

**B F2020.10**

**An Amendment to the First Chapter of the Election Code**

*A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government*

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**Whereas**, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA Students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”;<sup>1</sup> and,

**Whereas**, LSA SG utilizes its Bylaws to structure and facilitate official business, and recognizes the need for amendments to the Bylaws to improve its function and reflect current practices; and,

**Whereas**, elections are an integral part of this body, as the democratically elected representative assembly of the thousands of students enrolled in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts; and,

**Whereas**, the ability of candidates to campaign during the voting period (the time when voter contact is most influential) has been stifled in the past; and,

**Whereas**, the freedom of speech of the individuals campaigning should not be infringed upon; and,

**Whereas**, a change in this policy would put less of a burden on the Election Director, who will be induced to adjudicate fewer election code violations; and,

**Whereas**, visibility of candidates during the voting period may encourage others to get involved in LSA SG.

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the Election Code be amended in accordance with the language in Appendix A; and,

**Be it further resolved**, that this amendment take immediate effect; and,

**Be it finally resolved**, that this change be effective during the November 2020 LSA SG election.

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<sup>1</sup> The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

**Chapter 1**  
**LSA SG Election Code**  
**Election Timeline**

1.03.04 **Campaign Period.** The period of time between the end of the Candidates Meeting and the *beginning* end of the Voting Period in which campaigning is allowed (for Campaign Period rules, see Section 1.06).

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1.03.06 **Voting Period.** The 48-hour period during which students of the College cast their votes. *for the election and during which no individual, sponsor, or student organization is allowed to campaign (for Voting Period rules, see Section 1.07) for any candidate.*

**Voting Period Rules**

1.07.00 **Termination of Campaign period.** *At the end of the voting period 11:59 PM on the night before the voting period begins*, all campaigning shall be terminated. This subsection applies to and includes but is not limited to verbal communication, social networking, texting, email messages, and canvassing in which a candidate promotes, or asks others to promote, their candidacy.

1.07.01 **Government promotion.** Candidates may disseminate an approved LSA SG election message sent directly from the Election Director *using on* social *networking* media. Media messages created by candidates may encourage voting in the election *in general and/or voting for a specific candidate but may not mention any particular candidates.*

1.07.02 **Speaking.** Every candidate may *advertise their candidacy (including their positions, qualifications, endorsements, and platform points) during the voting period. speak on behalf of the election or answer questions about whether or not a student is running in the election when prompted during the voting period. The candidate may not promote their own candidacy when answering questions pertaining to the election.*

**Violations and Penalties**

1.08.00 **Violations of Election Code.** Violations to the Election Code are divided into three categories with varying levels of severity. If a violation is not specifically listed in Section 1.08.01-03, it is up to the discretion of the Election Director to determine the categorization of the violation.

1.08.01 **Minor Violations.** Candidates will receive one demerit for each Minor Violation. Minor violations shall constitute the following:

- (a) An unexcused absence from a required event, such as the Candidates Meeting, a General Meeting prior to the election, and/or the Candidates Forum
- (b) Posting in a prohibited area, or by a prohibited fashion, as defined in Section 1.06.04-07
- (c) Implying an elected incumbency status that a candidate does not have, as defined in Section 1.06.00
- (d) Campaigning in any residence hall after 12 AM as stated in Section 1.06.08
- (e) Not denoting the official source of campaign material(s) as stated in Section 1.06.02
- (f) Violation of Section 1.06.09 with email listservs containing 1-100 members

1.08.02 **Major violations.** Candidates will receive three demerits for each Major Violation. Major violations shall constitute the following:

(a) Destruction of another candidate's campaign materials, as defined in Section 1.06.03

~~(b) Campaigning during the voting period~~

(~~e~~b) Campaign Finance Violation as defined in Section 1.06.10

(~~d~~c) Deception in advertising, which shall be defined as breaking any of the guidelines for advertising set forth in Section 1.06.00-01

(~~e~~d) Misrepresentation of Endorsement. Using the name of a student organization that a candidate does not have permission to use Section 1.06.01

(~~e~~f) Violation of Section 1.06.09 with email listservs containing 101-399 members

(~~g~~f) Parties: If the Election Director feels that a candidate has explicitly or subtly joined a party, they may reach out to them and ask them to cease and desist all references to this party within 24 hours. If the candidate cannot remove all notices to a party within 24 hours due to extenuating circumstances, they must inform the Election Director. Should the candidate not cease and desist within the designated time, a major violation should be applied.

1.08.12 **Hearings.** The hearing by CSJ in cases of possible violations shall be in accordance with the Constitution of the Student Government of the College of Literature, Science and the Arts, *and all other relevant local, state, and federal laws, and campus ordinances.*