

Election Committee Bylaws

Article I

The name of this committee shall be Elections Committee of ECOS, hereafter referred to as the Elections Committee.

Article II

The purpose of this committee shall be to:

- a. Call and monitor all ECOS elections, Student Senate, and Special Elections.
- b. Tally and verify all election results.
- c. Enforce the Posting Policy, outlined in the EC-Book

Article III

The committee shall be comprised of:

- a. A Director of Elections appointed by the ECOS President-Elect and approved by the Student Senate.
- b. A minimum of four members at-large appointed by the Director of Elections and approved by the ECOS President and Student Senate.

Article IV

The Director of Elections shall:

- a. Call and oversee meetings no less than once a month during the academic year.
- b. Be in charge of all ECOS elections and election procedures.
- c. Be responsible for all publicity of vacancies and elections in ECOS.

Article V

Executive Officers

- a. Must hold a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher and be in good academic standing.
- b. Must have attended and completed courses at Eckerd College during the regular semester (fall/spring) immediately prior to the semester in which the election will be held.

Article VI

A. Declaration of Candidacy

- 1) Candidates must officially declare their candidacy.
 - i. For candidates to be declared official candidates and appear on the ballot, they must fill out a form prepared by the Elections Committee which states the person's intention of running for office, specifies the particular office & seat which the candidate is seeking, and contains a statement in which the person agrees to abide by these campaign rules and decisions of the Elections Committees.
 - ii. Candidates may file for only one position
 - iii. Any Elections Committee member who runs for office must resign from Elections Committee.
- 2) ECOS Executive Council Elections
 - i. A Declaration of Candidacy meeting will be held at 5:00 pm on the Sunday one week before the start of the election and is mandatory for all candidates.
 - ii. Candidates must submit their declaration of candidacy materials to the Director of Elections before or during the meeting at 5:00pm.
 - iii. The Director of Elections will explain the campaign conduct and regulations at the Declaration of Candidacy meeting.

- iv. The campaign period will begin immediately after the Declaration of Candidacy meeting and conclude at the close of the election.
- v. The election shall be held the academic week before Spring Break or for a one-week period as designated by the Elections committee.
- vi. If a runoff election is necessary, it must begin within ten (10) academic days following the return from Spring Break. The Elections Committee shall be responsible for publicizing the date of the runoff election.

3) Senatorial Elections

- i. A Declaration of Candidacy meeting will be held at 5:00 pm on the Sunday one week before the start of the election and is mandatory for all candidates.
- ii. The Director of Elections will explain the campaign conduct and regulations at the Declaration of Candidacy meeting.
- iii. The campaign period will begin immediately after the Declaration of Candidacy meeting and conclude at the close of the election.
- iv. The election shall be held the third academic week of the fall semester or for a one-week period as designated by the Elections Committee.
- v. If a runoff election is necessary, it must begin within three (3) academic days following the end of the original election. The Elections Committee shall be responsible for publicizing the date of the runoff elections.

4) Late Declaration Applications will not be accepted.

B. Financial Disclosure

- 1) Candidates are required to keep accurate records of all campaign expenditures. Receipts must be maintained for all money expended and for all professional services rendered. This does not include labor from volunteer staff.
- 2) The financial record must show the amount and purpose of each expenditure.
- 3) The financial records are to be transcribed on a form prepared by the Elections Committee and are due to the ECOS Office within two (2) school days of the conclusion of the election, which determines the winner of the race.
- 4) No candidate may exceed \$50.00 on campaign materials-
- 5) The Elections Committee reserves the right to release financial information to the public.

C. Campaign Conduct

- 1) These by-laws are designated to ensure fair elections. Any candidate found to be deliberately in violation of the code shall be subjected to sanctions by the Elections Committee. Sanctions may include but are not limited to monetary sanctions, temporary or permanent suspension from campaigning, and, in some cases, removal from office.
- 2) All the candidates and their agents will refrain from making deceptive or misleading statements during their candidacy. Candidates and their agents will also refrain from any act reasonably calculated to be libelous or to compromise the rights of any student, faculty member, or student organization.
- 3) All campaign material must bear the Campus Activities date stamp.
- 4) Items to be bulk copied should receive the date stamp before copying.
 - i. Certain items may be exempted from this rule upon approval of the Elections Committee.
- 5) A copy of each different sign or handbill, which is to be bulk copied, must be filed with the Elections Committee.

- 6) No campaign material or activity may impede either pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
- 7) All campaign material must be removed within 48 hours of the conclusion of the election, which determines a winner for the race.
- 8) Campaigning shall not be allowed within thirty (30) feet of the ECOS office and any on campus computer lab or the mailboxes.

D. Campaign Regulations

- 1) Candidates and their agents may not:
 - i. Use sound amplifying equipment on campus without written permission from Campus Activities Office.
 - ii. Claim the endorsement of any student organization unless the highest- ranking officer files the endorsement with the Elections Committee.
 - iii. Violate any part of the Posting Policy as outlined in the Student Policy Manual ~~2016-2017~~, page 65.
- 2) A sign may not be attached to:
 - i. A shrub or plant;
 - ii. A tree, except by string, to its trunk;
 - iii. A permanent sign installed for another purpose;
 - iv. A fence or chain on its supporting structure;
 - v. Statuary, monument, or similar structure.
- 3) No campaign materials will be permitted inside any classroom on campus.

Article VII

A. Voting Procedure

- 1) Voting in all elections will be by secret ballot
- 2) Elections shall be held online at the Eckerd College Intranet and/or on campus at polling stations designated by the Elections Committee.

- 3) Polls shall be open for one week, from Monday following the deadline for Declaration of Candidacy to Friday at 3:00pm.

B. Tally and Verification of Results

1) General Elections

- i. After the polls close, votes shall be validated by members of the Elections committee and the Chairperson. All members present will affix their signature to the results of the election.
- ii. The method for counting votes shall be found in the ECOS Constitution.
- iii. The winning candidate must:
 1. Not have been disqualified by the Elections Committee.
- iv. In the event of a runoff, refer to Article VI, Sections 2, 3.

C. Acceptance of Position

- 1) Candidates who have been elected have three (3) academic days to accept their position in writing to the Elections Committee.
 - i. In the event that positions are not accepted, ECOS has two (2) days from the end of the third to fill those vacancies as described in the ECOS office Constitution.

Article VIII

- A. The Elections Committee has discretionary power to determine and impose the penalties specified in section eight (8) of this Article for election code violations.

B. Disputes

- 1) Any person or organization who is injured by a candidate's actions must notify that the candidate and both parties must make an attempt to negotiate a fair settlement of the dispute. Only failing this may either party lodge a formal complaint with the Elections Committee.

- 2) Any Candidate may request a written advisory opinion of the Elections Committee within twenty-four (24) hours after the final results are tabulated.
- 3) Under no circumstance shall a recount of any portion of votes be taken due to the impossibility of recounting online votes.
- 4) The Elections Committee may dismiss a complaint without hearing under the following circumstances:
 - i. The complaint is not filed within three (3) days after the dispute arose.
 - ii. It lacks jurisdiction on the subject or over any party involved.
 - iii. No relief for the grievance can be granted or the complaint is ill founded.
 - iv. The complainant has not suffered and is not likely to suffer from the action in question.
 - v. No adequate attempt has been made by either of the parties to settle the dispute among themselves.
- 5) If hearing is warranted, the Elections Committee will issue a written notice to both parties stating the time and place of the hearing.
- 6) At the time the Elections Committee issues notice of the hearing it may also issue a temporary order which remains in effect until a decision is reached in the hearing or until rescinded by the Elections Committee.
- 7) If the Elections Committee determines after hearing that the election code has been violated by a candidate or the candidate's agents it may:
 - i. Enjoin the candidate and the candidate's agents from part or all of their campaign activities for the duration to be set by the Elections Committee.

- ii. Remove a candidate from the race.
- iii. A combination of both the above.

C. Violations

- 1) Any willful violation of an Elections Committee opinion, decision, ruling order, or by-laws by a candidate will be sufficient ground to disqualify that candidate from the race.
- 2) All decisions and rulings by the Elections Committee will be issued in writing and may be appealed to Student Senate court.

Article IX

- A. No part of the Elections Committee By-Laws may be changed or altered from the beginning of the Declaration of Candidacy period until the election results have been determined.
- B. Amendments to the Elections Committee By-Laws must be approved by a simple majority (50%+1) of all the Elections Committee Members. It must then approved by the Student Senate.