



SGA ELECTION CODE

Section I. Purpose and Design

This Election Code was adopted to insure uniformity, fairness, and clarity in the election process. The provisions of this Code shall govern the campaigning, nomination, and election process of officers of the Student Government Association, hereafter referred to as SGA, and the selection of Miss Texas Southern University, except as otherwise provided for in the SGA Constitution.

Section II. Powers of the Election Code

- A. These regulations set forth shall be the governing rules for the election process of officers of the SGA and the selection of Miss TSU, except as otherwise provided for in the SGA Constitution.
- B. Candidates for any election shall be responsible for these regulations provided here within. Ignorance of these regulations shall not be an acceptable defense in response to any offense in any election, either by the candidates themselves or by individuals campaigning on behalf of a candidate.
- C. This Election Code shall be enforced by the Election Commission and the Office of Attorney General. The Student Court shall have the final interpretation in any conflict arising during the election process.

Section III. The Composition and Duties of the Election Commission

- A. The Election Commission shall conduct campus-wide general elections, runoff/special elections, referendums and ratification votes which are provided for by the Texas Southern University SGA Constitution, in accordance with the provisions of this Election Code. These elections shall include but are not limited to:
 - 1. President
 - 2. Attorney General
 - 3. Executive Vice President
 - 4. Vice President of Internal Affairs
 - 5. Vice President of External Affairs
 - 6. Comptroller
 - 7. Executive Secretary
 - 8. Senators
 - 9. Miss Texas Southern University
 - 10. Yearbook Editor
 - 11. Herald Editor

B. The Chief Election Commissioner shall be appointed by the SGA President and confirmed by the Student Senate. The Chief Election Commissioner's duties shall include but not be limited to:

1. Enforce said regulations and render punishment up to disqualification for any violation.
2. Supervise and coordinate all activities of the Election Commission and election officials.
3. Call and chair formal meetings of the Election Commission as deemed necessary.
4. Conduct a Mandatory Candidate orientation prior to any election for the purpose of explaining the Election Code and answering any questions prior to the campaigning of candidates.
5. Ensure registration of all campaign material to be distributed by the candidates prior to its distribution.
6. Set office hours or hours of availability for the purpose of allowing candidates access to the Chief Election Commissioner and/or the Election Commission during the election process
7. Inspect and/or audit the expenditures of any candidate.
8. Direct a candidate to take specific action in accordance to said Election Code.
9. Confiscate all campaign materials in violation of the Election Code and assess the appropriate penalty.

C. The Election Commission shall enforce said regulations during the election process and patrol campaign areas to enforce regulations set forth in said Election Code during all elections.

D. The Election Commission shall consist of general members and officers holding the following positions:

1. Campaign Coordinator, who shall be responsible for directing the campaign process and ensuring proper notification and signage of election dates and activities to all candidates and the general student body.
2. Graduate/Professional Coordinator, who shall be responsible for providing support to all graduate and professional students and making all information accessible to them.

3. Programs Coordinator, who shall be responsible for coordinating candidate debates and forums, informational meetings, and other special activities;
- E. An election official shall be defined as any person on the Election Commission appointed by the President or any volunteer deputized by the Chief Election Commissioner; however, no election official shall be a candidate for office or have campaigned for any candidate appearing on the ballot in the election that he or she helps conduct.

Section IV. Election Dates and Times

- A. All elections must be held no later than one (1) week before the expiration of terms as defined in the SGA Constitution, Article III, except in cases which such action would be unfeasible.
- B. The Attorney General as the Chief Enforcer of the Constitution, By-Laws, and Internal Rules of Procedure, maintains administrative discretion in determining the official date of elections. The Attorney General shall have the authority to change the start date of an election if unforeseen circumstances arise that would warrant such a change.
- C. All elections must occur on two (2) consecutive days between the hours of 9:00 am until 6:00 pm. In the event of an unknown occurrence that may hinder the election (i.e. natural disaster, etc.), the Election Commission must add another day for each day lost, with the approval of the Office of Attorney General.

Section V. Voting Methods

- A. An executive panel consisting of the President, Attorney General, and Chief Election Commissioner, shall determine the voting methods of each election in which will be presented to the Student Senate.
- B. All elections will be conducted in the manner the Student Senate deems necessary upon approving the Election Appropriations Bill presented each election cycle.
- C. The following options for conducting elections are as outlined below:

1. Online Ballot

- a. The online ballot will be maintained by an employee of Texas Southern University.
- b. On Election Days, the online ballot will be available from 9:00 am until 7:00 pm with an extension to 8:00 pm in cases of announced technical difficulties by the Office of Information Technology and the Election Commission.

2. *E-Slate Machine*

- a. The E-Slate machines, (two (2) minimum) will be purchased from the Harris County Elections office at least one (1) week prior to the election.
- b. Once delivered, it will be the responsibility of the Election Commission to ensure the safety and security of the devices.
- c. On Election Days, the ballot will be available from 9:00 am until 6:00 pm with an extension to 7:00 pm in cases of announced technical difficulties by the Election Commission.

3. *Paper Ballot*

- a. The paper ballot will be created and maintained by the Election Commission.
- b. On Election Day, the paper ballot will be available from 9:00 am until 6:00 pm. with an extension to 7:00 pm in cases of announced difficulties by the Election Commission.

Section VI. Ballots

- A. Ballot positions for the ballot used during the actual election and the sample ballot will be alphabetically (First Name, M.I., Last Name.) The sample ballot will not be used for any voting. It will only be used for a candidate to verify that their name has been properly recorded for the election process, and for other administrative purposes as needed by the Election Commission.
- B. Party/ticket candidates must ensure their name is on the party/ticket sample ballot at the time of the Mandatory Election Orientation. Party/ticket leaders are responsible for ensuring all of their party/ticket members are recorded correctly and shall notify the Chief Election Commissioner immediately if any discrepancies exist.
- C. No phrases, slogans, nicknames, or slate names may be attached to a candidate's name on the ballot except in the case of a party/ticket. The name that will appear on the ballot must be the name that appears on the candidate's Texas Southern University student identification card.
- D. The Election Commission will post the sample ballot for the purpose of correcting errors at the Mandatory Candidate Orientation. If a candidate does not appeal any error on the sample ballot during said orientation, he/she loses his/her right to correct the ballot discrepancy and will forfeit right to appeal concerning this issue at a later time.

- E. The Election Commission will post the final sample ballot for any election after approval by the Office of Attorney General at least one (1) class day prior to the election.

Section VII. General Qualifications for Office

- A. Each candidate must be a registered Texas Southern University student, currently enrolled in good standing. The academic requirements for retention of an elected position are good academic standing, meaning 2.5 G.P.A. and currently free of any probations.
- B. Undergraduate Students may be classified as freshmen, sophomores, juniors, or seniors according to the number of course hours completed. Graduate Students are defined as any student enrolled in a graduate program of the university.
- C. Candidates for Executive Offices must have served at least two (2) semesters prior either as an SGA Official or Volunteer. All hours may be signed and verified by the current President, Senate Chair, Attorney General, or Chief Justice.

Section VIII. Specific Qualifications for Office

- A. All candidates for a certain office must adhere to the qualifications set in the SGA Constitution, Article II. If a person does not meet these qualifications at the time of filing, they will not be eligible to run for such office.
- B. Along with the qualifications mentioned in the SGA Constitution, the following requirements must be adhered to by each candidate for specific office:
 - 1. Candidates for Class Office must have the following credit hours associated with such class:
 - a. Freshman Class: 0-29 credit hours
 - b. Sophomore Class: 30-59 credit hours
 - c. Junior Class: 60-89
 - d. Senior Class: 90+
 - e. Graduate: post-bachelor/graduate program
 - 2. Candidates for Academic Senators must have a registered major within the specific School or College in which they seek to represent.
 - 3. Candidates for Organizational Senators must be a member of such organization which shall be confirmed by the President of said organization.

Section IX. Filing for Office

- A. By filing, the candidate agrees to abide by the rules and regulations set forth in said Election Code.
- B. All candidates for positions elected under the supervision of the Election Commission shall file their intention to run for office with the Election Commission and/or the Office of Attorney General. Filing shall be done in person by each candidate and in accordance with the guidelines set forth within said Election Code. Each candidate is responsible for seeing that his/her filing is processed completely and correctly.
- C. A candidate must submit an application form containing at least the candidate's current address, phone number, T#, and email address, and position seeking office for.
- D. Students may not be a candidate for two offices in the same election, excluding a candidate seeking the position of class queen.
- E. Any candidate who files for election and fails to comply with all filing requirements shall be deemed unqualified to run for office.
- F. Any Student Government official removed from office will not be allowed to file for any Student Government office in accordance to the time allocated during the impeachment trial of said official.
- G. The Election Commission shall provide to each candidate a filing a packet containing:
 - 1. The Election Code;
 - 2. Dates, times, and locations for Mandatory Candidate Meetings;
 - 3. Any other information deemed necessary by the Chief Election Commissioner, and/or the Office of Attorney General.
- H. Applications for elections shall be made available at the Sterling Student Life Center in the SGA Judicial Office between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. no later than ten (10) days before the filing deadline.
- I. The Chief Election Commissioner shall forward all candidate applications to the Office of Attorney General no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the filing deadline has passed. Within three (3) class days after the close of filing, a representative from the Office of the Registrar will provide the Office of Attorney General with certification of each candidate's academic eligibility and good standing with the University.

Section X. Mandatory Candidate Orientation

- A. The mandatory candidate orientation must be held before campaigning by candidates may begin and shall occur no later than one (1) week following the close of filing.

- B. At said orientation, the Chief Election Commissioner will explain the Election Code, and answer any questions concerning the rules of and regulations of the election process.
- C. A representative from the Office of Attorney General shall be required to be present at the Mandatory Candidate Orientation to answer questions and any matters needing clarification regarding the Constitution, the By-Laws, and Rules of Internal Procedure.
- D. The Chief Election Commissioner will announce the days and times that expenditure forms and receipts are due, and the location(s) at which they must be deposited.
- E. Any candidate who is unable to attend the Mandatory Candidate Orientation must contact the Election Commission in writing at least twenty four (24) hours prior to the orientation to report a University excused reason for his/her absence. The candidate must name a proxy to attend the orientation in the candidate's place. The proxy must show written verification from the candidate, identifying the person as a proxy.
- F. To be excused from attending the Mandatory Candidate Orientation, a candidate must submit a University excused absence that would have also prevented them from appointing a proxy to attend the meeting in their absence to the Election Commissioner within twenty four (24) hours of the meeting. All candidates failing to do this will be disqualified.
- G. All candidates at the time of said orientation shall be responsible for submitting the following:
 - 1. A signed copy of the Code of Fair Campaign Practices;
 - 2. Complete list of party/ticket members by the Head of said Party/Ticket
 - 3. Any other reasonable information required by the Election Commission, and/or the Office of Attorney General.
- H. All candidates are responsible for all information covered at the Mandatory Candidate Orientation without exception

Section XI. Write-In Candidates

- A. Write-in candidates are obligated to follow all guidelines for campaigning set forth under said Election Code. Write-in candidates will be subject to the same penalties as other candidates as outlined in said Code.
- B. A write-in candidate for any office must submit a petition containing signatures amounting to at least 5% of the constituency he/she seeks to represent as well as appropriate contact information as required by the Election Commission and/or the Office of Attorney General.

- C. Posting or distribution of campaign materials prior to submission of signatures and contact information is not allowed and votes will not be counted for candidates who have not been verified by the Office of Attorney General as write-in candidates. Potential candidates who disregard this provision may be disqualified by the Attorney General.
- D. Write-in candidates will NOT be allowed to participate in debates or formally coordinated campaigning events, however are allowed to attend such events.
- E. All write-in candidates shall be held subject to all Election Guidelines beginning the first day of the Election cycle; therefore, write-in candidates will be retroactively penalized for any/all violations during the election cycle.

Section XII. Voter Qualifications

- A. A voter shall be a registered student enrolled at Texas Southern University at the time of the election.
- B. Students may only vote once with proper ID consisting of a TSU issued ID card.
- C. If a student votes or attempts to vote more than once, both votes shall be voided.

Section XIII. Votes Required to Win

- A. Election winners are determined by a simple majority vote from voters of at least one candidate for that position. If there is a tie for a position, all those candidates having tied for that seat shall proceed to a run-off.

Section XIV. Election Results

- A. Unofficial results of all elections shall be announced by the Election Commission no later than one (1) day after Election Day, and the results shall be posted immediately thereafter.
- B. Results of all elections must be verified by the Election Commission, the Office of Attorney General, and certified by the Chief Justice in order to be valid. This certification may occur no later than two (2) class days after result verification. Results shall also be submitted to The Herald for publication.

Section XV. Recounts/Election Contestation

- A. Recounts are the contesting of results shall only be allowed in the event paper ballots were used to execute said election.

- B. Should a candidate and/or student wish to call for a recount of the vote, he/she must enter into a contract with the Election Commission stating that if the outcome of the election changes; the Election Commission will cover the financial costs of the recount. However, should the outcome of the election not change, then it is the candidate's responsibility to cover any charges incurred in recounting the ballots.
- C. Any candidate, who loses an election by less than 5% of the total vote cast for said position, shall automatically be entitled to a recount of the ballots at no charge regardless of the outcome of the recount.
- D. A candidate and/or student may contest an election no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the official results are posted by filing a written appeal with the Chief Election Commissioner stating the basis on which the election is being contested.
- E. If it is later discovered that the winning candidate was not qualified because of an error in the certification provided by the Office of the University Registrar, the Office of Attorney General shall issue an "Official Opinion," determining the next course of action and clarifying the rules necessitating such action.

Section XVI. Run-off Elections

- A. Run-off elections shall be conducted in the same manner as general elections, with the exception that no write-in votes shall be accepted in a run-off election.
- B. In the event of a tie in a run-off election, the election shall be decided by the Student Senate in a special session of the Student Senate which shall be made public. The candidate receiving a simple majority of the votes cast by Senators shall be deemed the winner. Such special session shall take place no later than one (1) week after the run-off election.
- C. In run-off elections, those names to be placed on the ballot shall be those of the two (2) parties/tickets having the same number of votes in the general election.

Section XVII. Campaign Finances

- A. Limitations
 - 1. Candidates may spend up to \$750.00 on their respective individual campaigns
 - 2. If candidates decide to campaign as a party and run on a ticket, the spending limit for the ticket shall be equated to \$750.00 x number of candidates on the ticket.

B. General Expenditures

1. Each candidate for any office shall be required to keep accurate, up-to-date records of all campaign receipts and expenditures.
2. The term "expenditure" is defined as the fair market value or actual cost, depending on the appropriate circumstance, of all campaign materials used or obtained by any candidate in his/her campaign and any fines incurred by the candidate.
3. It is the responsibility of the candidate to report the actual costs of items that may not be easily identifiable.
4. Candidates must list the entire cost of each individual expense that results in campaign material that in any way suggests support for their candidacy.
5. Any campaign material bearing the name of more than one candidate must be expensed at full cost by each candidate named.
6. Any materials produced by an organization for the purpose of soliciting votes outside that organization will be considered campaign materials and must be included on that candidate's finance forms. It is the candidate's responsibility to obtain approval from the Chief Election Commissioner prior to their distribution.
7. A finance report must be submitted no later than forty-eight (48) hours after the final Election Day. The Election Commission will contact, via e-mail, all candidates who fail to turn in their finance reports to remind them to do so.
8. Candidates failing to comply will be given a verbal warning twenty-four (24) hours after said deadline, and a written warning forty-eight (48) hours after said deadline.
9. If a candidate fails to submit a finance report seventy-two (72) hours after said deadline, the candidate shall be disqualified by the Office of Attorney General.

Section XVIII. Campaign Staffs

- A. A candidate may form a campaign staff prior to the campaign period in order to research a platform, and help the candidate prepare for the campaigning period.
- B. A candidate or a candidate's representative must ask people to join his/her campaign staff on an individual basis.
- C. The candidate will be held responsible for the actions taken by his/her supporters.

Section XIX. Campaign Materials

- A. Campaign materials are defined as anything distributed or displayed for the purpose of soliciting votes for a candidate. However, recognized student organization communication will not be considered campaign materials as long as it is not distributed outside the organization for the purpose of soliciting votes.
- B. All printed campaign materials must be registered and approved by the Election Commission and secondly, by the Department of Student Activities prior to distribution or display. Campaign materials such as clothing and other items difficult to stamp must be registered and approved by the Election Commission prior to distribution or reproduction. Any materials not registered shall be confiscated and the candidate shall be subject to disciplinary actions regardless of the origin of the campaign materials.
- C. The Election Commission will only stamp originals and will not give the stamp to candidates. The Office of Student Activities will also stamp originals and will not stamp any material that has not been pre-approved by the Election Commission.
- D. No candidate shall employ a trademarked symbol or any copyrighted material as campaign materials, with the exception that Texas Southern University trademarks and copyrights may be used provided that the Election Commission has secured approval from the Office of Attorney General.
- E. Each student is required to adhere to the Guidelines for Posting and Distribution of Posters, Flyers and/or Materials at Texas Southern University distributed by the Office of Student Activities.
- F. Flyers
 1. The term “flyer” is defined as a single piece of paper with a surface area no larger than that of an 8.5x by 14x inch piece of paper.)
 2. The term “poster” is defined as a piece of paper with a surface area no larger than 247 square inches (equal to that of a 13x 19x piece of paper.)
 3. Campaign materials may be distributed with a maximum of one flyer poster per bulletin board and three per kiosk for each candidate.
 4. Candidates may need to obtain approval from a departmental office or building manager before posting flyers or posters on bulletin boards in university buildings, including residence halls. It is the responsibility of the candidate to obtain any needed approval before posting flyers or posters on campus bulletin boards. Bulletin boards reserved for departmental or organizational announcements or designated for “official use only” shall not be used for campaigning.

5. The term "bulletin boards" shall be defined as the cork board and the surrounding frame.

- G. Handbills are only to be distributed during the campaigning process. Any candidate found distributing these materials prior to these dates will be subject to penalty.
- H. In the residence halls and dormitories, campaign materials may be placed in accordance with that specific hall's rules and regulations according to the Office of Residence Life and Housing.
- I. No materials may be placed in mailboxes except through the U.S. Postal Service.
- J. The Election Commission and/or the Office of Attorney General shall have the authority to remove or order the removal of any materials that are in violation of the Election Code.
- K. All parties/tickets are required to leave one (1) copy of each piece of campaign material with the Election Commission. In the case of T-shirts, hats, jackets, and other clothing, one (1) piece of each item must be given to the Election Commission to be kept on file as approved material. The Election Commission reserves the right to define the category to which items belong.
- L. Campaign materials cannot contain vulgar nor slanderous language. The Election Commission and/or the Office of Attorney General reserves the right to define "vulgar" and deny approval of any materials deemed as such.
- M. All rules applicable to the posting of flyers are also applicable to the posting of handbills and posters.

Section XX. Rules of Campaigning

- A. Campaigning is defined as an operation or series of operations energetically pursued to accomplish a purpose; any group, individual, or organizations seeking to gain, encourage, or incite public attention for support of any slate or candidate. The Attorney General reserves the right to clarify what additionally constitutes campaigning.
- B. All areas inside Hannah Hall, University Museum, Bell Building, and Sawyer Auditorium are off-limits to campaigning during the campaigning period, except when a group or organization allows candidates to speak at their meetings and when the Election Commission sponsors an event. In these cases, the candidate may only campaign in the immediate room in which the meeting or event is being held. The only exception to this rule is that T-shirts may be worn anytime, anywhere during campaigning. T-shirt restrictions shall only apply on Election Days.

- C. The defacing, destruction, altering, or misuse of any campus structure, land, facility, or other University property is strictly prohibited and vigorously enforced. There is to be no posting or display of any campaign materials in Hannah Hall, University Museum, Bell Building, or Sawyer Auditorium. There shall be no posting of election materials on any windows (glass or synthetic), doors (except where permitted), trees, walls (except where permitted), or the ground (grass, concrete, or brick). No material shall be erected in the grass or any other place where they will leave a *permanent mark*.
- D. No candidate or his/her supporters may remove, deface, destroy, or obscure the campaign material of any other candidate.
- E. Candidates are not permitted to display campaign slogans or other campaign related messages by marking them on University sidewalks or buildings in chalk.
- F. Off-campus campaigning on public property must comply with applicable municipal, state, and federal laws.
- G. All e-mail advertising a specific candidate during the campaign period must include a disclaimer at the bottom of the e-mail that reads, "Please reply to sender if you do not wish to receive further e-mail from this candidate. If you still receive e-mail from this candidate please contact the Election Commission." The candidate or the candidate's staff will not send e-mails to any recipient who chooses to be removed from the candidate's mailing list until the election has concluded. Any candidate who sends e-mail to a recipient who has chosen to be removed will be subject to disciplinary action by the Election Commission.
- H. Websites created for the purpose of campaigning may not be accessible online prior to the campaigning period.
- I. Each candidate shall be responsible for the removal and disposal of all displayed campaign materials within seventy-two (72) hours of the announcement of election results, with the exception that candidates proceeding to run-off elections have until seventy-two (72) hours following the announcement of run-off election results.
- J. All candidates shall conduct themselves according to the Texas Southern University Student Code of Conduct.
- K. Any candidate or member of the candidate's staff who violates departmental or University regulations, municipal, state, or federal law in an action related to campaigning shall be subject to disqualification by the Election Commission and/or the Office of Attorney General and the appropriate authorities.
- L. No live animals, nor babies, or children under the age of 18 may be used for campaigning.

- M. The use of campus affiliated media outlets is acceptable; however, proof of purchase must be presented to the Election Commission prior to publication or broadcast. Outside media outlets are not permitted and will subject candidates to campaigning violation penalties.
- N. Notice of all rallies, parties, debates, fund-raisers, etc. must be submitted to the Election Commission, in writing, two (2) business days prior to the event. The Election Commission shall sponsor all campaign-related requests for University facilities; however, the candidates shall be responsible for any damages or misuse of facilities.
- O. In accordance with University liability regulations, no hot or cold food will be allowed to be dispersed (“food” shall be defined by the Election Commission). However, foods pre-packaged by the manufacturer will be allowed including canned or packaged beverages.
- P. There shall be no active campaigning within fifty (50) feet of the entrance of the nearest polling location on Election Day. In the event elections are conducted online, candidates may only campaign on the Tiger Walk directly in front of the Student Center on Election Day.
- Q. Prior to a candidate embarking on an activity not expressly mentioned in these regulations, he/she must obtain approval, in writing, from the Chief Election Commissioner prior to the start of that activity. The candidate is restricted from proceeding with the activity until approval has been obtained. The Chief Election Commissioner will have a maximum time of one (1) business day to rule on the activity in question and notify the candidate of the ruling.

Section XXI. Endorsements

- A. An endorsement shall be defined as the action of publicly declaring one's personal or group's support of a candidate for elected office.
- B. Candidates may accept endorsements from SGA officials, other student leaders, individual students and recognized student organizations so long as they do not involve financial inputs. Additionally, no candidate may accept from any recognized student organization its assistance as a recognized student organization to obtain for a candidate any university resource to which that candidate would not have access as an individual student. No candidate may accept from any recognized student organization financial contributions of any type.
- C. No endorsement may occur sooner than five (5) days before campaigning begins.
- D. The Herald shall be prohibited from endorsing any candidate, however, may be a means of advertising for candidates wishing to purchase advertisement space during the campaigning period.

- E. There shall be no endorsements of candidates by University faculty, staff, administrators, or outside sources.

Section XXII. Penalties

- A. Infractions of said code shall result in the following penalties:
 - 1. First Infraction - Verbal warning by an election commissioner
 - 2. Second Infraction - Written warning by an election commissioner
 - 3. Third Infraction – Disqualification by the Chief Election Commissioner
- B. The Chief Election Commissioner reserves the right the combine infractions as deems necessary.

Section XXIII. Violations

- A. Violations of the Election Code will not be tolerated. What follows is a listing of what will be defined as a violation of the Election Code. Each item will be considered a violation and the consequences outlined in said Election Code will apply.
- B. Any Texas Southern University student shall have the right to file charges against students or groups of students. All charges must be presented in writing to the Election Commission via the Chief Election Commissioner.
- C. A student who wishes to file a complaint reporting an alleged violation of the Election Code may do so by filing a written account of the alleged violation with the Election Commission within twenty-four (24) hours of the alleged violation.
- D. No complaints, with the exception of failure to remove campaign material, shall be accepted no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Monday following the last Election Day. Charges of failure to remove all campaign materials from all University property may be filed until noon of the Wednesday immediately following the election. Candidates are still subject to actions of the Office of the Attorney General even though the election may be certified.
- E. The Election Commission shall work under the premise that blatant violations of this Election Code must be corrected with all due speed so that they do not occur in the future. When the Chief Election Commissioner receives a complaint, a copy of the complaint will be given to the alleged violator via email. The alleged violator has twenty-four (24) hours of notification to response to the allegations.

Section XXIV. Election Hearings

- A. No later than forty-eight (48) hours after the alleged violator's receipt of violations, shall a majority of the Election Commission convene and render a decision. Once a decision has been made, with all due and reasonable speed, the Election Commission will notify the alleged violator.

Section XXV. Grounds for Automatic Disqualification

- A. At the discretion of the Election Commission, candidates may be automatically disqualified from the election process if they are found to have "egregiously" violated these guidelines, the Texas Southern University Student Code of Conduct, or are found to have participated in activities deemed to be unlawful or "grossly unethical." The Election Commission reserves the right to define "egregiously" and "grossly unethical."
- B. Destruction of university property, and/or other candidate's campaign paraphernalia, and engaging in a physical altercation at any time during the election cycle shall be considered automatic grounds for disqualification from the election process.

Section XXVI. Rulings of Election Commission

- A. Candidates must adhere immediately to all rulings and directives issued by the Chief Election Commissioner/Election Commission. Failure to do so will place the candidate subject to disciplinary action by the Election Commission and/or Office of the Attorney General.

Section XXVII. Appeals Process

- A. If the alleged violator wishes to appeal the decision of the Election Commission, they must do so in writing to the Office of Attorney General, within seventy-two (72) hours of the receipt of the Commission decision.
- B. The Appeals Process at such time shall continue in accordance with the SGA Judicial Code, Section 10.