

# Rules Governing Elections

University of Louisiana at Lafayette Student Government Association

Revised: 8 February 2021

## Preamble

These election regulations of the Student Government Association are established, consistent with the Student Government Association Constitution and Bylaws, to govern and maintain the regulation of any authorized Student Government Election. These election regulations will not supersede the Student Government Association Constitution or By-Laws. The intent of these elections is to have students vote on their own behalf, as founded by our great nation's federal laws.

## Section 1: Student Government Elections Commission

1. All election regulations shall be enforced by what will be known as the Student Government Association Elections Commission.
2. The Elections Commission is an independent body within the Student Government Association and is not directly answerable to any other branch of the organization. The Elections Commission has full responsibility for the regulation and conduct of Student Government Elections. Unless specified otherwise within the Bylaws or these Rules, all powers relating to SGA Elections are reserved to the Elections Commission.
3. The Elections Committee of the Student Government Association will consist of the Chief Elections Officer, two members of the Student Government Association Senate and two members of the Student Government Association Judicial Branch (neither of whom may be the Chief Justice), with the oversight of an independent faculty member recommended by the Judicial Branch and approved by the Council of Presidents by a simple-majority vote of seats filled.
4. No person who is a candidate for office in the Student Government Association or who is heavily involved in any campaign may serve on the Elections Commission.
5. The Elections Commission is allowed to publicize their meeting schedule during elections. Where and how the Commission publicizes their schedule is dependent on what the Elections Commission deems necessary for that election cycle.
6. The Student Government Association Elections Committee will be responsible for performing a number of specific duties, including:
  - a. Proposing to the Senate the Writ of Election detailing election dates and the re-apportionment of the Senate each year.
  - b. Meeting one (1) week before elections begin to familiarize themselves with elections rules.

- c. Certifying the eligibility of individuals who file for candidacy.
  - d. Enforcing the deadline for candidate filing.
  - e. Conducting a meeting to explain the election rules with all candidates.
  - f. Supervising the election (this includes, but is not limited to, investigation of grievances and ensuring a fair election).
  - g. Ensuring that campaign materials are removed after the conclusion of elections.
  - h. Ensuring that candidates are notified of the results in a timely manner.
7. The duties of the Election Committee are inclusive of, but not limited to, these specific duties. The Committee should make every effort to ensure a fair election.

### Section 2: Election Dates

1. The Elections Commission shall submit to a Writ of Election detailing the schedule of elections each semester. The Senate must approve the Writ by a majority of seats filled. The dates of all elections shall be reported to the Dean of Students, the Chairman of the Student Affairs Appeals Committee, and the student body according to the approved Minimum Publicity Standard Plan (MPSP) mandated by Article II, Section 3 of the SGA Bylaws.
2. Spring Elections: This election will be held during the spring semester to fill positions within the Executive and Legislative Branches, with the exception of the Freshmen Senate seats.
  - a. Elections shall occur on the Wednesday and Thursday of the thirteenth week of the Spring Semester (the week of Spring Break inclusive), or the twelfth week of the semester if the thirteenth week coincides with Spring Break week.
  - b. Applications and Party Petitions for executive officer positions (the Big Three) will become available from the first of November. The filing deadline for applications will be publicized according to the MPSP for two consecutive weeks prior to the deadline. Big Three applications and the Party Petition shall be submitted by the Friday after the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday at noon.
  - c. The Senate Candidate recruitment and application period shall begin on the Monday of the fourth week of the semester and shall conclude at noon on the Friday of the seventh week of the semester.
  - d. The SGA Administrative Assistant shall complete the verification of candidate eligibility by the Thursday after the application deadline. A Mandatory Senate Candidate Orientation must occur within one week of the completion of verification.
  - e. Individual campaigning will start as soon as the Mandatory Candidates Meeting is over and will last at least two weeks prior to the elections. Party campaigning will start the day after Party Rosters are approved and will last two weeks prior to the election. Party Rosters must be submitted within five business days following the mandatory Senate candidates meeting. SGA will publish a list of candidates according to the MPSP every week during this two week period.
3. Fall/Freshmen Elections: This election will be held during the fall semester during the month of October. Freshmen Senators will be elected during these elections.

- a. Applications for Freshmen senator positions shall become available on the Wednesday following Labor Day. The applications shall be due the Friday of the following week by noon. An advertisement shall be made according to the MPSP each week the application is available.
  - b. A Mandatory Candidate Orientation shall occur within one week following the application deadline. No campaigning may begin prior to the completion of the Orientation. Party Petitions shall become available after the Mandatory Candidate Orientation and shall be due no later than five business days following the Candidate Orientation.
  - c. The elections shall begin on a Wednesday and conclude on a Thursday. Fifteen days must elapse between the first announcement of candidates and the first day of elections. A candidate's list must be distributed according to the MPSP each week of the campaign period.
4. Referenda and Constitutional Amendments: Referenda and Constitutional Amendments may be voted on during either election.
  5. Special Elections: Special elections may be held at any time so designated by a majority of the Senate seats filled.

### Section 3: Election Processes

1. Each voting student must be a valid student in the college in which he/she votes at the time of elections. Every student gets one vote and must cast their own vote unless special circumstances that have been deemed appropriate by the Elections Commission are approved. Each student must vote using his/her own UL Lafayette information required in the voting process.
2. Voting procedures will be governed by requirements of the Elections Commission.
3. If voting is conducted by computer ballot, for a minimum of two days, it will not be necessary to have a designated absentee voting day.
4. For the purposes of SGA Elections, a university computer lab shall constitute a polling station. Computer labs sponsored and maintained by the STEP program, an academic department, and the Honors Building computer lab shall be designated as a University computer lab for the purposes of this rule.
5. The polls shall remain open between the hours of 6 a.m. on the first day of elections and continue until 4:30 p.m. on the final day of elections. These hours can be extended at the discretion of the Elections Committee.
6. Election results shall be announced at 5 p.m. on the same day that the polls close.
7. Candidates for Big Three and College President seats are to be elected by a majority of participating voters. College Senators are to be elected by plurality vote of participating voters.

- a. If no candidate running receives a majority vote for President, Vice-President, Treasurer or College President, a run-off election will be held for that office between the two candidates receiving the most votes.
  - b. In case of a tie, unless one (1) of the candidates in question is willing to concede to the other in writing, a runoff election will be held to determine a winner.
8. The date any runoff election will be set by the Elections Commission with the approval of the SGA Senate. The date of the runoff shall be no later than fourteen (14) consecutive days after the primary election. If there is another tie, additional runoff elections will be held at the discretion of the Elections Commission with the approval of the SGA Senate.
9. If any legitimate doubts concerning the validity of the election results arise, the results shall not be announced until the Elections Committee meets, makes a ruling, and that ruling is enforced.
10. Any student may contest the elections results, in either writing or by emailing the Elections Committee at their officially recognized email address. This must be done within two (2) business days of the announcement of the election results, and if deemed a legitimate concern, the Elections Committee will meet and issue a ruling. The Elections Committee has the authority to do what is necessary to uphold a fair election.

#### Section 4: Individual Candidacy Qualifications

1. Candidates for the Student Government Association shall meet the following requirements:
  - a. Be classified as a student in good standing of the University.
  - b. Be available to attend Senate and committee meetings during the term of office.
  - c. Not be on disciplinary probation by the Disciplinary Committee, Dean's probation, or academic probation. This is with the exception for a Graduate student's probation associated with Graduate Record Examination scores.
  - d. Not occupy more than one (1) seat in Student Government Association at the same time. This includes the provision that no student may be a candidate for multiple offices at the same time.
  - e. Undergraduate students shall have at least an overall 2.25 cumulative grade point average on the 4.0 scale. Graduate students shall have at least an overall 3.0 cumulative grade point average on the 4.0 scale in graduate work.
  - f. Undergraduate students shall have a minimum course load of nine (9) credit hours and remain enrolled with at least nine (9) hours during the regular semester(s) while in office. Graduate students shall have a minimum course load of six (6) credit hours and remain enrolled with at least six (6) hours during the regular semester(s) while in office. Both of these provisions are subject to the following exception: Graduate students may be enrolled for a minimum of three (3) credit hours during his or her last semester.
  - g. Uphold and abide by the SGA Bylaws, the Constitution, and all other rules of the Student Government Association during candidacy and while in office.

## 2. Filing for Candidacy

- a. In order to file for candidacy, the candidate must submit:
  - i. A completed application.
  - ii. A current transcript.
- b. A Candidate Petition is defined as an application for individuals intending to run for either a Big Three or Senate seat.
- c. Candidate Petitions shall become available at the dates specified in Section Two of these Rules.
- d. All candidates must complete the appropriate Candidate Orientation session and may not engage in campaigning of any sort prior to said completion.
- e. The candidate's name, as registered with the university, will be placed on the ballot. The Elections Commission will consider any exceptions or special appeals.
- f. If a candidate files more than one petition, the petition filed the latest will prevail over the other(s).
- g. It is the responsibility of each individual candidate to submit their Candidate petition form to the SGA Office. No person may submit a Candidate Petition form on behalf of another person. A candidate who is unable to submit their application in person shall make arrangements to do so electronically.
- h. After a candidate's application packet has been submitted, no person will be allowed to have access to that packet unless: (1). That person is the SGA Advisor, the SGA Secretary, or a member of the Elections Committee; or (2). That person obtains written permission from one of the person mentioned in 6a above to access the packet.

### Section 5: Party Regulations

1. A group of candidates may register with the Elections Commission to run as a party and may be identified on the official ballot as being affiliated with that party. Candidates who do not join a party ticket shall be listed on the ballot as "independent."
2. Party Petitions and Rosters
  - a. Big Three tickets must file a party petition in accordance with clause 2.2.b of the Rules Governing Elections. A party petition is defined as a list that includes:
    - i. The party name.
    - ii. Big Three members associated with the party.
    - iii. The seat they seek.
    - iv. An official party contact (email, phone, or other approved method). This information may be publicized in informational material by the Elections Commission.
    - v. A list of campaign managers.
    - vi. A list of major campaign supporters.

- vii. If money is being asked of candidates from their party, parties must properly inform their candidates of this information before submitting petitions to the SGA Secretary. If this is not done, the party can be subject to disciplinary action from the Elections Committee.
  - viii. The Elections Commission shall not constitute the list of campaign managers and major supporters named on the Party Petition form as the only individuals heavily involved in party activities. Any other person who is found to act on behalf of a party shall also be declared a campaign manager or supporter even if their name does not appear on the party petition.
- b. A Big Three ticket that is endorsing Senate candidates must file a Senate Party Roster in accordance with clause 2.2.e of the Rules Governing Elections.
    - i. A Party Roster is defined as an application to run with a particular party on their ticket.
    - ii. A Party Roster is only necessary for candidates looking to fill a Senate seat with a party.
    - iii. Once the party roster is approved, students looking to fill a Senate seat may officially campaign with the party.
    - iv. Only candidates listed on and who have signed the official Senate Party Roster will be allowed to campaign as a member of that party.
    - v. The Party Roster shall not have more than one candidate for each seat available in the election.
    - vi. The party name will appear on the ballot next to all candidates affiliated with that party.
  - c. Senators wishing to form an independent party without Big Three candidates may do so within the period allotted to the submission of Senate Party Rosters. These parties must complete both the Party Petition and the Senate Party Roster.
  - d. Freshmen senate candidates may also form parties in accordance with clause 2.3.b of the Rules Governing Election. The Elections Commission shall create a Freshmen Party Petition for these elections.
  - e. The Elections Committee will handle other conflicts/problems regarding party name and candidate petitions.
2. Party Formation Process
    - a. Big Three candidates wishing to form a ticket must submit their Party Petition according to the deadlines set earlier in these Rules. These tickets may then engage in a public period of candidate recruitment for Senate positions.
      - i. Recruitment is defined as the four-week period during which the Big Three candidates are able to publically promote their party. They may look for candidates to run for senate positions on their tickets.
      - ii. SGA will publish a list of the Big Three candidates according to the MPSP every week during this three-week period.

- iii. A Mandatory Candidates Meeting will be held one week prior to the due date for the Party Roster. Big Three members may promote their party and talk about their platform. These members may meet with candidates running for seats in the Senate and may recruit those candidates to join the Big Three ticket.
  - b. No party petitions may be filed prior to the verification of eligibility for all candidates.
    - i. The verification of eligibility must be completed within four business days of the filing deadline for individual candidates.
    - ii. Following the verification of eligibility, the Elections Commission shall publish a list of all eligible candidates and make available party petition forms.
    - iii. No candidates list may be distributed in any format until the deadline for the filing of party petitions has passed.
    - iv. No party may erect campaign materials including, but not limited to: t-shirts, buttons, flyers, yard signs, billboards, etc. until the party's petition has been filed and approved. This provision shall not infringe on the rights of individual candidates to begin campaigning for themselves personally following the conclusion of the Mandatory Candidates Meeting.
  - c. Senate candidates during the spring elections not affiliated with a Big Three ticket, and freshmen candidates seeking election in the fall, may engage in informal discussions relating to the creation of a party ticket prior to party petitions and rosters becoming available to them. The Elections Commission reserves the right to regulate these processes as is necessary.

## Section 6: Traditional Campaigning Regulations

1. Campaign Start
  - a. No forms of campaign materials may be distributed or posted prior to the mandatory candidate meeting. This includes chalking.
  - b. Big Three Candidates may engage in all reasonable activities during the recruitment period, but may not engage in campaigning. The Elections Commission shall issue guidance on what qualifies as "reasonable activities."
2. Locations Where Campaigning is Permitted
  - a. All forms of traditional campaigning shall be limited to:
    - i. The University of Louisiana at Lafayette Campus,
    - ii. Land owned or controlled by the university,
    - iii. Land owned, leased, or rented by a university recognized organization and occupied by the organization.

- b. All campaigning on university property, or on the property of university recognized organizations, is subject to the approval and regulations of the relevant entity, in addition to those laid out in these rules.
  - c. Regulation of campaigning at the above locations is subject to further stipulations on forms of campaigning specified elsewhere in these rules, and any reasonable regulations the Elections Commission may deem necessary and proper.
- 3. The SGA Office and Meetings: Students may not participate in campaigning while in the SGA office or SGA meetings. This includes wearing or distributing any campaign materials.
- 4. University Brands and Logos
  - a. The use of university logos, including the SGA logo, on campaigning materials is expressly forbidden.
  - b. The use of the word SGA in campaigning is allowed. The use of the words “UL,” “ULL,” or “the University of Louisiana at Lafayette” (or any variation of the university name) is not permitted. Use of the word “university” is permitted.
  - c. These regulations extend to all forms of campaigning, including social media applications.
  - d. The Elections Commission shall adjudicate on these matters in a case-by-case basis and may issue further regulations as is necessary.
- 5. Removal of Opponent’s Materials: The removal of other candidate(s)’ or party’s campaign materials is prohibited under all circumstances.
- 6. Chalking
  - a. Students may advertise their candidacy through the use of dry chalk.
  - b. The use of spray chalk and chalk markers is prohibited.
  - c. Chalking of any kind on any vertical structure, the Walks of Honor, the balls in front of the Library, works of art, architectural structures/buildings, all bricked sidewalks, and other surfaces deemed important to the aesthetic nature of the campus is strictly prohibited. No chalking is allowed in covered areas.
  - d. Altering another candidate(s)’ or party’s chalking by any means is prohibited under any circumstances.
- 7. Stickers: Gummed or wettable glue-backed stickers are prohibited from use in Student Government Elections.
- 8. Flyers/Posters
  - a. Individual flyers, posters, cards, signs, or the like may be placed only on bulletin boards in public places. The Elections Commission shall hold the ability to make exceptions to this rule as necessary. For the purposes of this rule, classrooms are not classified as a public space.
  - b. No flyer/poster may be larger than eight and a half inches by eleven inches (8 1/2” x 11”), and no more than three flyers/posters per bulletin board are allowed.
  - c. The Elections Commission shall have the power to order the removal of flyers/posters that contravene the above regulations, or that contain deliberately false or slanderous material.



9. Yard Signs

- a. Parties and individual candidates may place yard signs to advertise their campaigns. The Elections Commission shall have the power to limit the maximum number of yard signs allowed to each party or individual candidates.
- b. No yard sign may exceed twenty-four inches by sixteen inches (24" x 16") in size.
- c. The Elections Commission shall have the power to limit the placement of yard signs to specific designated locations on campus.

10. Billboards

- a. Each party or independent Big Three candidate will be allowed to place one (1) large sign (billboard) no larger than four feet by eight feet [4' x 8'].
- b. The Elections Commission will determine the locations where billboards can be placed and the method these locations will be distributed to candidates for use.
- c. Names of candidates must appear on their own signs. An individual may allow other names on his/her billboard provided their own name is legible and of a size greater than or equal to the other names.
- d. Placement of bulletin boards may begin Sunday at noon the week prior to the start of the election.

11. Vehicle Use in Campaigning

- a. No trailers, trucks, tents, or the like will be permitted on university property for election purposes.
- b. Automobiles may be used for campaign transportation but not for the transportation of students who are going to vote.
- c. Placement of campaign materials on automobiles not belonging to a candidate located on in university parking facilities is prohibited.
- d. Individual candidates are allowed to place campaign materials on their personal vehicles within reasonable limits. The Elections Commission shall have the power to ban obnoxious campaign materials on vehicles.
- e. Use of aircraft as a means to distribute campaign material or in connection with campaigning is prohibited.

12. Campaign Functions/Parties

- a. Parties may host campaign functions at locations on the University of Louisiana at Lafayette campus only, and must be in compliance with both the Elections Commission rules and the regulations of the hosting location.
- b. A party or candidate hosting a campaign function must submit a detailed agenda for the event to the Elections Commission for approval no later than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the event. Agendas must be submitted either in writing or via email.
- c. Under no circumstances shall food, beverages (alcoholic or nonalcoholic), or drugs be used in the promotion or fundraising of campaign materials or functions, the campaign itself, or any function related to partisan SGA elections.
- d. Events can be advertised either on campus or through the use of social media outlets as approved by the Elections Commission for the election in question.

- e. No sound equipment of any kind is allowed to be used at a party or candidate campaign function unless approved by the Elections Commission.

13. Campaigning in Buildings and Outdoor Areas

- a. One-on-one campaigning in buildings and outdoor commons areas including, but not limited to, the Quad, The Union Courtyard, Griffin Gardens, and Rex Street, is subject to the regulation of the Elections Commission, which may set any restrictions it deems necessary. Campaigning in the above areas is also subject to the regulations of the building or space in question.
- b. The Elections Commission may make arrangements for all parties and candidates to in-person campaign in buildings and outdoor common areas in order to promote student awareness and voting. If the Elections Commission hosts an event to promote student voting, candidates and parties may campaign but are not allowed to project their voice or use any device that does. These events include, but are not limited to, voting rallies, debates, and round-ups.
- c. Any candidate or party wishing to conduct one-on-one campaigning outside of Elections Commission sponsored events must submit an application to the Elections Commission for approval. The application must include the time, date, and location of the event; the candidates and/or surrogates participating; a list of all items being used including, but not limited to, tables; and verified approval from the responsible building and or university office. Applications must be submitted at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the event for approval.
- d. One-on-one campaigning in buildings and outdoor common areas is limited to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Main Campus and Bourgeois Hall. The Elections Commission shall have the power to ban one-on-one campaigning in specific Main Campus buildings.
- e. In-person campaigning in all buildings and outdoor common areas is limited to flyers and one-on-one interaction. Projection of one's voice for mass audience is prohibited.
- f. In-person campaigning in residence halls is strictly limited to the entrance lobby of the building.

14. In-Class Campaigning

- a. Candidates may speak before their regularly scheduled classes and before university student organizations.
- b. These speaking opportunities are subject to the discretion and approval of the course instructor or the organization's president and/or advisor. Candidates speaking before organizations must also notify the Elections Commission twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the speech.

15. Computer Lab Campaigning

- a. Candidates may engage in one-on-one campaigning in computer labs prior to the voting period, subject to the approval and regulation of the Elections Commission.

Candidates campaigning in computer labs may not distribute any promotional items of any sort.

- b. Students enrolled in a course held in a computer lab may speak about their candidacy before their classmates on a date prior to the beginning of voting. These speeches are subject to the approval of the course instructor.
  - c. On Election Day, no distribution of campaign materials will be allowed inside or within twenty feet (20') of any University computer lab, except for wearing campaign attire.
  - d. No loitering or verbal campaigning is allowed in the immediate vicinity of the polls.
  - e. No candidate or party may provide electronic devices for the purposes of voting.
16. Removal of Campaign Materials: All election campaigning materials not pertaining to the runoff election should be removed within three (3) school days after the election.

### Section 7: Electronic Campaigning Regulations

1. Negative Social Media Campaigning: No media posting of any sort may speak against another candidate or party in a negative or defamatory manner. Such a posting, whether made by a candidate or a supporter, shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Elections Commission.
2. Television and Radio Campaigning: Campaigning announcements on any radio or television station other than the university radio station (KRVS) is prohibited.
3. The Official Group
  - a. The Elections Commission shall create an official Facebook group or page (hereafter, “the Official Group”) in order to disseminate information related to the election. Official Group membership shall be public; however, only the commissioners, who shall be administrators of the group, may post on the group page under any circumstances.
  - b. Information provided through the Official Group shall include, at minimum:
    - i. Important election dates and instructions on how to vote;
    - ii. A list of candidates;
    - iii. Concise (less than 500 words) party/independent candidate platforms; and
    - iv. Links to all approved party/independent candidate campaign pages.
  - c. The Official Group shall go live no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Monday following the mandatory Senate candidates’ meeting.
4. Social Media: Campaign Pages
  - a. Each party or independent candidate shall be allowed to create a Facebook, Twitter, or any other form of social media page for the purposes of campaigning.
  - b. A Facebook page may not reveal itself to public viewing (“go live”) nor invite any fans other than members of the Elections Commission until the following conditions are met:

- i. The candidate/party submits to the Elections Commission the name of one and only one candidate or supporter who will be the administrator of the Page. This person may not be changed without the expressed approval of the Chief Elections Officer.
    - ii. The Chief Elections Officer must also be given administrator status on the page. The Chief Elections Officer may, at their discretion, give administrator status to other commissioner; such administrator commissioners shall have all the policing powers of the Chief Elections Officer in regards to that particular page, subject to the final decision of the Chief Elections Officer.
  - c. For social media platforms other than Facebook, such as Twitter, Instagram, and others, the Elections Commission shall determine the minimum requirements to take a page live.
  - d. Campaigning pages can include, but are not limited to:
    - i. Display of candidate or party platform;
    - ii. Pictures of candidate(s) running for office; and
    - iii. Advertisement of SGA election voting dates and times.
  - e. All live streaming of video from a social media account is expressly prohibited.
  - f. A Page may invite and/or allow people to become members, or fans, of that Page.
  - g. Each candidate or party is responsible for the content displayed on their social media accounts, including those of their supporters. Failure to take appropriate action to rectify supporters' comments or postings that violate the Rules Governing Elections may result in serious sanctions from the Elections Commission.
  - h. The Elections Commission reserves the right to place further restrictions on the social media accounts of individual candidates and parties as necessary.
- 5. Campaigning in Facebook Groups
  - a. The Official Group is limited to disseminating information on elections and the candidates. Partisan campaigning in the Official Group is forbidden.
  - b. Public Groups
    - i. Campaigning in public groups is expressly banned.
    - ii. A public Facebook group is defined as those serving multiple organizations, or those that exist to facilitate the exchange of goods and services and have a membership generally open to the public.
  - c. Private Groups
    - i. A private Facebook group is defined as those serving a specific organization or constituency, and has a limited or exclusive membership.
    - ii. To campaign in these groups a candidate must have been an existing member of the group.
    - iii. Campaigning in these groups is subject to the approval and regulation of the group administrator.
  - d. The Elections Commission shall have the power to issue further regulations on these matters as is necessary.

6. Social Media Endorsements: Organizations and individuals may issue endorsements of a candidate or party. All endorsements must be in compliance with these rules. Candidates are responsible for the conduct of those endorsing them through social media.
7. Text Messenger and Messaging Applications: Unsolicited mass messaging using cell phones, messaging applications, or email accounts is prohibited. Candidates may use existing text or messaging groups created for purposes other than SGA elections to campaign for themselves.
8. Elections Commission Reserve Powers: The Elections Commission may further restrict electronic media campaigning as it deems necessary during an election period so long as it does not contravene the letter and spirit of the Rules Governing Elections.

#### Section 8: Grievance and Appeals Processes

1. Any violations of these rules or the Code of Student Conduct regarding campaigning should be reported to the Elections Commission as soon as possible. No complaints of illegal or improper campaigning conduct will be accepted after 4:30 p.m. on the concluding day of elections unless there are extenuating circumstances. The Commission will announce what method of submitting grievances they will use during the mandatory candidates meeting and must also be posted on the Internet in some public form accessible to all students. This can include, but is not limited to:
  - a. Facebook
  - b. Twitter
  - c. ULink
  - d. UL-Lafayette Student Government Association Webpage
  - e. The Official Elections Commission Email account
2. The Elections Commission has the power to punish on a case-by-case basis infractions to any rule set forth by the Student Government Association.
3. The Elections Commission has the power to summarily dismiss, without prejudice, any grievance that is frivolous, absurd, dilatory, inconsequential, vexatious, and/or lacking any substantial basis in evidence. If a grievance is dismissed, the person who filed the grievance will be notified immediately after the decision is made. Repeated grievances of this nature may subject the offending party to a subpoena and/or punishment from the Elections Commission.
4. The Elections Commission shall meet in a majority of the seats filled to review all complaints in writing that have not been dismissed for reasons stated in Part 2 above. After reviewing all evidence, the Elections Commission shall render their decision.
5. The Elections Commission may subpoena a candidate. The candidate must reply within 24 hours from subpoena and appear before the Elections Commission within 48 hours from subpoena, including weekends unless the Elections Commission decides otherwise. If the candidate fails to meet the time constraints, then the Elections Commission may rule

without the candidate's presence and the Elections Commission's penalty will be effective immediately after the deadline for the subpoena.

6. Violations may subject a candidate to penalties or ultimate dismissal from the elections, upon the decision of the Elections Commission.
7. Any violation of the rules, which is found by the Elections Commission to significantly further the candidate's cause, shall be deemed a major offense. All major offenses will be punished by disqualification.
8. The Elections Commission may take into consideration serial grievances and shall issue a punishment and/or disqualification for these grievances.
9. Further appeals can be made to the SGA Judicial Branch within two (2) business days of the Elections Commission's ruling.
10. Justices serving on the Elections Commission may not hear any appeals of the decisions of the commission to the Judicial Branch. The Judicial Branch will develop its own processes to govern the handling of elections appeals.

#### Section 9: Amendments

A two-thirds vote of the Senate seats filled shall be necessary to amend the Rules Governing Elections.