A BILL
To amend the By-Laws to reform and revise the election rules for the 2014-2015 academic year

Primary Sponsor: Senator Beeson
First Reading: 11/24/2014
Referred to: N/A
Second Reading: 11/24/2014

Be it enacted by the Undergraduate Senate of the East Carolina University Student Government Association,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This bill may be cited as “The 2014-2015 Elections Act”

SECTION 2. CHANGES TO THE BY-LAWS

WHEREAS, the Elections Committee is charged each year with the review, revision, and implementation of the election rules contained within the ECU SGA By-Laws; and,

WHEREAS, the SGA Undergraduate Senate shall be the supreme authority over all Election laws as specified in Article IX, Section A., Subsection 4 as outlined in the ECU SGA Constitution; now, therefore, be it,

ENACTED, the following shall be inserted as a new subsection, subsection (h) in Section 4.6:

(h) Official action cannot be taken without two-thirds of the Elections Committee present and a majority voting for such action to be taken.

ENACTED, the following shall be inserted as a new subsection, subsection (i) in Section 4.6:

(i) The SGA adviser tasked with overseeing the elections process shall act only in an advisory role.

ENACTED, the following shall be inserted as a new subsection to the By-Laws in Section 4.6 between subsections (g) and (h) as new subsections:
(h) All candidates will be assigned a new ticket number for the duration of the
elections period; a ticket may be comprised of one to four members.

(i) Ticket numbers will be determined by the submission of the first number of the
ticket in the order in which applications are received via the OrgSync filing
process.

(j) Candidates will be listed by position in chronologically descending order of
ticket number beginning with Ticket 1.

ENACTED, Section 4.8, subsection (a), sub-subsection vi. shall be amended to read, “All
candidates must attend the compulsory meeting for the purpose of explaining the
rules, providing a clear understanding of the election process and the guidelines
for the elections process. From this point forward, any election rule clarifications,
remaining consistent with the Elections By-Laws, deemed appropriate or
necessary by a two-thirds majority of the Elections Committee, shall be dispensed
to all candidates without hesitation immediately after the decision is made.”

ENACTED, Section 4.8, subsection (a), sub-subsection vi. shall be amended to read,
“Attendance shall be taken for all candidates.”

ENACTED, Section 4.9, subsection (a) shall be stricken from the By-Laws and replaced with
the following:

(a) Campaigning in residence halls and campus buildings is prohibited;

ENACTED, the following shall be inserted as a new subsection, subsection (e) in Section 4.9:

(e) Prior to speaking to a student organizations or academic class, candidates must
notify the Elections Chairman, or it can result in sanctioning.

ENACTED, the following shall be inserted as a new subsection, subsection (f) in Section 4.9:

(f) Organization members utilized for campaign purposes during the elections
process, regardless of actual campaign coordination, as part of a requirement for
the organization is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, having
to go door to door with laptops and being explicitly or implicitly instructed to
partake on behalf of any candidate(s) or ticket(s) involved with the SGA election
process as part of a requirement for the organization(s).

ENACTED, the following shall be inserted as subsections to the By-Laws in Section 4.10
before subsection (a):

(a) No campaign materials are to be printed from any university office or
department printer.
(b) No in-person campaigning in common spaces in educational buildings including, but not limited to, computer labs, lobbies and lounges.

(c) No campaigning in classrooms without prior approval from the professor.

ENACTED, Section 4.10, subsection (f) shall be amended to read, “The use and distribution of alcohol (including posted images) on behalf of, or in representation of a campaign is prohibited.”

ENACTED, Section 4.10, subsection (g) shall be amended to read, “Bribery to gain votes will lead to review by the Elections Committee and possible disqualification. Bribery is defined as the distribution of items or giveaways not included in the approved campaign materials.”

ENACTED, Section 4.11, subsection (d), sub-subsection i. shall be amended to read, “A list of campaign workers as well as a list of current expenses shall be turned into the Elections Chairman and Attorney General no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the opening of the polls on the first day of elections.”

ENACTED, Section 4.12, subsection (c) shall be amended to read, “Polling stations must be manned by at least two Elections Committee members. All poll tenders must wear colors not associated with any of the candidates’ or tickets’ colors while manning the polling locations.”

ENACTED, the following shall be inserted as a new sub-subsection following sub-subsection ii., subsection (d), Section 4.12:

iii. 200-word platform summaries, provided upon submission by each candidate/ticket, will be available on the voting table in clear view of voters;

ENACTED, the following shall be inserted in Section 4.12 between subsections (e) and (f) as a new subsection:

(f) On the OneStop ballot, clear instructions will be available for each section. Voting instructions, the respective office, names of candidates running for the respective office, and ticket numbers for executive candidates is all that shall be displayed. No pictures of candidates shall be displayed on the ballot.

ENACTED, Section 4.12, subsection (i) shall be amended to read, “The access password will be given only to the Elections Chairman, Attorney General, and SGA Advisor. This password shall be used to monitor the election results to ensure the accuracy of the election. The vote totals shall be kept secret until the close of the polls on the final day.”
ENACTED, the following shall be inserted as a subsections to the By-Laws in Section 4.14 after subsection (a) as new subsections:

(b) Persons found in violation of the Elections By-Laws will be subject to point penalties as well as additional sanctioning deemed appropriate by the Elections Committee.

(c) A penalty system using point values will preside over violations made during campaigning; the accumulation of 10 points or more by a ticket or candidate will result in disqualification:

a. **Level 1 (1-3 Points)**
   i. False Start
   ii. Failure to submit expense report
   iii. Failure to receive approval for campaign by Elections Committee
   iv. Defacing school property (includes hanging things in places they are not supposed to be hung)
   v. Use of office printers and/or materials for campaign use

b. **Level 2 (4-6 Points)**
   i. Improper expense report
   ii. Going over budget
   iii. Campaigning in restricted areas and/or areas without permission
   iv. Speaking at events without proper approval
   v. Harmful or malicious behavior

b. **Level 3 (7-10 Points)**
   i. Falsifying expense report
   ii. Slander/Libel
   iii. Handing out electronic devices to vote including, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones, tablets, iPads, etc.
   iv. Violating sanction restrictions

(d) Sanctions will be attributed to each level of violation. Possible sanctions include, but are not limited to:
   i. Suspension of social media accounts for designated period of time.
   ii. Removal of campaign materials.
   iii. Suspension of campaigning.
   iv. Restricted campaign areas.
   v. Probation/temporary suspension.

(e) If a ticket or candidate is found using a previous year’s campaign site/social media profile or a site/social media profile previously created, a violation will be given for early campaigning.
ENACTED, Section 4.14, subsection (b) shall be stricken from the By-Laws;

ENACTED, Section 4.14, subsection (c) shall be amended to read, “Failure to notify the Elections Chairman before campaigning inside a university owned building will result in sanctioning.”

ENACTED, Section 4.14, subsection (e) shall be amended to read, “Campaigning door to door is prohibited.”

ENACTED, Section 4.14, subsection (f) shall be amended to read, “Violations made by any campaign workers listed on the campaign worker sheet will result in points and/or sanctioning.”

ENACTED, the following shall be inserted as a new subsection in Section 4.14:

Intentionally falsifying a violation report on another ticket or individual to bring unnecessary sanctions to that ticket or individual will result in disqualification.

ENACTED, Section 4.14, subsection (j) shall be amended to read, “Violations not specified in this section are subject to sanctioning by the Elections Committee as they see fit based upon the pre-determined violation levels.”

ENACTED, the following shall be inserted as a new subsection in Section 4.14:

Candidates and tickets shall have the right to request Elections Committee meeting minutes and official evidence used for possible sanctioning.

ENACTED, Section 4.14, subsection (p) shall be stricken from the By-Laws.

ENACTED, the following shall be inserted after sub-subsection vii in subsection (b), Section 4.15 as a new sub-subsection:

vii. Written statements from each candidate/ticket willing to submit a written statement as part of the final election report to detail their personal experiences and future recommendations for posterity.

ENACTED, Section 4.15, subsection (c) shall be amended to read, “The Final Elections Report shall be made available to all students on the ECU SGA website, sent out through the SGA listserv and to student media.”

SECTION 3. DATE EFFECTIVE.

This Act shall be effective upon its passage by two-thirds (2/3) of the ECU SGA Undergraduate Senate. A copy of the Act, along with a copy of the By-Laws in Senate binders, shall be sent to the Elections Chairman for full implementation.
This Act shall be incorporated within a revised, uniform edition of the ECU SGA By-Laws immediately.