

# Student Senate Election Code

*Last Revised: March 2017*

## Preamble

*The primary purpose of the Student Senate Election Code of Goshen College is to provide guidelines to ensure honest, fair, open elections for all involved. In upholding its responsibility to the Goshen College Student Association, the Student Senate will strive to hold candidates to the highest level of accountability for their actions or actions taken on their behalf.*

## Article I: General Provision

### **Section 1.** Accountability of the Election Code

1. Every person who files for an office elected under the authority of the Student Senate Constitution and Bylaws shall receive a copy of this Election Code by e-mail no later than one (1) day after the close of filing.
2. A hard copy of the Election Code shall be present at the filing location for review.
3. All candidates and their volunteers shall be responsible for knowing its contents.

## Article II: Election Timetable

### **Section 1.** Selection of Election related Dates and Deadlines

1. The Student Senate shall be in charge of setting all dates of election-related events.
2. All deadlines and dates that relate to filing, campaigning, and the election day shall be declared by the Senate at least two weeks before any election.

### **Section 2.** Announcements of Elections

The Student Senate shall:

1. Issue a press release to be posted on the Student Government website
2. Issue appropriate widespread campus announcements, which may include (but are not limited to) broadcast emails, or advertisements in the Record.

These announcements shall list the following:

1. Number of positions to be filled in the election;
2. Dates for the opening and closing for filing;
3. Time and place that a person may file;
4. Dates of the election; and,
5. Name and contact information of current Student Senate members.

Additional Promotion of Senate Seats Required if:

6. Lack of diversity is an issue as determined by the (bi)annual evaluation.

### **Section 3.** Filing

1. A person shall file as a candidate by filing their intention for candidacy, in person, by completing an application provided by the Senate.
2. No one may file on behalf of another student.

3. Applications can be picked up in the Student Life Office or found on the Student Senate website.
4. A minimum of three (3) days for filing shall be opened as a part of the election process.

#### **Section 4. Qualifications**

##### Candidate Eligibility:

1. All full and part time students who are currently enrolled at Goshen College shall be members of the Goshen College Student Association, and are eligible to run for a Senate seat. □
2. The student must not be on disciplinary or academic probation at the time of election. Qualifications may be waived by two-thirds (2/3) vote by current Senate members.

#### **Section 5. General Election**

##### Spring Election:

1. The General Election at the end of the spring semester shall be for five cabinet positions of the Student Senate for the following year. The candidates who receive the top five votes will be selected. Based on the number of votes, candidates will then be able to select which position they would like to represent. The positions included in the cabinet are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Director of Marketing.

#### **Section 6. Run-off Election**

1. Except as otherwise provided in this Election Code, if multiple candidates in the General Election receive the same number of votes, the two (2) or more candidates in said election shall be in a Run-off Election. □
2. The Run-off Election shall be held for the length of two (2) days after the initial general election time frame. □

#### Article III: Voting □

#### **Section 1. Ballots**

1. Candidates shall appear on the General Election ballot in alphabetical order. This order shall be reversed in the Run-off Election.
2. Two people may run on the same ballot, one serving in the fall to be replaced by the other for the spring semester. □

#### **Section 2. Votes to Win General Elections**

1. The candidates who receive the top number of votes cast will be granted positions, unless under an exception within this election code. The number of positions to be filled is determined by the previous Student Senate.
2. To begin to rectify the fallibility of an election process, which provides advantage to those who live on campus, the Student Senate shall provide two (2) positions to commuter students even if they do not receive the top number of votes.

- a. The designated number of commuter students on Senate can change depending on changing ratio of commuter students to the Goshen College Student Association. This decision is up to the previous Student Senate.
- b. Commuter students are defined as students who have never lived in housing deemed a Goshen College Residence, including the dorms, apartments, campus housing, Coffman, and Kulp.
- c. If, after the vote, two commuter students have already received adequate votes for election, then Article III Section 2.2 is fulfilled.
- d. If, after the vote, there are not two commuter students in the elected Student Senate, then the non-elected commuter student with the most votes will displace a non-commuter student, taking their position. This process will continue until Article III Section 2.2 is fulfilled.

**Section 3. Voter and Petition Fraud**

1. Voter fraud shall be considered casting a ballot on behalf of any individual other than oneself. □
2. Petition fraud shall be considered signing a petition on behalf of any individual other than oneself. □

Candidates found guilty of voter and/or petition fraud by the Senate will be subject to:

1. Disqualification and/or □
2. A report filed with the Office of the Dean of Students of such action for review of potential violations of the Student Code of Conduct. □
3. Non-candidate students or groups found guilty of voter and/or petition fraud by the Senate Cabinet will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students for review of potential violations of the Student Code of Conduct. □
4. Elections containing fraud shall be examined by the Senate, and subject to appeal, and said action □ must be submitted in writing or by e-mail to all candidates involved within twenty-four (24) hours of said □ action. □
5. Appeals to a Senate decision regarding voter and/or petition fraud will be made directly to the Dean of Student Life.

Article IV: Campaigning Practices □

**Section 1. Definition of Campaigning**

1. Campaigning is any activity by a candidate or ticket member that is intended or likely to affect how a voter casts a ballot. This includes the placement of any signs or the like on display and the solicitation of the vote of any Goshen college student.

**Section 2. On-Campus Campaigning Rules and Regulations**

Prohibition on Interference with Education:

1. Campaigning must not interfere with the educational life of the College. This includes but is not limited to the posting of campaign signs and/or posters in classrooms, and writing on chalkboards or similar devices.

**Section 3. Campaigning Ethics**

1. Candidates are expected to conduct themselves in an ethically appropriate manner in accordance with  Student Senate documents and the Student Code of Conduct.
2. A candidate or volunteer may under no circumstances intentionally interfere with the campaign of another  candidate in any way, including, but not limited to, the destruction of campaign materials.
3. No student shall make any threat to any voter to affect another student's vote.