



SMU Student Senate

Legislative Number: S-109-03

Final Vote: 31-2-1

Authors: Castle and Lugo

Senate Secretary: Hope Heiden

Vice President for Student Affairs: Dr. K.C. Mmeje

Senate Speaker: Krish Madhura

SPRING 2023 ELECTION CODE REVISIONS

| | | |
|----|---------------------------------|---|
| 1 | WHEREAS | Article I Section 3(1) of the SMU Student Senate Election Code |
| 2 | | encourages the Senate to review and revise the election code |
| 3 | | yearly, prior to the election, and |
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| 5 | ACKNOWLEDGING | that our election code aims to uphold principles of good |
| 6 | | governance, respect for others, and stewardship of public |
| 7 | | accountability, and |
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| 9 | RECOGNIZING | that both peer institutions and SMU precedent have set strong |
| 10 | | standards for good governance. |
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| 12 | BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED | that the Election Chair shall create an Advisory Opinion Request |
| 13 | | process, which requires candidates to formally request |
| 14 | | clarification of the election code in written form and requires the |
| 15 | | Membership Chair to share their responses with all candidates. |
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| 17 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED | that the Endorsement Policy shall be eased to allow for more |
| 18 | | widespread endorsements, including on social media and other |
| 19 | | communication channels, except for those who have served or |
| 20 | | currently serve as a Student Body Officer or Senate Officer. |
| 21 | | |
| 22 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED | that a clear policy outlining the importance of respecting other |
| 23 | | candidates shall be implemented as follows: "A Candidate or |
| 24 | | Campaign Worker may under no circumstances intentionally |
| 25 | | interfere with the campaign of another Candidate in any way. |
| 26 | | Engaging in any form of negative campaigning, including, but not |
| 27 | | limited to, defamation of character, libel, slander, or altering an |
| 28 | | opponent's campaign materials is strictly prohibited." |
| 29 | | |
| 30 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED | that expense limits shall be updated to match current economic |
| 31 | | conditions, specifically to include an expense limit of \$300 for |
| 32 | | Student Body Officer positions and \$150 for Student Senator |
| 33 | | positions. |
| 34 | | |
| 35 | BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED | that the Membership Committee shall publicly post any complaints |
| 36 | | heard by the committee in which candidates were found |
| 37 | | responsible for said violations, alongside the Committee's |
| 38 | | response. |
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SMU Student Senate

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**

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that a table detailing special-interest Senator positions, including who is eligible to run and vote for each role, shall be added to the Election Code to clarify existing precedent.

44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**

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that existing precedents relating to election complaint submissions and referrals by the Membership Chair and Student Senate advisor shall be added to the code in writing.

48 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**

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that other minor word choice changes or clarifications of existing precedent, such as requiring the submission of certain requests in writing, shall also be included in the updated Election Code.

52 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**

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The 109th Student Senate will adopt the attached Election Code for the Spring 2023 election cycle, as well as any subsequent elections, until modified.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sydney Castle
Student Body President

Jude Lugo
Membership Chair