



Approval of All AS 2015 Spring General Elections Documents

Proposed Motion: *Approve the 2015 AS Election Code, Candidate, Initiative, and Referenda Packets.*

Board Sponsor: ASVP for Academic Affairs, Jaleesa Smiley

Persons of Contact: AS Elections Coordinator, Mayra Guizar

Date: 1/22/15

Attached Document

1. AS 2015 Election Code
2. Posting Guide
3. Candidate Packet
4. Initiative Packet
5. Referenda Packet

Background & Context

After several meetings, the Election Code Review Committee has collaboratively worked hard to make updates for the 2015 AS election code packet. It has been an information item for three weeks, and we just passed and approved it last week on Friday. The Posting Guide has also been updated by the AS Publicity Center to make it a little easier to read, and the Candidate, Initiative, and Referenda Packets have all been looked over and edited by Lisa Rosenberg, Sabrina Romano, and I. Please look under “Summary of Proposal” for all changes/comments for the Election Code and all other documents.

This is the first year that the Candidate Packet is being brought for Board approval, and next week I will be bringing the updated version of the Initiative and Referenda Sponsor packets.

Summary of Proposal

ELECTION CODE UPDATES:

- All dates have been updated for 2015
- **Page 4, Section 1, I. a** – update 687 signatures to 696. Lisa just got this number from Kathy on Tuesday
- **Page 5, Section 1 I. f** – addition of “It is not necessary for there to be for and against statements for each initiative. The Election Coordinator may use their discretion to determine when such statements are necessary”.
- **Page 6, Section 1, IV. b** – addition of “or employee(s)”
- **Page 6, Section 3, II** – addition of “b. Under no circumstances are drugs or alcohol to be present, available, or provided at campaign related events, regardless of location or participant age.
- **Page 8, Section 3, III.** – addition of “m. Any publicly available AS resources must be reserved through the Elections Coordinator (for example, the button makers).”
- **Page 8, Section 3, IV b** – strike out “though they may not speak on the behalf of the AS when doing so.”
- **Page 9, Section 3, IV f** – the committee discussed this section. We weren’t sure how to go about solving and issue that came up last year. Someone sponsoring an initiative wanted to speak at an AS event that was hosted by an AS office, and was relevant to the initiative. Because there really aren’t “opponents” for initiatives (for and against statements are primarily used for the AS Review), we saw this as offices “taking a stance” on an initiative, which is against the code when we tell AS offices to

stay neutral during the election. We thought this could be a valuable topic of discussion for the Board to have, too.

- **Page 9, Section 3, V.** – addition of “(4) Any funds spent in support of a public or private campaign related event;” and replaced “and campaigns” with “initiative and referendum sponsors”
- **Page 11, Section 3, V. k** – will be creating an unofficial list of recycled prices, running it by the committee. Will see how it goes this year, and implement it as an addition to the code for 2016 elections.
- **Page 11, Section 3, VI.** – addition of “b. Grievances may not be filed anonymously and all witnesses cited in a grievance must be named explicitly.”
- **Page 15, Section 3, XIV.** – update of fourteen school days instead of 20 calendar days (because of winter break). We also decided that the work for special elections won’t officially begin until the “date the Board is officially notified of the vacancy.”
- **Page 15, Section 3, XIV.** – addition of “e. Candidates in special elections shall be eligible for public financing as described in Section 3, clause V of this Code.”
- **Page 15, Section 3, XV.** – strike out “at most times”.
- **Page 17, Section 4** – addition of “l. “Lot” as used in Section 5, II (i) is defined as the use of objects in making a determination or choice. Ex: A coin toss, computer/calculator random number generator, etc.

****Public Financing – page 9**

- Something the committee also talked about was bumping the amount from \$150 to \$125. This will be something that Lisa, the committee, and I will be exploring through expenditure trends (excluding unopposed campaigns) in previous years and this year. Since the money for this year has already been allocated by budget committee last year, so it couldn’t be implemented this year (if the decision is made to decrease or not).

REFERENDA, INITIATIVE, CANDIDATE PACKET UPDATES:

- On all checklists, moved the date of campaign material removal deadline to be by the Monday following the end of elections at 8 am (gives people more time to take down posters after new BOD is announced, and makes sure campus is cleaned up by the following school day in the morning before classes start)

****Candidate Registration: Campaign Manager Name**

- Should official manager be a Western Student? – Anybody (regardless if they are a student or not) can still work on your campaign, but, for example, if something happens and I can’t reach the candidate, it would be easier on Election Coordinator to get a hold of “second person of contact” who is in Bellingham and is a Western Student to take care of the situation.