

**Part VII. Joint Elections Commission**

**Chapter 701. General**

Section 70101. Definitions

(a) For the purposes of this Part of the Bylaws, any advisory opinion, or any other official document created or used by the Commission, the following definitions will apply:

- (1) **ADVISORY OPINION.**—The term “advisory opinion” means any binding statement of interpretation delineated by the Commission but not codified in this Part of the Bylaws.
- (2) **AUTHORIZED AGENT.**—The term “authorized agent” means any individual who is tacitly or explicitly authorized by a candidate to act on behalf of, or otherwise represent, the candidate.
- (3) **BALLOT.**—The term “ballot” means the totality of the website pages viewed by a voter as they cast a vote through the voting system used by The George Washington University.
- (4) **CAMPAIGN SEASON.**—The term “campaign season” means the period after the registration period has been completed to the time voting for all races closes.
- (5) **CAMPAIGNING.**—The term “campaigning” means advancing or inhibiting a candidacy, or tending toward a particular end, and “for their campaign” means for the purpose of campaigning.
- (6) **CAMPAIGN MATERIAL.**—The term “campaign material” means any tangible object, such as a palm card, pamphlet or article of clothing, which is intended for public distribution or display, and is intended to advance or inhibit a candidacy, or tends towards that end.
- (7) **CANDIDATE.**—The term “candidate” means any individual who has registered to seek or been elected to office, and wherever this Part of the Bylaws states a rule restricting or regulating the actions of a “candidate,” the rule must be construed to apply equally to an “authorized agent”.
- (8) **COMMISSION.**—The term “The Commission” means the Joint Elections Commission.
- (9) **DISTRIBUTION.**—The term “distribution” means the intentional transmission of material by a candidate to any individual not associated with the candidate’s campaign, and “to distribute” refers to the actual or attempted transmission of material in this manner.
- (10) **ELECTION.**—The term “election” means any general, secondary, recall, referendum, or special election, including those of the Student Association.
- (11) **ELECTION DAY.**—The term “Election Day” means any two (2) consecutive class days during which the Commission has scheduled for voters to be able to cast votes in any election.
- (12) **ELECTION SEASON.**—The term “election season” means the period from the start of candidate registration to certification of the results.
- (13) **FORCEFUL DISTRIBUTION.**—The term “forceful distribution” means distribution against the will of the intended recipient, once the intended recipient has communicated their unwillingness.

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- 1 (14) FULL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP.—The term “full General  
2 Membership” means the voting members of the Joint Elections Commission, not  
3 including the Chief Investigator, Elections Commissioner, Assistant Investigators  
4 or any other staff officer not appointed by the Student Association.  
5 (15) GENERAL MEMBERS.—The term “General Membership” means full  
6 General Membership.  
7 (16) GENERAL MEMBERSHIP.—The term “general members” means full  
8 General Membership.  
9 (17) GOVERNING LAW.—The term “governing law” means the Charter,  
10 Constitution, and Bylaws of the Student Association.  
11 (18) MAKE AVAILABLE.—The term “make available” means to  
12 intentionally place material in the public domain such that individuals not  
13 soliciting such material may, but are not instructed to, receive it.  
14 (19) REFERENDUM.—The term “referendum” means a question or proposal  
15 submitted in an election upon which the voters may cast a vote.  
16 (20) RESTRICTED ZONE.—The term “restricted zone” means any designated  
17 area of the University in which the Commission determines campaigning is  
18 prohibited in any form.  
19 (21) STAFF OFFICER.—The term “staff officer” means any officer appointed  
20 by the Commission, including the Chief Investigator and any Assistant  
21 Investigators.  
22 (22) SOLICIT.—The term “to solicit” means to willfully seek to obtain, or to  
23 request, as for something desired.  
24 (23) UNIVERSITY.—The term “University” means The George Washington  
25 University.  
26 (24) UNIFORM CONSTITUENCY GROUP.—The term “uniform  
27 constituency group” means a group of students having uniform demographic  
28 characteristics for the purposes of ballot categorization, the students of the group  
29 being qualified to vote for identical offices or initiatives, such that an identical  
30 ballot may be used for any such student to cast their individual vote.

31 Section 70102. Enactment

- 32 (a) This Part of the Bylaws and any amendments must be enacted subject to approval by  
33 the Student Association Senate in accordance with [Chapter 103](#) of the Bylaws of the  
34 Student Association.

35 Section 70103. Severability

- 36 (a) The provisions of this Part of the Bylaws are severable, and if any section, rule, or  
37 part thereof, is held to be unconstitutional by the Student Court, the decision may not  
38 be construed to affect or invalidate any other provisions of this Part of the Bylaws or  
39 this Part of the Bylaws as a whole.

40 **Chapter 702. The Joint Election Commission**

41 Section 70201. Establishment

- 42 (a) There hereby be established a Joint Elections Commission, as referred to in Article  
43 XIII of the Constitution of the Student Association.

44 Section 70202. Composition

- 45 (a) The Commission must be composed of the Elections Commissioner and four (4) Joint  
46 Elections Commission general members.

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- 1 (1) The General Membership must consist of at least one (1) graduate student.  
2 (2) All members must be appointed by the Student Association President and  
3 confirmed by a two-thirds (2/3rds) majority of Senators present and voting.  
4 Section 70203. Selection of Commissioners  
5 (a) Elections Commissioner  
6 (1) The President shall appoint the Elections Commissioner in the Spring semester,  
7 following the general student body elections, serving for the elections cycle of the  
8 following year.  
9 (2) If the President fails to appoint the Elections Commissioner, the Senate shall  
10 confirm the Elections Commissioner by October 1 of the year prior to the student  
11 body elections that the Elections Commissioner will oversee.  
12 (b) General Members  
13 (1) During the Fall semester following the appointment of the Elections  
14 Commissioner, the Student Association President shall appoint four (4)  
15 individuals to the Commission.  
16 (2) Once all Commissioners have been appointed, the Commission’s membership  
17 shall internally elect positions pursuant to the following procedures.  
18 (i) Excluding the Elections Commissioner, all remaining Commissioner titles  
19 under the section ‘General Members’ of ‘Commission Positions’ must be  
20 selected through a simple majority vote.  
21 (ii) The positions must be elected in the following order—  
22 (A) the Vice Commissioner;  
23 (B) the Policy and Finance Commissioner;  
24 (C) the Administrative Commissioner; and  
25 (D) the Communications Commissioner.  
26 (iii) The Commission may appoint non-voting first-year Election Assistants to  
27 assist the Commission in its responsibilities.  
28 (iv) All Commissioner roles must be filled by separate and distinct Commission  
29 members.  
30 (v) The Elections Commissioner may not run or fill for any other Commission  
31 position.  
32 (vi) If there is a vacancy in the position of Elections Commissioner, the General  
33 Membership may nominate an internal member for the position.  
34 (A) The new Elections Commissioner must be confirmed by a two-thirds  
35 (2/3rds) vote of Commission members present.  
36 (B) Any resulting vacancy within the General Membership following the  
37 confirmation of a new Elections Commissioner must be filled by the  
38 appointment process of the Student Association through which the original  
39 Commission position was filled by, within thirty (30) days of the vacancy.  
40 Section 70204. Qualification  
41 (a) All enrolled students of The George Washington University are eligible to serve as  
42 members of the Commission, except no person is eligible who—  
43 (1) is registered as a candidate for any office in the student body elections to be  
44 administered by the Commission;  
45 (2) will be engaged in a program of study abroad during the elections;  
46 (3) is being held under either academic or disciplinary probation by the University; or

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- 1 (4) has held an elected or appointed position within the Student Association during  
2 the academic year in which the overseen election will occur.
- 3 Section 70205. Commission Positions
- 4 (a) The duties and responsibilities of the Elections Commissioner include—
- 5 (1) assisting the Student Association in their nomination processes of the General  
6 Membership for the Commission;
- 7 (2) acting as Chairperson during all meetings of the Commission;
- 8 (3) nominating a student to the position of Chief Investigator;
- 9 (4) presiding over all violation hearings;
- 10 (5) maintaining an office space for the Commission;
- 11 (6) coordinating the tabulation of votes;
- 12 (7) being responsible for communication with media outlets and the press;
- 13 (8) assisting the General Membership in the administrative functioning of the  
14 Commission;
- 15 (9) serving as the Commission’s primary contact for the Student Association; and
- 16 (10) breaking all ties in Commission votes.
- 17 (b) The duties and responsibilities of the Vice Commissioner include—
- 18 (1) assisting the Chair in communication with the candidates;
- 19 (2) assisting the Chair and Commission members in the performance of their  
20 responsibilities;
- 21 (3) scheduling space for all Commission events;
- 22 (4) in the absence of the Elections Commissioner, acting as Chair during meetings of  
23 the Commission; and
- 24 (5) making available a transition guide for the succeeding Commission.
- 25 (c) The duties and responsibilities of the Policy and Finance Commissioner include—
- 26 (1) regulating the expenditures of all candidate campaigns;
- 27 (2) collaborating with the Policy Commissioner to properly inform candidates of  
28 expectations and possible campaign violations in regards to finances;
- 29 (3) preparing and submitting budgets and co-sponsorships to the Financial Services  
30 and Allocations Committee of the Student Association;
- 31 (4) being responsible for all of the Commission’s financial affairs.
- 32 (5) serving as direct liaison to the Chief Investigator;
- 33 (6) inform candidates of expectations and possible campaign violations;
- 34 (7) ensuring candidates access to Commission resources, including candidate access  
35 to sponsored printing; and
- 36 (8) reviewing and approving all campaign material.
- 37 (d) The duties and responsibilities of the Administrative Commissioner include—
- 38 (1) taking minutes at all Commission meetings;
- 39 (2) ensuring Commission compliance with [Section 70309](#);
- 40 (3) compiling the Election Manual for candidates;
- 41 (4) updating and maintaining appropriate social media and the Commission website;  
42 and
- 43 (5) ensuring the Commission’s compliance with this Part of the Bylaws.
- 44 (e) The duties and responsibilities of the Communications Commissioner include—
- 45 (1) executing all outreach efforts for Commission operations prior to the candidate  
46 registration period, including—

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- 1 (i) on-campus tabling;  
2 (ii) elections advertisement to campus newsletters, student organizations, graduate  
3 programs, etc.; and  
4 (iii) candidate information sessions;  
5 (2) updating and maintaining appropriate social media and the Commission website;  
6 and (3) assisting in the coordination and promotion of election events during the  
7 campaign period.
- 8 Section 70206. Length of Term  
9 (a) The Elections Commissioner shall serve a term that commences following the end of  
10 the Spring semester of the same academic year they were elected in and that expires  
11 on the last day of classes of the following academic year.  
12 (b) The General Members of the Commission shall serve a term that commences with  
13 their appointment and that expires on the last day of classes in the Spring semester of  
14 the same academic year as their appointment.
- 15 Section 70207. Compliance  
16 (a) All members of the Commission shall comply with all laws, policies, rules, and  
17 regulations found within the governing laws of the Student Association, including this  
18 Part of the Bylaws, and all University policies, rules, and regulations.
- 19 Section 70208. Conduct  
20 (a) Given the nature of this Commission, the members of this Commission are to be held  
21 to a high standard of conduct.  
22 (1) The Elections Commissioner and Commission members may not be affiliated  
23 with or in any way support any candidate's campaign, directly or indirectly,  
24 except by exercising their individual right to vote.  
25 (2) The Elections Commissioner and Commission members may not be involved in  
26 student organization endorsement hearings during the student body elections to be  
27 administered by the Commission.  
28 (3) The Elections Commissioner and Commission members may not hold office  
29 (elected or appointed) within the Student Association during any of the newly  
30 elected candidates' terms of office.  
31 (4) The Elections Commissioner and Commission members shall represent this Part  
32 of the Bylaws and facts of any matter pertaining to the Commission to both the  
33 Commission and the public accurately and fairly.  
34 (5) The Elections Commissioner and Commission members shall faithfully execute  
35 their roles as outlined in this Part of the Bylaws and to the standard a reasonable  
36 person would expect of someone in such a position.
- 37 Section 70209. Impeachment  
38 (a) Failure to fulfill the duties or responsibilities as outlined in this Part of the Bylaws  
39 constitutes grounds for impeachment.  
40 (b) Impeachment from the Commission must follow the disciplinary procedures outlined  
41 in the Bylaws of the Student Association.
- 42 Section 70210. Chief Investigator  
43 (a) The Commission shall appoint a Chief Investigator as a staff officer.  
44 (b) The Chief Investigator must be nominated by the Elections Commissioner and  
45 confirmed by a two-thirds (2/3rds) majority of the full Commission, prior to the end  
46 of January of each academic year.

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- 1 (c) The Chief Investigator—  
2 (1) may not be registered as a candidate for any office in the elections to be overseen  
3 by the Commission;  
4 (2) may not have held a position within the Student Association within four (4)  
5 months of the start of the election season; and  
6 (3) may be a previous member of the Joint Elections Commission.  
7 (d) The Chief Investigator shall—  
8 (1) promote the compliance of all individuals, both Commission members and  
9 candidates, with this Part of the Bylaws and any advisory opinions;  
10 (2) investigate complaints and alleged violations of this Part of the Bylaws and any  
11 additional rules;  
12 (3) present complaints during probable cause hearings;  
13 (4) prosecute candidates during violation hearings;  
14 (5) advise the Commission on legal issues; and  
15 (6) perform any other functions or duties as are requested by the Commission in  
16 relation to their position as Chief Investigator.

17 Section 70211. Assistant Investigators

- 18 (a) The Chief Investigator may, with the approval of the Commission, appoint any  
19 Assistant Investigators as staff officers as they feel may be necessary for the prompt  
20 and efficient performance of their functions.  
21 (b) Assistant Investigators—  
22 (1) may not be registered as a candidate for any office in the elections to be overseen  
23 by the Commission; and  
24 (2) may not have held a position within the Student Association within four (4)  
25 months of the start of the election season.  
26 (c) The Chief Investigator may delegate to an Assistant Investigator any of their duties,  
27 responsibilities or powers.

28 **Chapter 703. Powers, Responsibilities, and Expectations**

29 Section 70301. Authority

- 30 (a) The Commission holds power and control over all matters, decisions, and actions  
31 related to the administration of the student body elections as outlined in the Part of  
32 the Bylaws of The George Washington University Student Association.

33 Section 70302. Delegation

- 34 (a) The Commission has the authority, by order or by rule, to delegate any of its  
35 functions to a division of the Commission, to an individual member of the  
36 Commission, or to a staff officer or group of staff officers.

37 Section 70303. Limitations

- 38 (a) The Commission may not have the power to—  
39 (1) vacate the results of an election; or  
40 (2) issue any advisory opinion or decision which violates the provisions of this Part  
41 of the Bylaws or governing law.

42 Section 70304. Duties and Responsibilities

- 43 (a) The Commission shall—  
44 (1) conduct, at a minimum, four (4) public meetings before the start of the elections  
45 season;

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- 1 (2) hold regular office hours throughout the elections timeline that are publicized on  
2 the website; and  
3 (3) at the end of the elections cycle, forward any recommendations to the Student  
4 Association regarding any rulings or advisory opinions that may require reform of  
5 this Part of the Bylaws.

6 Section 70305. Voting

- 7 (a) In any matter to be decided by the Commission, the voting threshold will apply only  
8 to those members of the Commission who are present and voting.  
9 (b) Unless otherwise specified by this Part of the Bylaws, by additional rule, or by  
10 governing law, all decisions and actions of the Commission must be approved by a  
11 simple majority vote.  
12 (c) Members may not be present by proxy.

13 Section 70306. Meetings

14 (a) Calling a Meeting

- 15 (1) A meeting of the Commission may be scheduled either solely by the Elections  
16 Commissioner or jointly by a simple majority of the Commission.  
17 (2) All Commission meetings and agendas must be open to the public.  
18 (3) In order to call a meeting, a notice of the date, time, and tentative location of the  
19 meeting must be sent via email at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting  
20 to along with a preliminary agenda to—  
21 (i) the members and staff officers of the Commission;  
22 (ii) the Student Association President;  
23 (iii) the Student Association Vice President;  
24 (iv) the Chief Justice of the Student Court; and  
25 (v) the Student Association Senate Chairperson Pro-Tempore.  
26 (4) Emergency meetings may be called at the discretion of the Elections  
27 Commissioner or a simple majority of the Commission.  
28 (5) Notice of the date, time, and tentative location of the emergency meeting must be  
29 sent via email at least eight (8) hours prior to the meeting to—  
30 (i) the members and staff officers of the Commission;  
31 (ii) the Student Association President;  
32 (iii) the Student Association Vice President;  
33 (iv) the Chief Justice of the Student Court; and  
34 (v) the Student Association Senate Chairperson Pro-Tempore.

- 35 (b) A simple majority of the Commission, including the Elections Commissioner, must  
36 be physically or virtually present at a meeting in order to establish quorum.

37 (c) Agenda

- 38 (1) At the commencement of each meeting, the Elections Commissioner shall  
39 propose an agenda for the approval of the Commission.  
40 (2) Prior to its approval, the proposed agenda may be amended by a simple majority  
41 vote of the Commission.  
42 (3) The proposed agenda must be approved by a simple majority vote.  
43 (4) After the agenda is approved, any item may be added to the agenda by a simple  
44 majority vote of the Commission, but no item may be removed or altered.  
45 (5) The final agenda for a given meeting must be made available according to [Section](#)  
46 [70309](#).

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- 1 (6) The agenda for each meeting must include the following items—  
2 (i) Roll Call;  
3 (ii) Initial Public Comment;  
4 (iii) Approval of Agenda; and  
5 (iv) New Business.
- 6 (d) Minutes  
7 (1) The Administrative Commissioner, or another member of the Commission in the  
8 Administrative Commissioner’s absence, shall keep minutes of each meeting.  
9 (2) The minutes from a given meeting must be made available according to [Section](#)  
10 [70309](#).  
11 (3) The minutes for each meeting must include the following items—  
12 (i) the list of present during roll call;  
13 (ii) a paraphrased record of all public comments, including the name of the  
14 individual making each public comment;  
15 (iii) a record of all motions made and votes taken; and  
16 (iv) a record of which member made each motion and seconded each motion, and  
17 how each member voted, if a vote was taken.
- 18 (e) The Commission shall conduct its meetings in public, such that members of the  
19 public may come and go at any time during a meeting, except as provided by [Section](#)  
20 [70306\(f\)](#).
- 21 (f) Executive Session  
22 (1) By a simple majority vote, the Commission may enter executive session. (2)  
23 During executive session, only the members of the Commission, along with any  
24 individuals specifically designated by a simple majority vote of the Commission,  
25 may observe the Commission’s proceedings.  
26 (2) No motions, other than procedural motions, may be made during executive  
27 session.
- 28 Section 70307. Student Office  
29 (a) For each academic year, the Student Association shall provide the Joint Elections  
30 Commission with a formal office with record-keeping abilities and regular functions  
31 and operations.
- 32 Section 70308. Record Keeping  
33 (a) General  
34 (1) The Commission shall keep and maintain all records, reports, forms and other  
35 documents related to student body elections.  
36 (2) These records must be kept in a manner that can easily be passed on year-to-year.
- 37 (b) Physical Records  
38 (1) All physical records must be stored in the Commission’s student office.  
39 (2) Physical records must be stored in the Student Association offices whenever the  
40 Commission does not have a formal office of its own.
- 41 (c) All of the following records must be publicly retained online following the conclusion  
42 of an election cycle—  
43 (1) verified election results for all races;  
44 (2) campaign petitions, excluding students’ GWID numbers and other personally  
45 identifiable information;



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- 1 (3) individual campaign expenditure reports, excluding personal financial
- 2 information;
- 3 (4) expenditure reports of the Commission;
- 4 (5) additional advisory opinions of the Commission;
- 5 (6) unsealed complaints, with appropriate names redacted; and
- 6 (7) agendas and minutes from all Commission meetings.

7 Section 70309. Public Records

- 8 (a) Except as otherwise stated by this Part of the Bylaws, any document kept and
- 9 maintained by the Commission must be made available online for public review
- 10 within twenty-four (24) hours of the Commission’s receipt of the given document,
- 11 including—

- 12 (1) financial expenditure reports on behalf of elections campaigns, excluding personal
- 13 financial information;
- 14 (2) financial expenditure documentation on behalf of the Commission; and
- 15 (3) Commission agendas and meeting minutes.

- 16 (b) No document may be removed from the office of the Commission unless under the
- 17 care and supervision of a member of the Commission or a staff officer.

- 18 (c) Copy of Records

- 19 (1) Unless otherwise provided under paragraph (2), a copy of any public record may
- 20 be made at the expense of the individual requesting the copy, but the original
- 21 document must remain in the custody of the Commission.
- 22 (2) The following records are exempted from paragraph (1).

- 23 (i) Sealed Complaints

- 24 (A) All complaints must be immediately sealed as soon as they are officially
- 25 filed.
- 26 (B) No sealed complaint may be made available for public review at any time.
- 27 (C) A complaint may only be unsealed if the Commission finds that there is
- 28 probable cause to hold a violation hearing on the given complaint.
- 29 (D) Once a complaint is unsealed, it must be made available for public review
- 30 immediately.
- 31 (E) All unsealed complaints will contain redacted names of all parties
- 32 involved in the complaint, excluding that of the candidate and the filer.

- 33 (ii) Fruits of the Investigation

- 34 (A) Any record, report, form, or other document acquired by the Commission,
- 35 by the Chief Investigator, or by an Assistant Investigator in the course of
- 36 an investigation must be sealed.
- 37 (B) No such sealed document may be made available for public review at any
- 38 time.
- 39 (C) Documents which are sealed according to this section must be made
- 40 available for review according to section 802.

- 41 (iii) Notice of Advisory Opinions and Rulings

- 42 (A) The Commission shall distribute via email, at the time of their adoption,
- 43 any advisory opinions and rulings to—
- 44 (1) all registered candidates in an election;
- 45 (2) the Student Association President;
- 46 (3) the Student Association Vice President;

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1 (4) the Chief Justice of the Student Court; and

2 (5) the Student Association Senate Chairperson Pro-Tempore.

3 (B) The Commission shall make available all such additional advisory  
4 opinions and rulings on its website and social media channels.

5 Section 70310. Website

6 (a) The Commission shall maintain a website for the publication of information  
7 concerning its activities.

8 (b) The domain of the website will remain unchanged, unless following a simple majority  
9 vote and notification to the Student Association.

10 (c) On its website, the Commission shall make available the following items, at a  
11 minimum—

12 (1) a schedule listing all validly called meetings;

13 (2) a schedule listing all relevant elections dates and deadlines;

14 (3) methods by which the members of the Commission can be contacted, including a  
15 schedule of office hours;

16 (4) a copy of this Part of the Bylaws;

17 (5) copies of all pertinent documents and forms which may be submitted to the  
18 Commission, including the Commission logo for postering;

19 (6) a list of candidates following verification;

20 (7) a record of resulting penalties from violation hearings;

21 (8) items listed under ‘Record-Keeping’ from past elections;

22 (9) any other items as required by this Part of the Bylaws, by additional rule, or by  
23 governing law;

24 (10) all current past election results are made publicly available;

25 (11) all relevant documents related to meetings of the Commission are publicly  
26 available on the website; and

27 (12) candidate ballot statements included with a list of certified candidates.

28 Section 70311. Electronic Accounts

29 (a) The Commission shall create and maintain electronic accounts, such as email  
30 accounts and social media pages as it finds appropriate to carry out its duties.

31 (b) All official electronic correspondence from the Commission must only come from the  
32 official non-GW email account of the Commission, unless for activities related to  
33 InfoMail advertisements.

34 (c) Any Commission-related electronic correspondence received to a personal email  
35 account or personal social media account must be immediately forwarded onto the  
36 Commission’s official account.

37 (d) The passwords, security questions and methods of access to all electronic accounts  
38 must be set by the Commission, and transferred upon the transition of a new  
39 Commission by the Elections Commissioner.

40 Section 70312. Investigation

41 (a) The Chief Investigator shall investigate all allegations made in any officially filed  
42 complaint, following a finding of probable cause by the Commission.

43 (b) In the course of such an investigation, both the Commission and the Chief  
44 Investigator have the power to—

45 (1) require by order that any candidate, or authorized agent thereof, give, testimony  
46 regarding any matter in the form of a deposition or sworn statement; and

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(2) require by order that any candidate, or authorized agent thereof, furnish any records, reports, forms, documents or other evidence as may be requested.

Section 70313. Advisory Opinions

(a) The Commission has the power to issue an advisory opinion regarding any rule or proceeding found within this Part.

(1) In order to issue an advisory opinion, the Commission may choose to issue an opinion of its own with approval by a simple majority, or a candidate may first request an advisory opinion on a given rule or proceeding by email, public comment, or otherwise.

(2) Once a request has been made, either at a scheduled meeting of the Commission or via electronic communication, the Commission shall, by a simple majority vote, either deny the request, postpone a decision regarding the request, or adopt an advisory opinion clarifying the rule or proceeding.

(b) All advisory opinions are binding upon the Commission and must be treated as having the same effect as a rule.

(c) Advisory opinions must be made available according to [Section 70310](#).

**Chapter 704. Elections Preparation Procedures**

Section 70401. Pre-Election

(a) Prior to the commencement of the registration period, the Commission shall establish by rule a date for the general elections.

(1) The Commission shall send the date to the Chief Justice of the Student Court.

(2) The initial elections must be held in the month of March, with the publicity period beginning in February.

(b) Publicity Period

(1) Community Contact

(i) At least two (2) weeks prior to the commencement of the candidate registration period, the Commission shall contact all undergraduate and graduate GW colleges and schools, student organizations registered with the Office of Student Life, and student newsletters requesting the dissemination of election information in their communications.

(ii) This information must include the following—

(A) dates of candidate registration period;

(B) dates of open campaign period;

(C) all dates, times and locations of pre-registration Information Sessions;

(D) all dates, times and locations of candidate meetings following the registration period; and

(E) dates of the elections.

(2) Information Sessions

(i) Within ten (10) class days prior to the beginning of the candidate registration period, the Commission shall hold at least two (2) election information sessions providing information to potential candidates of the Student Association elections.

(ii) The Commission shall provide information on each body's functions and operations, as well as the opportunities to get involved and any necessary qualifications.

(3) Publicity Event

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- 1 (i) Within one (1) week of the candidate registration, the Commission shall hold  
2 at least one (1) public event to publicize the upcoming elections.  
3 (ii) This event is expected to be held in Kogan Plaza, the Mid-Campus Quad, or  
4 District House.  
5 (4) During the publicity period, the Commission shall hold an information session  
6 specifically for student organizations to inform them of the elections process and  
7 how they can participate.
- 8 (c) Registration Period  
9 (1) The Commission shall establish a ‘registration period’, during which candidates  
10 may register for the elections.  
11 (2) The length of the registration period may not be shorter than four (4) calendar  
12 days and no longer than seven (7) calendar days.  
13 (3) Once the registration period has ended, the Commission will no longer accept any  
14 candidate registration forms.

15 Section 70402. Election Manual

- 16 (a) The Commission shall distribute the Election Manual to candidates at the time of the  
17 candidates’ meetings in hard copy.  
18 (b) The manual must be made publicly available on the Commission website.  
19 (c) The manual may not be used in place of this Part of the Bylaws, nor serve as a  
20 reference in any official capacity.  
21 (d) The manual must include expectations of candidate conduct, relevant deadlines and  
22 timeline of the elections, with dates, times & locations, including details for—  
23 (1) postering day;  
24 (2) dorm-storming;  
25 (3) dates of the campaign period;  
26 (4) date(s) of the elections; and  
27 (5) determination of results.

28 **Chapter 705. Student Association Election Procedures**

29 Section 70501. Candidate Registration

- 30 (a) Candidate Registration Form  
31 (1) By the first official day of the registration period, the Commission shall make  
32 available an official paper and online ‘candidate registration form’.  
33 (2) Candidates must register by properly completing the candidate registration form  
34 and submitting a copy of the form to the Commission prior to the conclusion of  
35 the registration period.  
36 (3) Candidates may choose to submit their all registration materials either online or  
37 via paper forms but can only choose one (1) method of submission for all  
38 materials.  
39 (b) Petition of Support  
40 (1) By the first official day of the registration period, the Commission shall make  
41 available an official paper and online ‘petition of support’.  
42 (2) Signature Requirement  
43 (i) Candidates for the Student Association offices of President and Vice President  
44 must submit a petition of support that contains the valid signatures of at least  
45 1.5 percent (1.5%) of students of the uniform constituency group that the  
46 candidate is seeking to represent.

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- 1 (ii) Candidates for all Student Association undergraduate Senators must submit a  
2 petition of support that contains the valid signatures of at least one percent  
3 (1%) of students of the uniform constituency group that the candidate is  
4 seeking to represent.  
5 (iii) Candidates for all other Student Association Senate seats must submit a  
6 petition of support that contains the valid signatures of at least 0.25 percent  
7 (.25%) of students of the uniform constituency group that the candidate is  
8 seeking to represent.
- 9 (c) Ballot Statements  
10 (1) Each registered candidate may include a statement of no more than two hundred  
11 (200) words on the ballot.  
12 (2) Each registered candidate who wishes to include a statement must submit their  
13 statement via a method set by the Commission by the end of the registration  
14 period.  
15 (3) Write-in candidates that advance to a secondary election may have forty-eight  
16 (48) hours from the time of the certification of the original election to submit a  
17 ballot statement for the secondary election.
- 18 (d) Validation  
19 (1) Within five (5) class days of the conclusion of the registration period, the  
20 Commission shall determine the validity of each candidate online or paper  
21 registration form and online or paper petition of support.  
22 (2) Any properly completed and properly submitted form or petition must be deemed  
23 valid, and any form or petition which was not properly completed or properly  
24 submitted must be deemed invalid.  
25 (3) The Commission shall notify all candidates of the status of their registration  
26 through email once validation is complete.
- 27 (e) Multiple Positions  
28 (1) Candidates may not campaign for multiple positions.  
29 (2) In the event that a candidate is elected to multiple positions, the candidate may  
30 only serve in one (1) of them.
- 31 Section 70502. Extended Candidate Registration  
32 (a) General  
33 (1) The Commission may allow the online or paper registration of additional  
34 candidates after the close of the official registration period.  
35 (2) The Commission shall set an expiration date of the extended registration period  
36 no less than ten (10) days before the start of the election.  
37 (3) The Commission may deny any candidate the right to submit a ballot statement if  
38 the deadline for submission has already passed.
- 39 (b) Requirements  
40 (1) All candidates registered after the close of the official registration period are  
41 subject to the same requirements and regulations listed in section 501 apart from  
42 the following changes:  
43 (2) Candidates may submit the official online or paper ‘candidate registration form’  
44 and online or paper petition of support after the close of candidate registration.

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- 1 (3) Within five (5) class days of the reception of the official ‘candidate registration  
2 form’, the Commission shall determine the validity of each online or paper  
3 registration form and online or paper petition of support.  
4 (i) Any properly completed and submitted form or petition must be deemed valid,  
5 and any form or petition not properly completed or submitted in accordance  
6 with Commission rules must be deemed invalid.  
7 (ii) The Commission shall notify all candidates of the status of their registration  
8 through email once validation is complete.  
9 (c) Supplemental Candidate Information Meeting  
10 (1) All candidates who register after the close of the official registration period who  
11 did not attend an official candidate information meeting must attend a  
12 ‘Supplementary Candidate Information Meeting’ hosted by the Commission to  
13 the content of the candidate information meetings.  
14 (2) Candidates may not send an authorized agent in their place unless given  
15 permission to do so by the Commission.  
16 (3) The candidate must inform the Commission of their designee before the  
17 commencement of the meeting.  
18 (4) Candidates who fail to meet with the Commission may be denied registration and  
19 ballot placement.  
20 (5) The Commission may set a deadline at its discretion before which the  
21 ‘Supplementary Candidate Information Meeting’ must be completed.  
22 (d) Limitation of Extension  
23 (1) Only races in which there are fewer candidates running than contested seats (in  
24 other words, races with empty ballot slots) available may have extended online or  
25 paper registration.  
26 (2) In races in which there are an equal or greater number of candidates than are  
27 seats, the Commission will not permit extended candidate registration.  
28 Section 70503. Withdrawal  
29 (a) Notice  
30 (1) In order to withdraw from an election, a candidate must submit to the  
31 Commission an email notice sent from the account listed on the candidate’s  
32 official candidate registration form.  
33 (b) Removal from Ballot  
34 (1) In order to be removed from the ballot, notice of the withdrawal must be  
35 submitted before commencement of the voting period, during which time the  
36 Commission will make every effort to remove the candidate from the ballot.  
37 (2) Candidates who withdraw after the commencement of the voting period will  
38 remain on the ballot.  
39 Section 70504. Announcement of Registered Candidates  
40 (a) Once the candidate registration and validation process is complete, the Commission  
41 shall publish on its website with ballot statements, and any other platform they deem  
42 necessary, a list of registered candidates by name and by office sought, and shall  
43 distribute this list to any media outlets who request it.  
44 Section 70505. The Campaign Period  
45 (a) The campaign period must begin on the day following the secondary candidates  
46 meeting, so long as all petitions and candidate eligibility have been verified.

- 1 (b) The campaign period must end at the same time that the voting period is terminated  
2 and must last exactly ten (10) class days.
- 3 (c) During the campaign period, and only during this period, candidates may distribute  
4 campaign material and hang posters, in accordance with all rules and regulations  
5 outlined in this Part of the Bylaws.
- 6 (1) In the event of a secondary election, the campaign period must be extended until  
7 the end of the voting period.
- 8 (2) This extension only applies to those candidates who are in an electoral race to be  
9 decided in a secondary election.
- 10 (3) The Commission can hold official campaign events during the campaign period  
11 (i.e. debates, student organization town halls, etc.).
- 12 (4) The Commission has full discretion to determine the format of these events so  
13 long as they are open to the public and accessible to all.

14 **Chapter 706. Rules and Regulations for Campaigns for All Elected Positions**

15 Section 70601. Overview

- 16 (a) This Chapter applies to all races directly voted upon by the student body, including  
17 all offices of the Student Association.

18 Section 70602. Candidates' Meetings

- 19 (a) After the candidate registration process is complete, but before the commencement of  
20 the campaign period, an official candidates' meeting must be held for any student  
21 registered to run for an elected position.
- 22 (b) Notice of the date, time and location of the candidates' meeting must be sent via  
23 email to each registered candidate.
- 24 (c) In order to be eligible for the election, each candidate must physically or virtually  
25 attend the official candidates' meeting or the secondary candidates' meeting.
- 26 (d) Authorized Agent
- 27 (1) If a candidate is unable to attend, they may send an authorized agent in their  
28 place.
- 29 (2) The candidate must inform the Commission of their designated authorized agent  
30 before the commencement of the candidates' meeting.
- 31 (e) In addition to any other activity prescribed by the Commission, the ballot order will  
32 be determined at the official candidates' meeting in accordance with Section 70603.

33 Section 70603. Determination of Ballot Order

- 34 (a) The ballot order for each electoral race must be determined by a random process.
- 35 (1) The Commission may choose the manner of the drawing, so long as it is random.
- 36 (2) If the ballot order is to be determined by drawing, the drawing must be done at the  
37 official candidates' meeting, and anyone in attendance must have the right to  
38 observe the drawing.
- 39 (b) The ballot order must be shared with those candidates who attend the secondary  
40 candidates' meeting but may not be changed.

41 Section 70604. Postering Day

- 42 (a) The first day of the campaign period is to be known as 'postering day'.
- 43 (b) Postering day must proceed as follows:
- 44 (1) Immediately preceding the commencement of the campaign period, all candidates  
45 and authorized agents may gather in either Kogan Plaza on the Foggy Bottom  
46 campus, or around the central fountain on the Mount Vernon Campus.

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- 1 (2) All candidates and authorized agents participating in postering day shall remain  
2 within an area defined by the Commission until informed by the Commission that  
3 the campaign period has begun.
- 4 Section 70605. Dorm Storming
- 5 (a) Campaigning in residence halls is to be known as ‘dorm-storming’.
- 6 (b) All candidates must adhere to the dorm-storming regulations as issued by the  
7 Commission in conjunction with GW Housing.
- 8 (c) The Commission shall adopt all GW Housing dorm-storming regulations as an  
9 advisor opinion and determine at what times candidates are allowed to dorm-storm.
- 10 Section 70606. Referendums/Ballot Initiatives
- 11 (a) The Student Association may place a ballot initiative to be voted upon by the entire  
12 student body during the general student body elections through procedures outlined in  
13 the Bylaws of the Student Association.
- 14 (b) Ballot initiatives must be submitted no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the  
15 start of voting.
- 16 Section 70607. Ballot Content
- 17 (a) All balloting must be conducted online through a voting system administered by The  
18 George Washington University.
- 19 (b) Each uniform constituency group must have its own unique ballot.
- 20 (c) The content of each ballot must be as follows.
- 21 (1) Electoral Races
- 22 (i) Electoral races for the Student Association must appear first on the ballot.
- 23 (ii) The electoral races for the Student Association must be listed in the following  
24 order—
- 25 (A) President;
- 26 (B) Vice President; and
- 27 (C) school-specific Senator for the given uniform constituency group as  
28 determined by [Section 70603](#).
- 29 (iii) If there are any additional electoral races not listed in this section, the  
30 Commission shall determine their position on the ballot.
- 31 (iv) For races where voters must rank their choices, voters must have the ability to  
32 rank all available candidates including registered write-in candidates.
- 33 (v) If there are no registered candidates for a specific race, the amount of write-in  
34 options must equal the number of seats available.
- 35 (vi) If there are less registered candidates than seats, the amount of write-in  
36 options must equal the number of seats available minus the number of  
37 registered candidates.
- 38 (vii) If there are equal or more registered candidates than seats, there must be  
39 one (1) write-in space available.
- 40 (2) Ballot Initiatives
- 41 (i) If any ballot initiative or referendum is to be included on the ballot, it must  
42 precede any electoral race.
- 43 (ii) If multiple ballot initiatives or referenda are to be included, the Commission  
44 shall determine their order randomly.
- 45 (3) Equal or More Candidates than Seats



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1 (i) In those elected races in which there are an equal or greater number of  
2 candidates than there are available seats, the registered candidates must be  
3 listed on the ballot in order as determined by [Section 70603](#).

4 (4) Fewer Candidates than Seats

5 (i) In those elected races in which there are fewer number of candidates as there  
6 are available seats, the registered candidates must appear on the ballot for  
7 their race.

8 (ii) Alongside the registered candidates, a space or spaces for write-in voting must  
9 be available for each elected seat.

10 Section 70608. Voting

11 (a) Qualified Voters

12 (1) All matriculated students at The George Washington University are qualified  
13 voters.

14 (2) All qualified voters are permitted to vote only on those electoral races and ballot  
15 initiatives for which the voter’s uniform constituency group is eligible to vote.

16 (b) At least seven (7) days before the elections, the Commission shall communicate to all  
17 potential voters information regarding the elections, including—

18 (1) through what medium voting will be conducted, specifically the website domain;

19 (2) what credentials are required to cast a ballot;

20 (3) what ballot initiatives (if any) will be included;

21 (4) how to vote for candidates; and reasonable accommodations made available for  
22 students with disabilities in compliance with ADA Standards and any other  
23 applicable regulation; and

24 (5) how results will be determined.

25 (c) Commission Voting Table

26 (1) The Commission shall have a public information and voting table on campus  
27 during publicized times throughout the two (2) day election period.

28 (2) The Commission shall use this table to provide voter information and easy access  
29 to voting.

30 (d) The Commission shall inform each voter on the format of the ballot and provide  
31 instructions on how to complete it.

32 (e) The determination of results will occur as outlined in Section 70609.

33 Section 70609. Determination of Results

34 (a) The results of any election, ballot measure, or referendum must be determined  
35 following Bylaws under this section.

36 (b) Races for One Seat

37 (1) Races for One Seat must be conducted and calculated by an instant runoff  
38 method.

39 (i) For electoral races in which only one (1) seat is available, the candidate in the  
40 given electoral race who receives over fifty percent (50%) of the ‘first choice’  
41 votes wins.

42 (ii) If no such candidate surpasses the majority vote threshold, the candidate with  
43 the lowest number of ‘first choice’ votes will be taken out of consideration,  
44 and all voters who chose such a candidate will then have their ‘second choice’  
45 votes counted towards the remaining candidates.

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- 1 (iii) If any candidate at this point surpasses the fifty percent (50%) threshold, they  
2 win.
- 3 (iv) If no candidate receives more than fifty percent (50%) of the votes, the  
4 process of taking out the candidate with the lowest number of votes and  
5 redistribution of ranked votes will be repeated until a candidate surpasses the  
6 fifty percent (50%) threshold.
- 7 (c) Races for Multiple Seats
- 8 (1) For electoral races in which multiple seats are available, the Commission shall  
9 conduct elections by a plurality-at-large voting method in which voters can select  
10 any number of choices no more than or equal to the number of seats available in a  
11 given election.
- 12 (d) Tie Votes
- 13 (1) A secondary election is required if—
- 14 (i) there is a tie vote between candidates in an electoral race in which only one  
15 (1) seat is available, such that no candidate receives a majority of the vote; or
- 16 (ii) there is a tie vote between candidates in an electoral race in which multiple  
17 seats are available, such that the number of candidates equal to the number of  
18 available seats receiving the greatest number of votes cannot be determined, a  
19 secondary election between the tying candidates will be required.
- 20 (2) If there is a first-place tie among multiple write-in candidates for any number of  
21 seats, the Commission shall contact those candidates notifying them of the tie.
- 22 (3) The candidate may then choose to have their name forwarded to the Senate-elect,  
23 which shall determine the winner of the seat by a plurality voting method.
- 24 (e) Ballot Initiatives
- 25 (1) For ballot initiatives, whatever option wins a plurality of the vote wins.
- 26 (f) Write-In Candidates
- 27 (1) The Commission, by a simple majority vote, may determine vote intent for write-  
28 in votes if there is a discrepancy in how the vote was cast or who the vote is to be  
29 counted for.
- 30 (2) The Commission may also invalidate a write-in vote if the voter intent cannot be  
31 determined.
- 32 Section 70610. Secondary Elections
- 33 (a) If a secondary election is required, it must be held within seven (7) days ahead of the  
34 general election's conclusion, with voting occurring over a twelve (12) hour period.
- 35 (b) No write-in votes may be permitted during any electoral race in a secondary election.
- 36 Section 70611. Release of Results
- 37 (a) No later than 5:00 PM on the day following the elections, the Commission shall  
38 publish a report listing the uncertified results of the elections.
- 39 (b) Report
- 40 (1) The report of uncertified results must state, at a minimum—
- 41 (i) the total 'first choice' votes cast for each candidate in each ranked-choice  
42 electoral race, the vote counts as emerged through the ranked choice voting  
43 distribution, and the total vote counts for elected candidates;
- 44 (2) the total votes cast for each candidate in each plurality-at-large electoral race, and  
45 the total vote counts for elected candidates;

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- 1 (3) the total votes cast for each position on a ballot measure or referendum included  
2 in the elections;  
3 (4) which candidates have been elected, which are tied, and which will be candidates  
4 in a secondary election;  
5 (5) which initiatives will be adopted and which will be denied; and  
6 (6) the total voter turnout.  
7 (c) The Commission shall make this report available on its website.  
8 (d) If the report changes for any reason, the Commission shall update the report.

9 Section 70612. Certification

- 10 (a) After the tabulation of all votes for any electoral race, ballot measure or referendum  
11 in a given election, the Commission shall—  
12 (1) certify the results of the given election two-thirds (2/3rds) majority of the  
13 Commission, with notice and certification to the Student Court; and  
14 (2) publish a report of certified results within a week of the given election.  
15 (i) The Commission shall make this report available on its website.  
16 (b) After results are certified, such certification may not be undone by any authority,  
17 official, individual, or body.

18 **Chapter 707. Campaign Rules and Regulations**

19 Section 70701. Purpose

- 20 (a) These campaign rules and regulations are hereby established to—  
21 (1) ensure the fairness and integrity of every election, to provide each candidate with  
22 a reasonable opportunity to disseminate their message to the public, and to  
23 promote the interest and participation of the student body in the elections process;  
24 and  
25 (2) restrict only that activity which is meant to advance or inhibit a candidacy, or  
26 which tends towards that end, but not that activity which is by nature neutral,  
27 impartial, and lacking in effect.

28 Section 70702. Dispute and Violation Resolution

- 29 (a) Duty of Commissioners  
30 (1) Every Commissioner shall enforce these rules and regulations.  
31 (2) Subject to all other sections in this rule, Commissioners may endeavor to resolve  
32 potential disputes and violations without filing an official complaint and within  
33 reason to exhaust all available methods of dispute resolution before pursuing  
34 formal procedures.  
35 (b) Methods of Resolution  
36 (1) Methods of dispute resolution available to Commissioners may include—  
37 (i) advising a candidate on a lawful course of action;  
38 (ii) mediating or negotiating disputes between candidates;  
39 (iii) notifying a candidate of pertinent rules or regulations; and  
40 (iv) actively resolving an issue for a candidate, insofar as it is reasonable, lawful,  
41 and not unduly burdensome to do so.  
42 (c) Resolution not Binding  
43 (1) Though a Commissioner may consult with a candidate about a potential violation  
44 before filing a complaint, the advice given by the Commissioner may not be  
45 binding on the Commission, and no defense in a violation hearing which argues  
46 that reliance on the advice of a Commissioner may be entertained.

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1 (d) Limitations of Dispute Resolution

2 (1) The duties imposed by this rule upon the Commissioners may not be interpreted  
3 by candidates as a license to freely violate campaign rules and regulations with  
4 the assumption that such violations will be resolved by Commissioners without  
5 sanction.

6 (2) Candidates are assumed to know every rule, regulation, ruling, and advisory  
7 opinion, and must exercise their own best judgment while engaged in campaign  
8 activity.

9 Section 70703. Unrestricted Activity

10 (a) Except as otherwise stated in this Charter, by additional rule, or by governing law, the  
11 Commission may not restrict the following—

12 (1) any solicited conversation, online, in person or otherwise;

13 (2) any solicited distribution of campaign material either in person or online; and (3)  
14 the right of candidates to make available and distribute any campaign material to  
15 the public, so long as the material is not forcefully distributed, and so long as the  
16 availability and distribution of the material conforms to all other rules in this Part  
17 of the Bylaws.

18 Section 70704. Campaign Budgets/Spending Limits

19 (a) General Spending Limits

20 (1) No campaign may make an aggregate expenditure on behalf of their candidacy in  
21 excess of the following limits—

22 (i) \$300 for candidates for Student Association President and Student  
23 Association Executive Vice-President; and

24 (ii) \$100 for candidates for all other Student Association Senate seats.

25 (b) Secondary Election Spending Limit

26 (1) If a secondary election is required, each candidate in the secondary election may  
27 spend up to \$50 total on expenses for the entire secondary election.

28 (c) Joint Spending

29 (1) If a group of candidates agree to appear jointly on campaign material of value, all  
30 candidates involved must deduct the actual value of the campaign material from  
31 each of their respective campaign budgets/spending limits.

32 Section 70705. Sponsored Printing of Posters

33 (a) Free printing is available through the Student Association for all candidates in elected  
34 races.

35 (1) This waiving of fees will include paper and other printing materials to be  
36 provided by the Student Association.

37 (2) Posters can only be printed for candidates following candidate verification.

38 (3) Posters must comply with section 709.

39 (4) No candidates may print posters through Student Association in excess of the  
40 following limits—

41 (i) forty (40) posters for candidates for Student Association President and  
42 Student Association Vice President.

43 (ii) twenty (20) posters for candidates for all other Student Association Senate  
44 seats.

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- 1 (b) Free printing opportunities must be disseminated to candidates through means  
2 including pre-elections Information Sessions, Candidates’ Meetings, and the  
3 Elections Manual.

4 Section 70706. Financial Expenditure Report

5 (a) Reporting, Submission, and Public Dissemination

- 6 (1) For each election, each candidate listed on the ballot, including those who are  
7 running unopposed or spend no money, shall submit an electronic ‘financial  
8 expenditure report’ to the Commission, by email to the Commission.  
9 (2) The Commission shall make available on its website an online official financial  
10 expenditure report form before the commencement of the campaign period.  
11 (3) The ‘financial expenditure report’ must list all goods and services acquired by the  
12 candidate which were intended to advance or inhibit a candidacy or which tend  
13 towards that end.  
14 (4) Non-registered candidates elected to a seat via the write-in process shall also  
15 submit a ‘financial expenditure report’ in order to accept such seat.

16 (b) Actual Value

- 17 (1) Any good or service actually purchased or paid for by the candidate for their  
18 campaign must be reported at the actual value expended by the candidate for a  
19 given good or service.  
20 (2) Candidates shall provide receipts via email to prove the actual value of each good  
21 or service purchased or paid for.  
22 (3) If the Commission requests such, the candidate shall provide the original  
23 receipt(s) in person.  
24 (c) The following items may not be included as part of a candidate’s aggregate  
25 expenditure, so long as they are not distributed to individuals other than a candidate  
26 and their authorized agents, and so long as they are not used in such a manner that  
27 they, alone or combined, constitute campaign material—  
28 (1) tape;  
29 (2) writing utensils;  
30 (3) paper; and  
31 (4) notebooks.

32 Section 70707. Donations

33 (a) Donation List Submission

- 34 (1) For each election, each candidate listed on the ballot shall submit an electronic  
35 ‘donation list’, containing a list of individuals and organizations who have made a  
36 donation to their campaign.  
37 (2) Candidates who received no donations still must submit this list via email to the  
38 Commission.

39 (b) Donation List Publication

- 40 (1) The Commission shall provide this form on its website prior to the registration  
41 period, with the form including the following sections—  
42 (i) names;  
43 (ii) the amount of the financial donation; and  
44 (iii) the date the contribution was made.

45 Section 70708. Reporting Requirements

46 (a) Deadline

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- 1 (1) All candidates must electronically submit a financial expenditure report and a  
2 donations list by 5:00 PM on the day following the election.  
3 (2) The Commission may choose to extend the deadline for submission of a financial  
4 expenditure report and a donations list for non-registered candidates until the  
5 official results are certified.  
6 (b) Publication  
7 (1) The Commission shall make any financial expenditure report and donations list  
8 on behalf of electoral campaigns available as detailed by section 310.  
9 (2) Published documents will not contain any individual’s personal financial  
10 information, excluding values of campaign expenditures.  
11 Section 70709. Postering  
12 (a) Location  
13 (1) Candidates may only place posters in the following public locations—  
14 (i) the exterior of the University Student Center on the H Street side;  
15 (ii) the exterior of the Academic Center buildings;  
16 (iii) the exterior of any building facing University Yard, but not the Law School or  
17 Textile Museum; and  
18 (iv) the exterior of Ames Hall on the Mount Vernon campus.  
19 (2) Candidates whose constituency includes law school students (i.e. President, Vice  
20 President, and Law School Senator) may poster within the Law School after  
21 obtaining approval from the Commission and the Student Bar Association.  
22 (b) Individual Poster Restrictions  
23 (1) No poster may exceed eighteen (18) inches by twelve (12) inches.  
24 (2) No group of posters may constitute one (1) contiguous image greater than the  
25 above size requirements.  
26 (3) No poster may be affixed to any window, door, awning, rail, rack, post, handle, or  
27 temporary structure.  
28 (4) No poster may be placed in such a way that it blocks any sign.  
29 (5) No candidate may place either tape or a poster over another candidate’s  
30 previously affixed poster such that the previously affixed poster is obscured in  
31 any meaningful way.  
32 (6) No candidate may place a poster inside any University residence hall or  
33 townhouse, except that students may place posters within their dorm room and on  
34 any window or door belonging to that room.  
35 (c) Quantity Limitation  
36 (1) Candidates for Student Association President and Vice President may hang as  
37 many as, but no more than, ten (10) posters in each of the four (4) permitted  
38 postering locations listed in section 70709(a) for a total of forty (40) posters  
39 throughout campus.  
40 (2) Candidates for all other directly elected offices may hang as many as, but no more  
41 than, five (5) posters in each of the four (4) permitted postering locations listed in  
42 [Section 70709\(a\)](#), for a total of twenty (20) posters throughout campus.  
43 Section 70710. Registration of Campaign Material  
44 (a) Registration

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- 1 (1) Before a candidate running for an elected seat may distribute or make available  
2 any item that qualifies as campaign material, the candidate must register the item  
3 with the Policy Commissioner.  
4 (2) To register an item, the candidate must submit one (1) proof copy via electronic  
5 submission of the item to the Commissioner email.  
6 (3) This material must visibly include the Commission logo.  
7 (b) Unregistered Item  
8 (1) If a member of the Commission or any other staff officer becomes aware of  
9 unregistered campaign material being distributed or made available, a request to  
10 register the campaign material in question must be sent via email to the candidate  
11 who owns the unregistered campaign material.  
12 (2) The candidate must be granted a period of twenty-four (24) hours from the time of  
13 the request to register the campaign material before becoming liable for a  
14 violation.  
15 (c) Internet Campaign Tools  
16 (1) Candidates may not be required to register any website, social networking group,  
17 or other Internet campaign tool.  
18 Section 70711. Unlawful Distribution of Campaign Material  
19 (a) Before Campaign Period  
20 (1) No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may distribute or make available any  
21 campaign material prior to the commencement of the campaign period.  
22 (2) This section does not apply to—  
23 (i) the creation or availability of any website, social networking group, or other  
24 Internet campaign tool; and  
25 (ii) any verbal statement of a candidate’s intent to seek office or any attempt by a  
26 candidate to complete a petition of support.  
27 (b) Material not Registered  
28 (1) No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may distribute or make available any  
29 campaign material that has not been registered with the Commission within  
30 twenty-four (24) hours of the transmission of notice.  
31 (c) Within University Buildings  
32 (1) No candidate or authorized agent thereof may, within any University building,  
33 distribute, attempt to distribute, or make available any campaign material, unless  
34 such material is solicited.  
35 (d) Forceful Distribution  
36 (1) No candidate or authorized agent thereof may, on any University campus,  
37 distribute, or attempt to distribute, any campaign material against the will of the  
38 intended recipient, once the intended recipient has communicated their  
39 unwillingness to receive the material.  
40 (e) Restricted Zones  
41 (1) No candidate or authorized agent thereof may distribute, attempt to distribute, or  
42 make available any campaign material in zones which are designated as restricted  
43 by the Commission.  
44 (f) Electronic Communications

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1 (1) Any use by a candidate of another student in any photo or video, for the purposes  
2 of aiding the candidate's campaign, may be allowed only with either the verbal or  
3 written consent of the student.

4 (2) No university academic system, such as Blackboard and mass emails to classes,  
5 may be used to promote, aid, or advertise any campaign.

6 Section 70712. Endorsements

7 (a) If a student group chooses to endorse a candidate or candidates, the candidate or  
8 candidates will be held responsible for all activities of the endorsing student group in  
9 regard to activities which are intended to advance or inhibit a candidacy or tends  
10 towards that end.

11 (b) Endorsing student groups are permitted to—

12 (1) if applicable, display one (1) additional candidate poster per candidate endorsed  
13 within the University Student Center, so long as it is located on space belonging  
14 to the endorsing student group's office and complies with the poster regulations;  
15 and

16 (2) engage in any other activity by the student group which reasonably affects only  
17 the members of that same group, such as the sending of an electronic  
18 communication to all group members, on the principle that all members of a given  
19 student group implicitly solicit campaign material about the endorsed candidate  
20 from the student group in which they hold membership.

21 Section 70713. Unlawful Use of Resources and Spaces

22 (a) University Resources

23 (1) No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may use any resource of the  
24 University, including any student organization, which is of monetary value, for  
25 their campaign, except student organizations who wish to provide such to  
26 endorsed candidates.

27 (i) Such resources must be subject to reporting under [Section 70706](#).

28 (ii) Excluded from unlawful use are any printing within the threshold for all  
29 elected candidates under [Section 70705](#).

30 (b) Student Advocacy Center

31 (1) No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may use any office space or conference  
32 room in the Student Advocacy Center.

33 (c) Student Organization Listserv

34 (1) No candidate may use the listserv of any organization of which they are involved  
35 with for self-promotion.

36 (2) Only the organization can promote the individual's candidacy by way of  
37 endorsement.

38 Section 70714. Disruption of a University Function

39 (a) No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may, in the course of campaigning, disrupt  
40 any academic function of The George Washington University.

41 Section 70715. Destruction of Property

42 (a) No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may, purposely deface, destroy or remove  
43 any campaign material belonging to another candidate.

44 Section 70716. False Statements

45 (a) No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may, in any matter within the jurisdiction  
46 of the Commission or of the Student Court, knowingly and willfully—



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- 1 (1) falsify, conceal, or otherwise cover up by any trick, scheme or devise a material  
2 fact;
- 3 (2) make any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation; or  
4 (3) create or use any false writing or document, knowing that the writing or document  
5 contains any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry.
- 6 Section 70717. Obstruction
- 7 (a) Candidates, and authorized agents thereof, should be kind and courteous during any  
8 meetings of the Commission which they attend.
- 9 (b) Obstructive Activities
- 10 (1) No candidate may engage in disorderly, contemptuous, or insolent behavior so as  
11 to interrupt or delay a meeting of the Commission.
- 12 (2) No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may engage in behavior intended to  
13 disrupt, interrupt or obstruct any member of the Commission or any staff officer  
14 in the pursuit of their official duties.
- 15 Section 70718. Impersonation
- 16 (a) No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may falsely assume or pretend to be—  
17 (1) a member of the Commission;  
18 (2) an officer acting under the authority of the Commission;  
19 (3) another candidate; or  
20 (4) any other individual acting under the authority of the Student Association.
- 21 Section 70719. Bribery
- 22 (a) Commissioner, Staff Officer, and Student Court Justice
- 23 (1) No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may confer, or offer to confer, any  
24 benefit upon any Commissioner, staff officer, or Student Court Justice with the  
25 understanding that the benefit will influence any Commissioner, staff officer, or  
26 Student Court Justice in the discharge of their official duties.
- 27 (b) Student
- 28 (1) No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may confer, or offer to confer, anything  
29 more than a de minimus value upon any enrolled student.
- 30 Section 70720. Tampering
- 31 (a) No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may engage in tampering.
- 32 (b) The following acts are considered tampering—
- 33 (1) attempting to induce or affect the person to avoid the proceeding or to give a false  
34 statement, knowing that a person may be a witness in a proceeding of the  
35 Commission or of the Student Court;
- 36 (2) willfully concealing, removing, or destroying any official record, report, form or  
37 other document which is in the custody of the Commission; and
- 38 (3) attempting to enter or infiltrate any system that tabulates votes in any election.
- 39 Section 70721. Failure to Comply
- 40 (a) All candidates, and authorized agents thereof, shall comply with the rules and  
41 regulations of this Charter, all advisory opinions and rulings, and all governing laws.
- 42 (b) No candidate may intentionally disobey or resist a lawful process of the Commission.
- 43 Section 70722. Attempted Violation
- 44 (a) All rules and regulations which restrict the conduct of a candidate, and authorized  
45 agents thereof, also restrict the attempted conduct of a candidate, and authorized  
46 agents thereof.

1 (b) Failure to succeed in an attempt to violate any rule or regulation may not constitute a  
2 valid defense of an individual’s conduct.

3 Section 70723. Authorized Agent Liability

4 (a) Each candidate is liable for all actions carried out by their authorized agents.

5 (b) Wherever this Charter, advisory opinion, restricts the actions of a candidate, so too  
6 will the actions of any authorized agents thereof be restricted.

7 **Chapter 708. Violation Procedures**

8 Section 70801. Complaint

9 (a) Complaint Form

10 (1) The Commission shall create and make available on its website an official  
11 ‘complaint form’.

12 (i) This complaint form must guarantee, in writing, the confidentiality of  
13 individuals that are not the candidate associated with the campaign involved  
14 or the complainant.

15 (ii) All names outside the individual filing the complaint, the complainant, or the  
16 candidate accused must be redacted from the complaint form before being  
17 published.

18 (iii) This complaint form must list each element necessary to file a complaint  
19 accurately including—

20 (A) specific reference to the Rule of the Commission Charter violated;

21 (B) a brief explanation of the alleged incident, including the time, place, and  
22 location of the incident as well as at least one (1) witness (who may be the  
23 complainant) to the incident; and

24 (C) evidence pertaining to the matter.

25 (iv) This complaint form must require the complainant to sign a statement  
26 acknowledging that all allegations made in the complaint are true and accurate  
27 to the best of their knowledge.

28 (v) This complaint form must be sent to the email addresses of both the  
29 Commission and the Chief Investigator.

30 (b) Filing a Complaint

31 (1) In order to file a complaint, the complainant shall properly complete the  
32 complaint form and must submit the complaint form to the Commission email.

33 (2) Any person who wishes to file a complaint must file such complaint within three  
34 (3) calendar days of observing the violation, unless incapacitated or incapable, or  
35 else the Commission may not accept the complaint.

36 (i) The complainant may, and is encouraged, to submit any evidence with the  
37 complaint form (e.g., pictures of the alleged violation of the rule).

38 (ii) If a Commissioner or the Commission is aware of a violation of this Charter, a  
39 Commissioner may submit a complaint to the Commission email, which will  
40 be treated the same as any other complaint.

41 (3) The Commission shall refer every complaint received to the Chief Investigator.

42 (i) The Chief Investigator shall verify that a complaint is complete, determine the  
43 validity of that complaint, and produce a written recommendation regarding  
44 the complaint that will be presented to the Commission.

45 (ii) These proceedings must occur prior to the twelve (12) hour period preceding  
46 the Probable Cause Hearing.

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- 1 (4) For violations of policies not maintained by the Commission, the complainant  
2 may be referred to the appropriate judicial authority, including violations of—  
3 (i) the George Washington University Student Code of Conduct;  
4 (ii) any applicable rules and regulations of The George Washington University;  
5 and  
6 (iii) any applicable local, state, and federal laws.  
7 (c) The Commission shall accept complaints against non-registered candidates, and hold  
8 probable cause hearings for them even if they are not expected to be on the ballot.
- 9 Section 70802. Probable Cause Hearing
- 10 (a) Within three (3) calendar days of the transmission of a complaint form to the Chief  
11 Investigator and Commission, there must be held a probable cause hearing for the  
12 given complaint.
- 13 (b) Participants
- 14 (1) The probable cause hearing must be limited to—  
15 (i) the Elections Commissioner;  
16 (ii) the General Membership;  
17 (iii) the Chief Investigator; and  
18 (iv) the Student Association Legislator General.
- 19 (2) With a majority vote of the General Membership, the Commission may allow  
20 staff officers to remain present during the hearing.
- 21 (c) At the probable cause hearing, the Chief Investigator shall present the Commission  
22 with their written recommendation.
- 23 (d) The Commission shall vote on the recommendation of the Chief Investigator and a  
24 vote must be sustained by a simple majority present.
- 25 (e) Burden of Proof
- 26 (1) The Commission shall find probable cause only when there is sufficient evidence  
27 to establish a reasonable likelihood of success in proving each and every element  
28 of the violation provided below by a preponderance of the evidence.
- 29 (2) The evidence must prove—  
30 (i) the candidate, or an authorized agent thereof, violated a rule or regulation in  
31 this Charter, an advisory opinion, or governing law, for which a penalty may  
32 apply;  
33 (ii) the candidate’s violation is likely to have a material effect on the elections,  
34 meaning that the violation advanced or inhibited a candidacy, or tended  
35 towards that end; and  
36 (iii) in any hearing held pursuant to a complaint filed by the Commissioner, the  
37 Commissioner complied with all of the requirements of [Section 70612](#) prior to  
38 filing the complaint.
- 39 (f) Failure to comply with all rules regarding probable cause will constitute reversible  
40 error sufficient to invalidate a complaint.
- 41 Section 70803. Indictment
- 42 (a) If, after a probable cause hearing, the Commission determines that probable cause  
43 exists, the Commission shall immediately issue an indictment.
- 44 (b) The Commission shall send the indictment to the indicted candidate within three (3)  
45 hours of the determination of probable cause.
- 46 (c) Each indictment must contain—

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- 1 (1) the name of the candidate being indicted;
- 2 (2) a complete list of counts for which the candidate is indicted, including the rule,
- 3 section and subsection of this Charter, the advisory opinion, or governing law,
- 4 which the candidate is alleged to have violated;
- 5 (3) the contact information for the Chief Investigator, and an Assistant Investigator if
- 6 applicable, in order to arrange for discovery; and
- 7 (4) the date, time and tentative location of the candidate’s violation hearing.
- 8 Section 70804. Prior to a Hearing Violation
- 9 (a) Violation Hearing
- 10 (1) Within three (3) days of the probable cause hearing from which an indictment is
- 11 produced, the Commission shall schedule a violation hearing for all parties
- 12 involved in complaints deemed valid.
- 13 (i) This violation hearing must be scheduled within twenty-four (24) hours of the
- 14 indictment.
- 15 (ii) When scheduling a violation hearing, the Commission shall inform the
- 16 complainant and the indicted candidate of the date, time and location of the
- 17 hearing.
- 18 (iii) The indicted candidate must be provided with a copy of the complaint from,
- 19 any evidence submitted along with the complaint, and a copy of the Chief
- 20 Investigator’s written recommendation to the Commission.
- 21 (b) Evidence of Defense
- 22 (1) The indicted candidate must provide all evidence in their defense, including a list
- 23 of expected witnesses, to the Chief Investigator at least twelve (12) hours prior to
- 24 the violation hearing.
- 25 (i) If any evidence is discovered after the twelve (12) hour deadline, it must be
- 26 made available to the opposing party immediately.
- 27 (ii) Admissibility for evidence submitted following this deadline, including
- 28 additional witnesses, is up to the discretion of the Elections Commissioner and
- 29 Chief Investigator.
- 30 (c) Witnesses
- 31 (1) Upon receiving the list of witnesses from all parties involved, the Chief
- 32 Investigator shall contact all witnesses prior to the violation hearing to detail their
- 33 role in the process.
- 34 (d) Disclosure of Evidence
- 35 (1) Additionally, at least six (6) hours prior to the violation hearing, the Chief
- 36 Investigator shall disclose any evidence gained during their investigation to the
- 37 candidate.
- 38 (i) The Chief Investigator shall also disclose any evidence to be used in defense
- 39 of the candidate to the complainant.
- 40 (ii) Any evidence not disclosed to the candidate or the complainant will not be
- 41 admissible during the hearing.
- 42 Section 70805. Violation Hearing
- 43 (a) Oversight
- 44 (1) All violation hearings must be held in public.
- 45 (2) However, the date, location, and time of the hearing may only be made available
- 46 by request to anyone excluding the parties themselves.

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- 1 (3) Two-thirds (2/3rds) of General Membership will constitute a quorum for a  
2 violation hearing.
- 3 (b) Procedure
- 4 (1) The Elections Commissioner shall preside over all violation hearings and shall  
5 ensure that the proper procedures are followed.
- 6 (2) The Administrative Commissioner shall take minutes for the hearing and is  
7 expected to supplement their notes with audio recording.
- 8 (3) Violation hearings must proceed in the following order:
- 9 (i) The Chief Investigator shall give a statement of the charge.
- 10 (ii) The Chief Investigator’s case-in-chief shall begin, during which the Chief  
11 Investigator may call and question witnesses and present evidence.
- 12 (iii) The defendant or their counsel have the right to cross examine any witness  
13 called by the Chief Investigator.
- 14 (iv) Redirect and recross examinations must be permitted at the discretion of the  
15 Chair.
- 16 (v) Once the Chief Investigator has rested their case-in-chief, the indicted  
17 candidate’s case-in-chief shall begin, during which the indicted candidate or  
18 their counsel may call and question witnesses and present evidence.
- 19 (vi) The Chief Investigator has the right to cross-examine any witness called by  
20 the defendant or his counsel.
- 21 (vii) Redirect and recross examinations must be permitted at the discretion of  
22 the Chair.
- 23 (viii) The Chief Investigator shall give a closing argument not to exceed three  
24 (3) minutes.
- 25 (ix) The indicted candidate or their counsel shall give a closing argument not to  
26 exceed three (3) minutes.
- 27 (x) The Chief Investigator may give a rebuttal not to exceed one (1) minute.
- 28 (xi) The members of the Commission have the right to question, at any time, any  
29 witness called to testify.
- 30 (xii) The members of the Commission shall also have the right to question the  
31 Chief Investigator and indicted candidate and their counsel.
- 32 (xiii) Following any violation hearing or following any set of violation hearings  
33 as the Commission may prefer, the Commission shall close the meeting to all  
34 except itself and shall begin deliberation.
- 35 (xiv) Following deliberation, the Commission shall reopen the meeting and  
36 shall announce the results of each count in each indictment.
- 37 (c) Burden of Proof
- 38 (1) The Commission shall find a candidate in violation only when the Chief  
39 Investigator has proven each and every element of the violation by a  
40 preponderance of the evidence.
- 41 (d) Ruling Criteria
- 42 (1) When the hearing has ended, the Commission shall recess and deliberate.
- 43 (2) All votes must be decided by a majority vote.
- 44 (3) The ruling for each charge must be given in the following form—
- 45 (i) Alleged Violation;
- 46 (ii) Verdict; and

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- 1 (iii)Imposed Sentence.  
2 (e) Voting Threshold  
3 (1) A candidate will be found in violation only if a simple majority vote of the total  
4 Commission membership finds them guilty upon a preponderance of the  
5 evidence.  
6 (f) Disclosure  
7 (1) If the candidate is found in violation, the Commission shall notify the candidate in  
8 writing.  
9 (2) The Elections Commissioner shall make a public statement releasing information  
10 regarding the filed violation, the verdict with appropriate evidence, and the  
11 determined sentence.  
12 (i) The public statement must be made between twenty-four (24) and thirty-six  
13 (36) hours following the decision, allowing the candidate time to appeal the  
14 decision if they so choose.  
15 (ii) If an appeal is made to the Student Court within the time allotted, no  
16 statement may be made until the final deliberation of the Student Court.  
17 (3) All other disclosure of matters regarding the hearing is at the discretion of the  
18 Commission.

19 Section 70806. Sentencing

- 20 (a) If a candidate is found in violation of this Charter, for each count that the candidate is  
21 found in violation, they shall receive, for a violation of—  
22 (1) Section 70704,  
23 (i) two (2) penalties for between zero percent (0%) and 4.99 percent (4.99%)  
24 over the limit;  
25 (ii) three (3) penalties for between five percent (5.0%) and 9.99 percent (9.99%)  
26 over the limit;  
27 (iii)four (4) penalties for between ten percent (10%) and 14.99 percent (14.99%)  
28 over the limit; and  
29 (iv)six (6) penalties for greater than fifteen percent (15%) over the limit.  
30 (2) [Section 70706](#), one (1) penalty per item missing a receipt.  
31 (3) [Section 70706](#), one (1) penalty per item missing proof.  
32 (4) [Section 70706](#), one (1) penalty per class day that the report is late.  
33 (5) [Section 70711](#), one (1) penalty.  
34 (6) [Section 70711\(f\)\(1\)](#) and [Section 70711\(f\)\(2\)](#), two (2) penalties per instance where  
35 consent is not given.  
36 (7) [Section 70713](#), two (2) penalties.  
37 (8) [Section 70714](#), three (3) penalties.  
38 (9) [Section 70715](#), two (2) penalties per incident of destruction.  
39 (10) [Section 70716](#), three (3) penalties.  
40 (11) [Section 70716\(a\)](#), three (3) penalties.  
41 (12) [Section 70717\(b\)](#), six (6) penalties.  
42 (13) [Section 70718](#), six (6) penalties.  
43 (14) [Section 70719](#), six (6) penalties.  
44 (15) [Section 70720](#), six (6) penalties.  
45 (16) [Section 70721](#), if because of a failure to comply with [Section 70401](#), three (3)  
46 penalties.

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1 (17) [Section 70721](#), if because of a failure to comply with [Section 70602](#), two (2)  
2 penalties.

3 (18) [Section 70721](#), if because of a failure to comply with [Section 70604](#), two (2)  
4 penalties.

5 (19) [Section 70721](#), if because of a failure to comply with [Section 70605](#), two (2)  
6 penalties.

7 (20) [Section 70721](#), due to any reason not otherwise listed under [Section 70806](#), one  
8 (1) penalty.

9 Section 70807. Sentencing via Ballot Content

10 (a) All candidates sentenced to a penalty, but not disqualified from their election, will  
11 have their penalty totals featured on the ballot alongside their candidacy.

12 (1) With their total penalty number will be a delineation of which Charter provisions  
13 were violated.

14 (2) For penalties that are distributed within a day of or during the election period, the  
15 Commission shall attempt to feature such on the ballot, but cannot guarantee of  
16 featuring such penalties due to their untimely distribution.

17 Section 70808. Disqualification

18 (a) Order of Disqualification

19 (1) Any registered candidate who accumulates six (6) or more penalties during a  
20 given elections period must be disqualified, and the Commission shall issue the  
21 candidate an order of disqualification.

22 (2) Such order removes the candidate from the ballot, invalidates their election to  
23 office, and renders the candidate ineligible to be elected to any office during an  
24 election year in which they were disqualified.

25 (b) Barment from Office

26 (1) If winning an election via write-in vote, any non-registered candidate who  
27 accumulated three (3) or more penalties during a given elections period will be  
28 barred from taking office.

29 Section 70809. Right to Counsel

30 (a) Any candidate has the right to appoint any one (1) enrolled student of the University  
31 to serve as their counsel in any matter before the Commission.

32 (b) In order to appoint counsel, a candidate must submit, via email a signed notice  
33 identifying the individual being appointed.

34 (c) Counsel is considered an authorized agent and has the power to exercise any right,  
35 responsibility or duty otherwise retained by the candidate whom counsel represents.

36 Section 70810. Appellate Jurisdiction

37 (a) The Student Court shall exercise final jurisdiction over all appeals of decisions of the  
38 Commission.

39 Section 70811. Appeal Process

40 (a) Deadline

41 (1) A decision of the Commission may be appealed to the Student Court within forty-  
42 eight (48) hours from the time the email was sent to notify them.

43 (2) Otherwise, the decision of the Commission will prevail.

44 (b) Parties

45 (1) The appealing parties are limited to the complainant and the defendant involved in  
46 the original complaint.

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- 1 (c) Filing  
2 (1) The party appealing must file a complaint with the Student Court stating the  
3 grounds of appeal.  
4 (d) Hearing  
5 (1) The Student Court shall determine whether all criteria for filing have been met  
6 within twenty-four (24) hours.  
7 (2) If the Student Court determines that all criteria has been met, then a hearing must  
8 be scheduled.  
9 (3) The defendant, complainant, members of the Commission, and members of the  
10 Student Court must be provided with a copy of the appeal complaint along with a  
11 notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing.  
12 (e) Procedure  
13 (1) The procedure of the appeal will be conducted according to the Bylaws of the  
14 Student Association.  
15 Section 70812. Standard of Review  
16 (a) The Student Court must affirm any decision of the Commission unless it is found to  
17 be arbitrary and capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance  
18 with governing law.  
19 Section 70813. Judicial Remedy  
20 (a) Among all other powers retained by the Student Court, if the Student Court overturns  
21 any decision of the Commission, the Student Court may—  
22 (1) issue an order reopening a time-limited process;  
23 (2) issue an order to remand;  
24 (3) issue an order vacating any decision of the Commission;  
25 (4) issue a preliminary or permanent injunction against the proscription of any rule by  
26 the Commission which is in violation of this Charter or governing law; or  
27 (5) issue an order vacating the results of any election, and may, but need not, issue an  
28 additional order calling for a new election.