Validation of Elections: The Elections commission shall uphold the validity and integrity of the election, and shall make sufficient provision for notification and promotion of the election.

B. Qualifications of Candidates: The Elections commission shall ensure that all candidates have met the requirements set forth under Section 214.3 and 213.4 of these By-Laws.

214.3 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT: No person shall be a candidate for the Office of the President or Vice President who has not first met the following criteria:

A. Candidacy Requirements: Candidates must attend an informational meeting to be put on by the Election Commission. The meeting will outline the proper procedures as to their candidacy. Candidates must be active members of the Student Government Association from the time of the information meeting until the elections. Those whom do not comply will be unable to run for election.

B. GPA Requirements for the Office of President and Vice President:
Candidates for the Office of President and Vice President must maintain a 2.5 GPA in order to be elected to the Office of President and Vice President. The GPA status of the candidates shall be verified by the Dean of Students Office.

214.4 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE OFFICE OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND COMPTROLLER: No person shall be a candidate for the Office of Committee Chair who has not first met the following criteria:

A. Requirement for Candidacy: The candidate shall first be elected Senator-At-Large, as provided under these By-Laws.

B. Election: Election of Committee Chairs and Comptroller shall occur at the annual senate meeting. Election of Committee Chairs and Comptroller shall be determined by the vote of the Senate and shall be constituted by receiving the greatest number of ballots cast.

C. GPA Requirement for the Office of Committee Chair and Comptroller: Any Senator-At-Large who wishes to fulfill the Office of Committee Chair must maintain a 2.25 GPA. Any Senator-At-Large who wishes to fulfill the Office of Comptroller must maintain a 2.50 GPA. The GPA status of any Senator-At-Large who wishes to fill said offices shall be verified by the Dean of Students Office.

214.5 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE OFFICE OF SENATOR: No person shall be a candidate for the Office of Senator who has not first met the following criteria:

A. Requirements for Candidacy: The candidate must be registered as a full-time undergraduate student at Hofstra University.

B. GPA Requirement for the Office of Senator: Candidates for the Office of Senator must maintain a 2.00 GPA in order to be elected to the Office of Senator.

C. IFSC, OCS, SBOB, and RSA Representatives: The Inter-Fraternity/Sorority Representative, the Organization of Commuter Student Representative, Student Business Organization Board Representative and the Resident Student Association Representative shall serve in the capacity of Senator, but shall be elected as per the club’s constitution.