

# Student Senate Election Code

*Last Revised: August 2015*

## 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 who are 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 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 Cabinet shall be in charge of setting all dates of the election-related events.
2. All deadlines and dates that are relative to filing, campaigning, and election days for the Fall and/or Spring  Student Senate Elections shall be declared by the Senate Cabinet no later than the second (2nd) academic week of the semester of the election in question.

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

The Student Senate Cabinet shall:

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

The announcement shall list the following:

1. 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 for office;
4. Dates of the General Election and any run-off; and,
5. Name and contact information for Senate Cabinet members.

Additional Promotion of Senate Seats Required if:

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

- Senate members should personally invite 3-5 friends of different backgrounds, cultures, ethnic groups etc. to put their name on the ballot.

**Section 3. Filing** □

2. A person shall file as a candidate by filing their intention for candidacy, in person, by completing an application, provided by the Cabinet, for the office they seek during the filing period.
3. No one may file on behalf of another student.
4. Applications can be picked up in the Student Life Office or found on the Student Senate website.
5. A three (3) class day period 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**

Fall election:

1. The General Election at the beginning of the fall semester will be for all of the At-Large Representatives.
  - One At-Large Representative position will be reserved each election for a commuter or adult student. If no commuter or adult students express interest in the position it will be granted to an on campus student running who received the highest number of votes.

Spring election:

2. The General Election at the beginning of the spring semester will be for the replacement of any At-Large Representative who only served in the fall.
3. The General Election for the Cabinet Members for the following year will be held near the conclusion of the spring semester and orchestrated by the current Senate Cabinet like all other elections.

**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**

### Cabinet Election:

1. The candidates who receive the top 5 number of votes cast will be granted Cabinet seats.
2. Candidates shall deliberate to decide who will fill each role most effectively. Ideally positions will be filled by consensus.
3. If consensus cannot be reached, the candidate who receives the most votes chooses the role that they would like to serve on cabinet first. The candidate that receives the second most votes then chooses their role second, and so forth until the 5 roles (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice-President of Marketing) are accounted for.

## **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 Cabinet 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 Cabinet, 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 Cabinet decision regarding voter and/or petition fraud will be made directly to the □ Vice-President 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.