

Senate Bill 13-9

Senator Rod Bridges, Liberal Arts

Senator Austin Dean, Ridge North

Senator James Parrett, Graduate

Robert Pillow, Attorney General

Committee on Governmental Operations

A BILL OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY SENATE AMENDING TITLE V OF THE ASB CONSTITUTION AND CODE, WHICH CURRENTLY READS:

TITLE V
CAMPUS ELECTIONS

Section 112. Campaign Dates.

- A) Campaigning for Fall and Spring General Elections begins eight days prior to the date of the election.
- B) Campaigning for Campus Senate and Senior Class Officer Elections begins immediately following the certification meeting.

Section 113. Campaigning Rules for General Elections.

- A) This Section shall apply to all General Elections except Campus Senate, Campus Favorites and Senior Class Officer Elections.
- B) For the purposes of this Section, "campaigning" shall be defined as any act by a candidate or his or her supporters that is intended to present that person to the general public as a candidate or nominee.
- C) The "general public" shall be defined as two or more electors, as set forth in the ASB Constitution Art. II, §1.
- D) For the purposes of this Section, "campaign material" shall be defined as any material, apparatus, or other property used by a candidate or nominee for the purpose of campaigning as defined by this Section. All campaign material shall include the name of the candidate or sponsoring group, and that person or group shall be identified as such. Any infringement upon this Item shall be subject to major violation.
- E) No candidate or nominee, or his or her respective agents, may indulge in campaigning prior to the beginning of the open campaigning period as set forth in this Title.

- F) Any meetings regarding the nature of the campaign before the open campaigning period shall be limited to forty (40) people. This shall serve as a major violation and grounds for possible disqualification.
- G) Email shall be considered word of mouth campaigning. Sending email addressed to more than one (1) person before the start of the campaign period is prohibited.
- H) The use of listservs or the sending of unsolicited emails to persons unknown to the sender for the purpose of campaigning is prohibited. Any violation of this subsection shall be considered a major offense.
- I) No campaign material may be displayed in a publicly in an academic building except in those areas designated by the building mayor. No more than one (1) campaign flyer per candidate may be placed at these designated areas. Any violation of this subsection shall constitute an intermediate offense.
- J) In non-academic areas, no more than two (2) campaign advertisements may be posted on bulletin boards or other regular posting areas. This shall include the large bulletin board on the second floor of the Union. Any violation of this subsection shall constitute a minor offense.
- K) Posted campaign materials shall not exceed eight-and-one-half-by-eleven (8 ½ x 11) inches in size. Any violation of this subsection shall constitute an intermediate offense.
- L) Each candidate or nominee may have only one (1) banner displayed at a time. No banners shall be displayed in or on the Student Union Building. A banner shall be defined as any campaign material larger than eight-and-one-half-by-eleven (8 ½ x 11) inches, excluding t-shirts. Any violation of this subsection shall constitute a major offense.
- M) No hand-held signs or posters of any kind shall be permitted near the polls on Election Day. Any violation of this subsection shall constitute a major offense.
- N) Campaign cards, stickers, or buttons for candidates' supporters to wear shall not exceed five-by-seven (5 x 7) inches. Any violation of this subsection shall constitute a major offense.
- O) No campaigning shall occur in an academic classroom during a class period, except students may wear cards, buttons, or stickers of a candidate. Any violations shall constitute a major violation.
- P) No campaigning or campaign material may be handed out or displayed on the steps or porches of the Student Union. Any violations of this subsection shall be considered an intermediate violation.

- Q) No candidate or his or her representatives shall offer food or free giveaways as part of the campaigning process. Any violation of this subsection shall serve as a major violation and grounds for possible disqualification.
- R) Online social media may be used for the purposes of campaigning and shall be considered word of mouth campaigning. The Attorney General and the Department of Justice, preceding the certification meeting of the Fall or Spring General Elections, shall determine regulations regarding all online social media. These regulations shall be offered to candidates at the time of the certification meeting and shall stand for the remainder of that election. Any violation of this subsection shall result in a major violation and grounds for possible disqualification.
- S) No one candidate, campaign organization, or student in general may campaign within fifty (50) feet of the polls. Any violation of this subsection shall result in a minor violation.
- T) Campaigning from vehicles is allowed on University grounds, and within the limits of the City of Oxford and Lafayette county to the extent such campaigning does not conflict with local or state law.
- U) No candidate or his or her campaign representative shall tear down, mutilate, remove, or otherwise encroach upon another candidate's campaign materials. Any violation of this subsection shall be considered a major violation and grounds for possible disqualification.
- V) No student shall infringe upon the right to a private ballot as provided for in this Title.
- W) Each candidate shall be responsible at law for the nature and legality of his or her campaign, campaign materials, and demonstrations.
- X) Any attempt by a candidate or campaign representative to coerce, bribe, intimidate, or force a person to vote shall result in immediate disqualification.
- Y) Each candidate shall remove his or her campaign material from public areas of the campus within such time specified by the Elections Commission Chair(s). The deadline shall not be less than forty-eight (48) hours and those who violate the set deadline will be subject to a fine of twenty-five (25) dollars each day after the deadline.

TO READ:

TITLE V
CAMPUS ELECTIONS

Section 112. Campaign Dates.

- A) Campaigning for Fall and Spring General Elections begins nine days prior to the date of the election immediately following the certification meeting of candidates.

- B) Campaigning for Campus Senate and Senior Class Officer Elections begins immediately following the certification meeting.

Section 113. Campaigning Rules for General Elections.

- A) This Section shall apply to all General Elections except Campus Senate, Campus Favorites and Senior Class Officer Elections.
- B) For the purposes of this Section, “campaigning” shall be defined as any act by a candidate or his or her supporters that is intended to present that person to the general public as a candidate or nominee.
- C) The “general public” shall be defined as two or more electors, as set forth in the ASB Constitution Art. II, §1.
- D) For the purposes of this Section, “campaign material” shall be defined as any material, apparatus, or other property used by a candidate or nominee for the purpose of campaigning as defined by this Section. All campaign material shall include the name of the candidate or sponsoring group, and that person or group shall be identified as such. Any infringement upon this Item shall be subject to major violation.
- E) No candidate or nominee, or his or her respective agents, may indulge in campaigning prior to the beginning of the open campaigning period as set forth in this Title.
- F) Any meetings regarding the nature of the campaign before the open campaigning period shall be limited to forty (40) people. This shall serve as a major violation and grounds for possible disqualification.
- G) Email shall be considered word of mouth campaigning. Sending email addressed to more than one (1) person before the start of the campaign period is prohibited.
- H) The use of listservs or the sending of unsolicited emails to persons unknown to the sender for the purpose of campaigning is prohibited. Any violation of this subsection shall be considered a major offense.
- I) No campaign material may be displayed in a publicly in an academic building except in those areas designated by the building mayor. No more than one (1) campaign flyer per candidate may be placed at these designated areas. Any violation of this subsection shall constitute an intermediate offense.
- J) In non-academic areas, no more than two (2) campaign advertisements may be posted on bulletin boards or other regular posting areas. This shall include the large bulletin board on the second floor of the Union. Any violation of this subsection shall constitute a minor offense.

- K) Posted campaign materials shall not exceed eight-and-one-half-by-eleven (8 ½ x 11) inches in size. Any violation of this subsection shall constitute an intermediate offense.
- L) Each candidate or nominee may have only one (1) banner displayed at a time. No banners shall be displayed in or on the Student Union Building. A banner shall be defined as any campaign material larger than eight-and-one-half-by-eleven (8 ½ x 11) inches, excluding t-shirts. Any violation of this subsection shall constitute a major offense.
- M) No hand-held signs or posters of any kind shall be permitted near the polls on Election Day. Any violation of this subsection shall constitute a major offense.
- N) Campaign cards, stickers, or buttons for candidates' supporters to wear shall not exceed five-by-seven (5 x 7) inches. Any violation of this subsection shall constitute a major offense.
- O) No campaigning shall occur in an academic classroom during a class period, except students may wear cards, buttons, or stickers of a candidate. Any violations shall constitute a major violation.
- P) No campaigning or campaign material may be handed out or displayed on the steps or porches of the Student Union. Any violations of this subsection shall be considered an intermediate violation.
- Q) No candidate or his or her representatives shall offer food or free giveaways as part of the campaigning process. Any violation of this subsection shall serve as a major violation and grounds for possible disqualification.
- R) Online social media may be used for the purposes of campaigning and shall be considered word of mouth campaigning. The Attorney General and the Department of Justice, preceding the certification meeting of the Fall or Spring General Elections, shall determine regulations regarding all online social media. These regulations shall be offered to candidates at the time of the certification meeting and shall stand for the remainder of that election. Any violation of this subsection shall result in a major violation and grounds for possible disqualification.
- S) No one candidate, campaign organization, or student in general may campaign within fifty (50) feet of the polls. Any violation of this subsection shall result in a minor violation.
- T) Campaigning from vehicles is allowed on University grounds, and within the limits of the City of Oxford and Lafayette County to the extent such campaigning does not conflict with local or state law.

- U) No candidate or his or her campaign representative shall tear down, mutilate, remove, or otherwise encroach upon another candidate's campaign materials. Any violation of this subsection shall be considered a major violation and grounds for possible disqualification.
- V) No student shall infringe upon the right to a private ballot as provided for in this Title.
- W) Each candidate shall be responsible at law for the nature and legality of his or her campaign, campaign materials, and demonstrations.
- X) Any attempt by a candidate or campaign representative to coerce, bribe, intimidate, or force a person to vote shall result in immediate disqualification.
- Y) Each candidate shall remove his or her campaign material from public areas of the campus within such time specified by the Elections Commission Chair(s). The deadline shall not be less than forty-eight (48) hours and those who violate the set deadline will be subject to a fine of twenty-five (25) dollars each day after the deadline.
- Z) Public campaigning on the Tuesday of Election Day and, if necessary, the Thursday of the Runoff election will be limited to the Union Plaza, the Circle, and in front of Fulton Chapel. Campaigning may not occur within thirty (30) feet of the Union steps or on any of the walkways outside of the Circle. Campaigners may not obstruct any crosswalk, walkway, or in any other way inhibit an established path used regularly by students and faculty.
- AA) At each of the areas listed in § 113 (Z) the number of campaigners shall be limited as follows for the individual candidates:
 - a) Campaigners at the Union shall be limited to no more than ten (10) per candidate at any given period of time during the established times listed in § 113(Z)
 - b) Campaigners at the Circle shall be limited to no more than five (5) per candidate at any given period of time during the established times listed in § 113(Z)
 - c) Campaigners in front of Fulton Chapel shall be limited to no more than three (3) per candidate at any given period of time during the established times listed in § 113(Z)

WHEREAS, the number of campaigners in current designated campaigning areas needs to be limited in order to promote fairness in any campaign;

WHEREAS, the overwhelming number of campaigners in previous elections has proven to be disruptive and overwhelming to many students and faculty;

WHEREAS, due to the limited space provided for campaigning, campaigning often blocks students from entering and exiting the Union and also distracts and disrupts students traveling to and from classes in other campaign areas; AND

WHEREAS, the students who campaign for candidates should be limited in order to promote class attendance and other personal obligations over campaigning for candidates.

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED THAT THE ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY SENATE AMENDS TITLE V OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY CONSTITUTION AND CODE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI.

Date of Introduction _____ Date of Consideration _____

Committee Jurisdiction _____

Action of the Campus Senate _____

Senate President _____ Senate Clerk _____

ASB President _____

Administrative Acknowledgement:

Dean of Students _____ Vice Chancellor _____

Chancellor _____