

EX 0607-01: ELECTION RULES STANDING RULE SECTION 11.1

Whereas, UC standing rule number 11, elections, currently outlines no specific guidelines for Presidential campaigns or consequences for campaigns conducted in an unethical manner, and with Presidential election itself tends to be very time-consuming, which can be particularly harmful to more distant delegations who may miss out on later discussion due to having to return home, therefore be it resolved that the GA adapt the following revision to Rule number 11:

Rule #11: Elections

1 Elective Office: The elective office of this organization shall be that of the President.

11.2 ~~Nomination~~ Candidacy: An individual intending to seek the office of President shall become an official candidate by filing a statement of candidacy with the secretary of the organization no less than three and no more than six weeks prior to the date selected for the election of the President. **Candidates must have completed at least two full years of study at a UW System institution. In addition to statements of candidacy, candidates may also submit a resume and a position paper. Candidates' documentation shall, upon submission, become the property of United Council, and will be made available directly to member campuses' student governments and on the United Council web site three weeks prior to the election.**

11.3 Campaigns ~~ing~~: All candidates must conduct responsible, truthful, ethical, and honest campaigns. **Campaigns shall operate under the following guidelines:**

A. Candidate Responsibility

By filing a statement of candidacy or otherwise being a candidate for President, candidates shall agree to these guidelines and be responsible for their own actions and the actions of those actively supporting or working for their campaigns.

B. Campaign Conduct

The following actions by any candidate or agent of a candidate shall be prohibited:

- 1) Use of any equipment, resources or supplies owned or paid for by United Council, including (but not limited to) office space, office equipment, paper, telephones and computers, but specifically excluding the use of a United Council computer for checking personal e-mail, provided it does not interfere with the duties of any staff member (including the candidate, if applicable);**
- 2) Use of any United Council funds to support campaign activities;**

- 3) Campaigning by any United Council staff member while at work, including committee meetings, General Assemblies and conferences, but specifically excluding the time between the April committee meetings and the General Assembly as well as any United Council-sponsored forums or debates;**
- 4) Making any false or misleading statement, written or spoken, which is intended to distort the ability, character, experience or qualifications of a candidate (including oneself); and**
- 5) Campaigning before filing a statement of candidacy or being accepted as a candidate under 11.7.**

C. Violations

A violation of any of the prohibitions under section B shall be considered grounds for disqualification. Only opposing candidates may file charges of an alleged violation. Charges must be filed with the President and the Executive Director by one of the opposing candidates no more than five days after the alleged violation.

D. Standard of Proof

It shall be the responsibility of the candidate making a charge to supply any evidence and/or witnesses. Any charge based on hearsay shall require the corroboration of at least two witnesses. In order for a charge to be proven, the candidate making the charge must demonstrate to a reasonable degree that a violation took place and that the violation was committed by the candidate charged or by an agent of that candidate.

E. Hearing

The Executive Committee shall hear any charges as a special first order of business at its regular April meeting prior to the election or, if required, in a special meeting prior to the election. If the Executive Director is a candidate or agent of a candidate, the committee shall elect a member not involved in any campaign to preside over the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted openly, but deliberations shall be conducted in a closed meeting. The committee shall hear each charge one at a time. The candidate charged with the alleged violation shall have the right to defend him or herself, or to counsel; to cross-examine any witnesses, to challenge any evidence, and to supply his or her own evidence and/or witnesses. The committee shall deliberate whether or not the charge was proven, and may by a two-thirds vote uphold the charge. Any charge so upheld shall result in the immediate disqualification of the candidate committing the violation.

11.4 Election: The election for President shall occur during the annual meeting in April.

11.5 Presiding Officer: On the date chosen for the election of the President, the President shall preside. If he or she is a candidate or has a direct interest in the election, **one of the Vice Presidents, chosen by the flip of a coin, shall preside.** If the Vice Presidents are similarly affected, a chairperson pro tempore elected by the General Assembly shall preside.

11.6 Debate Forum: Prior to the election, each official candidate may participate in a debate for the benefit of the delegates. Each candidate may appear before the General Assembly and present a timed statement. Candidates shall then respond to questions posed by the General Assembly. A non-partisan moderator shall be chosen prior to the debate. The moderator shall be a donor member without interest in the election. The debate shall take place the day of the election. Each school shall submit two questions (one primary and one secondary). **A primary question substantially duplicating another question shall be eliminated, and that school's secondary question substituted for it; if the secondary question substantially duplicates another question, it will be eliminated as well. The moderator shall then ask the questions in a random order, giving each candidate equal time to respond. The debate shall be limited to ninety minutes, with the question period limited to seventy-five minutes.**

11.7 New Candidates: Prior to any particular ballot, the General Assembly may by a two-thirds vote, accept the candidacy of any individual, provided that the individual is otherwise qualified and eligible to hold that office.

11.8 Tellers: Ballots shall be distributed, collected, and tabulated only by tellers. The presiding officer shall appoint two tellers for this purpose. Tellers may not be delegates or members of the executive staff, and need not be students. ~~Any teller may be challenged by any two delegates with regard to ability and/or objectivity~~ **The ability and/or objectivity of a teller may be challenged by any two delegates,** and the General Assembly shall immediately resolve any such challenges by a majority vote. A delegate may challenge no more than two tellers during the course of any election.

~~11.9 Ballots: The official ballots shall be printed in a prescribed format approved by the General Assembly, and shall be consecutively numbered. Any ballot incorrectly marked shall be invalidated, regardless of ability to identify the author. All ballots shall be kept on file for a period of no less than two months.~~

~~11.10 Election Requirement: The vote requirement for election shall be a majority vote of the delegates of the General Assembly.~~

~~11.11 Runoff Election: In the event that no candidate receives a majority vote on the first ballot, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be subject to a runoff election. The procedures for a runoff election shall be the same as those for any regular election.~~

11.9 Election Procedure: The requirement for election shall be a majority vote at the General Assembly. The election shall be conducted by secret ballot with an instant-runoff procedure. Ballots shall be arranged with the candidates' names listed in alphabetical order, by last name, and a blank next to each name. Delegates shall mark their first choice of candidate with a "1" and, if they choose, may mark their second choice with a "2", third

choice with a “3”, and so on. Any ballot incorrectly marked (i.e., a candidate with both a “1” and a “2” after their name) will be invalidated. The ballots shall then be counted by number of first-choice votes. If no one candidate receives a majority of first-choice votes, then the candidate with the lowest total shall be eliminated and the second-choice votes on those ballots shall be distributed to their respective candidates. If there continues to be no one candidate with a majority, then counting shall continue into subsequent rounds. In each round of counting the candidate with the lowest total shall be eliminated, and the votes on those ballots for the next-highest choice (including ballots that have already had one or more choices eliminated) shall be distributed to their respective candidates. If a ballot has all of its choices eliminated, it shall not be counted against the final total. The counting procedure shall continue until one candidate has a majority of votes; that candidate shall be elected.