

B W2021.14

**An Amendment to the Second Chapter of the Election Code Seeking to Remove the Word
“Demerit” from the Document**

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

February 12, 2021

Sponsored by: [Jacob Walter Cohen](#), [Max Woodrow Stoneman](#), [Tyler Robert Watt](#)

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”;¹ 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, one of the goals of Judiciary Establishment and Election Code Amendment Task Force (commonly known as the JEECAT Force) is to simplify and increase the clarity of the Election Code and the election process; 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,

Whereas, the JEECAT Force recently eliminated the demerit system of punishment for violations of the Election Code; and,

Whereas, it is thus logical to remove all mentions of this now defunct system.

Be it therefore resolved, that the Election Code be amended as illustrated in Appendix A; and,

Be it finally resolved, that this amendment take effect immediately.

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

Appendix A

Election Director

2.01.00 Election Director. LSA SG shall hire an external Election Director at least 35 days before the date of the election. The Election Director must be an unbiased person. Once hired, the Election Director will be disqualified from receiving a seat in that election. The Election Director shall have the general operating authority over the election, subject to the approval of the LSA SG.

2.01.01 Contract and Review. After being approved in accordance with the hiring process the Election Director shall have the terms of their employment written out on an official contract drafted by the LSA SG Executive Board that shall be signed by the Election Director, the President, the Vice President, and Treasurer of LSA SG. After the elections, the Executive Board under which the Election Director was hired will review the contract of the Election Director and their performance to determine if there were any violations and any penalties that may result in a reduction in payment (refer to Section 2.02.00 of the Election Code).

2.01.02 Duties. The duties of the Election Director shall be as follows:

- (a) Thoroughly understand the Election Code and in conjunction with the Counsel, advise candidates on questions pertaining to the Election Code when necessary
- (b) Confirm the receipt of applications with candidates via email within 24 hours of receipt, as in Section 2.02.04
- (c) Schedule, preside at, and announce the Candidates Meeting at least 48 hours prior to its commencement, as in Section 2.03.03
- (d) Schedule, organize, and advertise for the Candidates Forum, as in Section 2.03.05
- (e) Schedule, organize, and advertise for the computer polling stations in the LSA SG Office on the days of the Election
- (f) Set up and be responsible for managing the online voting system, as in Section 2.04.00
- (g) Tabulate and verify with the LSA SG Counsel the Election Results, as in Section 2.04.04-2.04.09
- (h) Review complaints and issue ~~demerits for~~ violations, as in Section 1.08
- (i) Defend the actions of themselves and LSA SG, with the aid of the Counsel, if a violation decision or any other issue with election is brought to CSJ, except for a suit by LSA SG against the Election Director
- (j) Formulate and distribute an orientation packet to the newly elected representatives
- (k) Formulate a report of the Election Cycle and submit this to the LSA SG Executive Board for review.

2.01.03 Line of Succession. In the case where the Election Director is terminated prior to the completion of the Elections Process, the Assistant Election Director shall assume the role of Election Director until the end of the Elections Process. If there is no active Assistant Election Director, the President shall assume the role of the Election Director until the end of the Elections Process. If the President is a candidate in the elections, the role of Election Director shall go to the next person in the Executive Board following the order listed in “Moving the Chair” in Section 2.00.11 of the Bylaws, who is not a candidate. If all of the members of the Executive Board are candidates in the elections, then an emergency session of Steering shall be called to decide who will be the next Election Director by a majority vote of all members of Steering not running in the election.

Responsibility of the Candidates

2.02.00 **Qualifications of Candidates.** All candidates for LSA SG elected offices must be currently enrolled students of the College. No candidate shall be allowed to run during the Fall elections if they apply to graduate and therefore disenroll from the College in December. Likewise, no candidate shall be allowed to run during the Winter elections if they apply to graduate and therefore disenroll from the College in May. No candidate shall also be a candidate for any offices on CSG.

2.02.01 **Questions of Election Code Conflict.** In all cases of doubt about any conflict, the burden of responsibility to conform to the code shall rest upon the candidate or group of candidates in question. The Election Director, the LSA SG Executive Board, and CSJ reserve the right to interpret these rules. Failure to consult the Election Director, ignorance, or misinterpretation of this code is not a valid defense of a violation.

2.02.02 **Candidate Packets.** The Election Director shall prepare and make available Candidate Packets at least 14 days prior to the filing deadline. Each Candidate Packet shall contain a Letter of Introduction, a Candidacy Filing Form, and the LSA SG Election Code. The Candidacy Filing Form shall be created and prepared by the LSA SG Election Director. The form must at least require candidates to list their full proper name or a reasonable substitution, current local address, telephone number, date of the filing, and a signed pledge to abide by the LSA SG Election Code which reads “I affirm that I am declaring my candidacy for an elected position of the LSA Student Government. I affirm that all of the information in this Declaration of Candidacy is correct. I affirm that I have read the LSA Student Government Election Code and agree to comply with the conditions specified in the Code. I also understand that I must attend the Candidates’ Meeting on (date of meeting) at (time and location of meeting) and the Candidates Forum on (date of event) at (time and location of meeting) as well as one LSA SG General Meeting during the Campaign Period. Absences shall be under the jurisdiction of the Election Director, and acceptable conflicts may include, but are not limited to, examinations, religious observances, and family obligations.” Candidates must complete the form in full for it to be considered valid.

2.02.03 **Presidential-Vice Presidential slate.** A candidate for President and a candidate for Vice President shall run together as a slate. Any individuals running for President and Vice President must file their application forms independently.

2.02.04 **Filing Confirmation.** The Election Director shall confirm the submission of the completed candidate packet with the applicant via email within 24 hours.

2.02.05 **Withdrawal of candidacy.** Any candidate who files for any office may withdraw their candidacy no later than 48 hours before the opening of the election. A candidate who wishes to withdraw must do so in writing or via email with the Election Director.

2.02.06 **Candidate Attendance.** Each candidate seeking a representative seat and each candidate seeking the Presidency and the Vice Presidency must attend at least one LSA SG General Meeting between the date of the filing deadline and the election. Absences shall be under the jurisdiction of the Election Director, and acceptable conflicts may include, but are not limited to, examinations, religious observances, and family obligations. Failure to attend a LSA SG General Meeting, Candidates Meeting or the Candidates Forum will be considered a minor violation. ~~and result in a candidate receiving one demerit.~~ The Election Director shall record and monitor candidate attendance at the Government meetings

Mechanics of the Election

2.04.00 **Form of the Electronic Ballot.** All students enrolled in the College shall be able to cast their

votes for their preferred candidates and referenda issues on an electronic ballot hosted on vote.umich.edu. The format of this electronic ballot shall follow the guidelines listed in Article VIII, Section C, Subsection 2 of the LSA SG Constitution.

2.04.01 Order of listing candidates. The order of listing of candidates for each office shall be completely random.

2.04.02 Write-in votes. There shall be a means to register a write-in vote on all electronic ballots.

2.04.03 Voting. All voting shall be by secret ballot. The voter shall rank representative candidates in order of preference as described in Article VIII, Section C, Subsection 2 of LSA SG Constitution. .

2.04.04 Tabulations and Certifications of Votes. After the voting period closes, the Election Director shall tally and certify votes following the guidelines listed in Section 2.04.05-08.

2.04.05 Tabulation. The electronic votes for each position or question shall be tabulated to reach a final vote total. Immediately after tabulation, the Election Director shall send an email containing the unofficial results to all candidates running, noting that the results still have to be certified and *violationsdemerits* still have to be counted into final vote totals.

2.04.06. Certification. The Election Director shall certify the results with the LSA SG Counsel to ensure that results are accurate. If there is a conflict of interest, the Counsel must inform the Elections Director and the Executive Board of a recusal from this process no fewer than twenty-four hours prior to the commencement of the Voting Period. In this case, this role in the certification process shall move to the first person on the following list that can exhibit impartiality on the outcome of the election:

- (a) President
- (b) Vice President
- (c) Treasurer
- (d) Academic Relations Officer
- (e) External Relations Officer
- (f) Student Life Relations Officer
- (g) Secretary

2.04.07 Questions of Certification. The Election Director must be notified in writing of an intent to file any disputes or challenges to the election results within twelve hours of the release of unofficial results. Any planned disputes or challenges will be brought before and decided by the CSJ and must be officially filed within one week of the Election Director being notified of the intent. After the conclusion of this twelve hour notification period, and in the absence of any pending challenges, the Election Director and Counsel are empowered to reach a consensus on certifying the election results. Upon certification, and after the Election Director accounts for all *violationsdemerits*, the election results are official. Once results are deemed official, they are final and not subject to further appeal.

2.04.08 Accounting for Penalties. After the results have been tabulated, the Election Director shall adjust the final vote totals of all candidates receiving *violationsdemerits*, with the reduction per *violationsdemerit* being as listed in Section 1.00.02, and the amount of *violationsdemerits* received for each penalty being as defined in Section 1.08.

2.04.09. Official Notification. Unofficial election results shall be distributed to the LSA SG Executive Board, as well as all candidates involved in the Election. Following the tabulation of votes, certification of the election results, final decisions on *violationsdemerits*, and adjusting the election results to account for any changes caused by *violationsdemerits*, the Election Director shall send an email to all candidates and the LSA SG Executive Board announcing the official results of the election. The Election Director, working in conjunction with the External Relations Officer, will publish the official

results of the election on the LSA SG website. This marks the conclusion of the election period, as defined in Section 1.00.02.