

**TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
Election Code**

**ARTICLE I: PURPOSE**

The following code is established to govern and guide all elections sponsored by the Tarleton State University Student Government Association and outlines the scope and authority of the Election Committee that will oversee all student body elections.

**ARTICLE II: HOMECOMING KING ELECTIONS**

**SECTION I: Eligibility**

The Homecoming King must:

- A. Identify as a male
- B. Be enrolled at Tarleton State University
- C. Be classified as a junior or senior by the university's standards.
- D. Have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5.
- E. Not be on disciplinary probation.
- F. Have never been Homecoming King at Tarleton State University.
- G. Have never been Mr. TSU.

**SECTION II: Nomination**

- A. Each student at Tarleton shall be allowed to nominate three (3) male identifying students for Homecoming King.
- B. In the event that a name appears more than one time on a ballot, the nomination will only count once.
- C. The five (5) eligible candidates with the most nominations shall have their names placed on the ballot for student body elections.

**SECTION III: Election**

- A. The nominee receiving the most votes shall be Homecoming King and crowned during Homecoming Week
- B. In the event of a tie, the nominee with the highest cumulative grade point average shall be declared the winner.

**ARTICLE III: HOMECOMING QUEEN ELECTIONS**

## SECTION I: Eligibility

The Homecoming Queen must:

- A. Identify as a Female.
- B. Be enrolled at Tarleton State University.
- C. Be classified as a junior or senior by the university's standards.
- D. Have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5.
- E. Not be on disciplinary probation.
- F. Have never been Homecoming Queen at Tarleton State University.
- G. Have never been Ms. TSU.

## SECTION II: Nomination

- A. Each student at Tarleton shall be allowed to nominate three (3) female identifying students for Homecoming Queen.
- B. In the event that a name appears more than one time on a ballot, the nomination will only count once.
- C. The five (5) eligible candidates with the most nominations shall have their names placed on the ballot for student body elections.

## SECTION III: Election

- A. The nominee receiving the most votes shall be Homecoming Queen and crowned during Homecoming Week
- B. In the event of a tie, the nominee with the highest cumulative grade point average shall be declared the winner.

# **ARTICLE IV: MR. TSU ELECTIONS**

## SECTION I: Eligibility

Mr. TSU must:

- A. Identify as a male.
- B. Be enrolled at Tarleton State University
- C. Be classified as a junior or senior by the university's standards.
- D. Have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5.
- E. Not be on disciplinary probation.
- F. Have never been Mr. TSU.
- G. Have never been Homecoming King at Tarleton State University.

## SECTION II: Nomination

- A. Each student at Tarleton shall be allowed to nominate three (3) male identifying students for Mr. TSU.
- B. In the event that a name appears more than one time on a ballot, the nomination will only count once.
- C. The five (5) eligible candidates with the most nominations shall have their names placed on the ballot for student body elections.

#### SECTION III: Election

- A. The nominee receiving the most votes shall be elected Mr. TSU
- B. In the event of a tie, the nominee with the highest grade point average shall be declared the winner.

### **ARTICLE V: MS. TSU ELECTIONS**

#### SECTION I: Eligibility

Ms. TSU must:

- A. Identify as a female.
- B. Be enrolled at Tarleton State University
- C. Be classified as a junior or senior by the university's standards.
- D. Have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5.
- E. Not be on disciplinary probation.
- F. Have never been Ms. TSU.
- G. Have never been Homecoming Queen at Tarleton State University.

#### SECTION II: Nomination

- A. Each student at Tarleton shall be allowed to nominate three (3) female identifying students for Ms. TSU
- B. In the event that a name appears more than one time on a ballot, the nomination will only count once.
- C. The five (5) eligible candidates with the most nominations shall have their names placed on the ballot for student body elections.

#### SECTION III: Election

- A. The nominee receiving the most votes shall be elected Ms. TSU
- B. In the event of a tie, the nominee with the highest cumulative grade point average shall be declared the winner.

### **ARTICLE VI: STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT ELECTIONS**

## SECTION I: Nomination

- A. A nomination must be filed with the Office of Student Affairs no later than three weeks prior to the date of elections.
- B. This nomination must have the name of the candidate, the office the candidate seeks, and the year in which the candidate is seeking office.
- C. Candidates for Student Body President and Student Body Vice President must run together on the same ticket.
- D. Candidates for the Student Body President and Student Body Vice President must meet all qualifications outlined by the Tarleton State University Student Government Association Constitution.

## SECTION II: Election

- A. The Student Body President-Vice President ticket must receive a majority vote to be declared the winner.
- B. In the Student Body President-Vice President elections a vote of no confidence shall be added to the ballot. This vote of no confidence is an option for students to cast their vote for none of the Presidential candidates if they feel so strongly that the candidates do not represent them well.
  - a. Should a vote of no confidence win in an election the procedures for run off election outlined in Article IX Section II with new Student Body President-Vice Presidents candidates will take place.
- C. In the event that either candidate for Student Body President or Vice President resigns from the campaign, the remaining candidate for Student Body President or Vice President will have no more than 72-hours prior to the first election day to present a new candidate to the election committee.
- D. Extenuating Circumstances include leaving the university, illness, or death. The discretionary power resides within the Election Committee and Student Government Association Advisor regarding other circumstances that may arise.

## SECTION III: Office

- A. In the event that the elected Student Body President fails to meet the qualifications outlined by the Tarleton State University Student Government Association Constitution by the time they take office or at any time during their term, the Student Body Vice President will assume the role.
  - a. In addition to the promotion, the new Student Body President will then need to appoint a Student Body Vice President and will require a two-thirds majority vote by Congress.

- B. In the event the elected Student Body Vice President fails to meet the qualifications outlined by the Tarleton State University Student Government Association Constitution by the time they take office or at any time during their term, the Student Body President shall appoint a Vice President with approval of the Student Congress.

## **ARTICLE VII: CONGRESSPERSON ELECTIONS**

### **SECTION I: Application**

- A. An application must be filed with the Office of Student Affairs no later than three weeks prior to the date of the elections. This application must have the name of the candidate, the office the candidate seeks, and the year in which the candidate is seeking office.
- B. Candidates must sign up through the election system administered by the Student Government Association and the Office of Student Affairs.
- C. No person shall file for more than one position in the Student Government Association.

### **SECTION II: Election**

- A. The time and place of the elections shall coincide with the election of the Student Body President and Student Body Vice President.
- B. In the event that three or more candidates apply for a particular position, there shall be no write in candidates for that particular congressperson position. However, if two or fewer candidates apply for a particular congressperson position there shall be a write-in section on the ballot.
- C. The three (3) candidates who receive the most votes will be declared the winners using a plurality voting system.
- D. In the event of a tie in which the final congress seat(s) is/are at stake, the candidate with the highest cumulative grade point average shall be declared the winner.

### **SECTION III: College Congresspersons**

- A. Persons seeking a college congress position must be a member of the academic college to which they are applying.
- B. The three (3) candidates who receive the most votes will be declared the winners using a plurality voting system.

### **SECTION IV: Athletic Congresspersons**

- A. Persons seeking an Athletic Congress position must be a Tarleton State University NCAA athlete.
- B. The three (3) candidates who receive the most votes will be declared the

winners using a plurality voting system.

#### SECTION V: Greek Congresspersons

- A. Persons seeking a Greek Congress position must fall under the jurisdiction of the Greek council they will be representing.
- B. The candidate receiving the most votes for each Greek Council will be declared the winner using a plurality voting system.

#### SECTION VI: On-Campus Congresspersons

- A. Persons seeking an On-Campus Congress position must live in an on campus residence hall.
- B. The three (3) candidates receiving the most votes will be declared the winner using a plurality voting system.

#### SECTION VII: Office

- A. In the event that there are empty Congress seats following the election, the Student Body President shall appoint eligible persons to the seats with Congress approval.
- B. Elected students must meet all qualifications outlined by the Tarleton State University Student Government Association Constitution by the time they take office.
  - a. If an elected person fails to meet the qualifications listed above then the Student Body President shall appoint an eligible person to fill the position with Congress approval.

### **ARTICLE VIII. WRITE-IN CANDIDATES**

#### SECTION I: President and Vice President

There shall be no write-in candidates for Student Body President/Vice-President.

#### SECTION II: Congresspersons

Any write-in candidate receiving enough votes to be considered victorious must meet the qualifications outlined in the Student Government Association Constitution.

### **ARTICLE IX: SPECIAL ELECTIONS**

#### SECTION I: Referendum Elections

The Election Committee has the right to authorize a referendum election at the request of the Student Body President, Student Congress and/or the university administration.

## SECTION II: Runoff Elections

- A. A runoff election shall take place only when a Student Body President and Vice President ticket fails to win a majority of votes, or lose because of a vote of no confidence.
- B. In the case of a runoff election, it must follow the same guidelines as the previous election held.
- C. In the event of a tie in a runoff election, the candidate that received the highest number of votes in the general election shall be considered the winner.

## SECTION III: President and Vice President

In the event neither the Student Body President nor the Student Body Vice President meet qualifications by the time they take office, or at any time during their term, the student congress shall nominate a ticket consisting of any two students who meet the qualifications outlined in the Student Government Association Constitution.

## **ARTICLE X: PRE-ELECTION MEETING**

### SECTION I: Attendance

- A. All eligible candidates that applied for Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, or Student Congressperson are required to attend a pre-election meeting hosted by the Election Committee on the day following the closing of applications.
- B. Failure to attend the pre-election meeting without submission of an excused absence approved by the Election Committee will result in the candidate not being placed on the ballot.

### SECTION II: Procedure

The Election Committee shall:

- A. Discuss the Election Code with the candidates and answer any questions regarding the code or campaigning
- B. Officially announce all eligible candidates
- C. Determine the ballot order of the candidates by random drawing
- D. Obtain and discuss other information that may be included on the ballot.

## **ARTICLE XI. CAMPAIGN PROCEDURE**

### SECTION I: Policy

- A. Every candidate is responsible for obeying all campaign procedures. Failure to comply with these regulations shall subject the candidate to disqualification at the discretion of the Election Committee.

- B. Candidates may be held liable for any medium including their name(s) or picture(s).
- C. All students seeking elected office shall follow the Tarleton State University Signs and Publicity Regulations
- D. If the Election Committee determines any campaigning to be in bad taste, the responsible party shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

## SECTION II: Campaign Materials

- A. Campaign materials may be posted two weeks prior to the date of the election. Materials are defined as any medium featuring candidates' names or pictures used to solicit votes and/or publicity. Final discretion lies with the Election Committee.
- B. The use of paints, whitewash, ink chalk or similar material on any University property is prohibited.
- C. All tangible materials must be removed by 12:00 am, on the second day following the election. Exceptions will be made for runoff elections. If a material is not removed by the time specified above, the candidate will be warned for the first offense, but will be fined for the second offense. The fines will be issued on a "per day" basis as follows: \$1 for every piece 8.5"x11" or smaller, \$3 for every piece larger than 8.5"x11".

## SECTION III: Campaigning

- A. All campaigning in the housing facilities must be approved by the Director of Campus Life. Approved campaigning should not disrupt normal living conditions
- B. Campaign rallies must be approved by the appropriate Student Affairs department
- C. No bands or public address systems may be used outside of university approved campaign rallies
- D. No candidates or those associated with candidates shall sponsor an alcohol related event to gain votes.
- E. Candidates shall be prohibited from establishing or soliciting at a polling location.
- F. No campaign materials may be posted in the University libraries or University computer labs
- G. Campaign materials may not be attached to any University computer or computer desk.
- H. In order to uphold one's candidacy for any SGA elected position you must complete some act of campaigning during the designated campaign period.
  - a. Campaigning includes, but is not limited to, the following: social media usage, flyers, rallies, taping, and any other activities in accordance with the election code.
  - b. The completion or incompleteness of campaigning requirements will be determined by the Election Committee.



## **ARTICLE XII. THE BALLOT**

Student Government Association Ballots shall include:

- A. The name of the election
- B. The names of all candidates
- C. A notice that states the ballot is an official Student Government Association ballot.
- D. A notice that a valid TSU identification card or pin number must be presented
- E. Any other information deemed necessary by the Election Committee.

## **ARTICLE XIII. POLLING LOCATIONS AND REGULATIONS**

### **SECTION I: Location**

A polling location is defined as any device through which a vote may be cast using the university approved voting system.

### **SECTION II: Alternate Locations and Times**

- A. In the event issues arise regarding the university approved voting system, the Election Committee shall establish alternate voting locations as soon as possible.
- B. The Election Committee reserves the right to open polls at other times as they deem necessary.

### **SECTION III: Notification**

The student body shall be notified of the time and places of voting at least two weeks prior to the beginning of campaigning. In the case of a run-off, the student body shall be notified five days prior to the election.

### **SECTION IV: Times**

The voting system will become accessible at 9:00 am on the first day of a nomination/election and will remain accessible until 4:00 pm on the last day of voting.

## **ARTICLE XIV: THE ELECTION COMMITTEE**

### **SECTION I: Composition**

- A. The Election Committee shall be composed of the Judicial Branch as stated in the Student Government Association Constitution
- B. The Judicial Branch has the right to appoint additional members to the Election Committee as they see fit
- C. No member of the Election Committee may be a candidate for any Student Government position during their tenure on the committee

- D. The Student Government Vice President and/or advisor may serve as Ex-Officio for the Election Committee.

## SECTION II: Duties

- A. Execute the election rules as defined by the Election Code
- B. Serve as the official election judges
- C. Make a copy of the Election Code available to each candidate and student
- D. Inform all candidates of the rules and regulations of the election
- E. Conduct official hearings concerning violations of the election code
- F. Consider all requests for recounts.
- G. Must host an SGA sponsored debate open to the student body between the Student Body President-Vice President candidates running.
  - a. Should there be only one President-Vice President nominated, a question & answer event open to the student body shall be held in place of the debate.

## ARTICLE XV: VIOLATIONS

### SECTION I: Filing Violations

- A. Any student who wishes to report a violation of the Election Code must do so by filing a written account of the occurrence of the to the Election Committee up to two university working days-following the election.
- B. The complaint should be submitted in writing with the date, time, description of the incident in question, name(s) of the accused party/parties, name(s) of the accusing party/parties, and the section of the Election Code in question.
- C. Upon confirmation of a scheduled hearing by the Election Committee, the accused candidate will receive a copy of the complaint.

### SECTION II: Procedures for Hearing

- A. The Election Committee shall meet to discuss complaints no later than two (2) days prior to the filing deadline.
- B. If the Election Committee deems a hearing necessary, it shall be held within five (5) university working days after the last day of the election. The Election Committee shall give at least two (2) university working days notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing to all parties involved.
- C. All involved parties reserve the right to present to the Election Committee at a hearing.
- D. Any additional evidence or violations that are uncovered during the hearing may be

- considered valid
- E. The Election Committee shall consider violations by a candidate other than the defendant that are uncovered in the process of research as separate protests.
  - F. Following the hearing, the Election Committee shall come to a decision and submit their verdict to all involved parties.
  - G. Possible sanctions include warnings, a cease and desist order, and disqualifications; however, the Election committee reserves the right to use its discretion in the interpretation of the Election Code and thusly implementations of sanctions.

### Section III: Disqualification

Any disqualified candidate will lose the right to run for office until the next election period.

## **ARTICLE XVI: DECLARATION OF VICTORY**

### SECTION I: Tabulation

Official nomination/election results shall be posted in a timely manner on the day voting ends. This applies to all elections except for Homecoming Elections.

## **ARTICLE XVII: TERM OF OFFICE**

### SECTION I: Post-Election Meeting

All candidates elected to a Student Government Association office will be required to attend a post-election meeting during which the incoming congresspersons will be sworn into office. Failure to attend will result in an unexcused absence to be counted as part of the congressperson's term.

### SECTION II: Term

Individuals elected to office will serve a one-year term. The term of office will be from April 30 to April 29.

## **ARTICLE XVIII. AMENDMENT TO THE ELECTION CODE**

### SECTION I: Amendment

Student Government may amend the Election Code upon recommendation of the Judicial Branch or the Executive Branch and a majority vote from the Student Congress.

Revised and adopted by the Tarleton State University Student Government Association  
Student Congress on the 7th day of March, 2018.

*Official Election Code is kept on file in the office of Student Government Association Advisor.*