



MT. SAN ANTONIO COLLEGE
ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
ELECTIONS DIRECTIVE

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Elections Directive is to establish rules and regulations for conducting Associated Students (A.S.) Elections. Failure to comply with the Elections and Publicity Directives may cause ticket disqualification and/or penalties as indicated in this document.

II. THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

- A. It shall be the responsibility of A.S. Executive Board to ratify the Elections Committee by the beginning of the third week of the fall semester.
- B. The Elections Committee shall consist of (8) members:
 - 1. The Elections Senator (Chairperson) (non-voting, only to break a tie):
 - a. The Elections Senator is not eligible to run for an Executive Board Officer position in the current elections cycle.
 - b. If the Elections Senator chooses to resign from their position, they forfeit eligibility to run in the current elections cycle.
 - c. In the absence of an Elections Senator, the Senate will appoint a member of the Senate to be the Interim Chairperson.
 - 2. Four students (voting) nominated by the Elections Senator and ratified by Executive Board.
 - 3. Two Senate members (voting) nominated by the Senate and ratified by Executive Board.
- C. Quorum shall consist of a majority of voting members.
- D. No member of the Elections Committee may be running for an office at the time they are serving on the Committee. Elections Committee members cannot support or oppose: campaigns, candidates, or ballot issues while serving on the Elections Committee.
- E. The Elections Committee shall be responsible for implementing, administering and monitoring all A.S. Elections.
- F. The Chairperson of the Elections Committee will directly report once per week to the Senate.

III. VOTER ELIGIBILITY

- A. All currently enrolled Mt. SAC students who have paid the current Student Activities Fee shall be eligible to vote for all A.S. candidates.
- B. All currently enrolled Mt. SAC students, regardless of Student Activities Fee status, shall be eligible to vote for the Student Trustee.
- C. Community Education students are not eligible to vote for A.S. candidates unless they have paid the Student Activities Fee for the current semester. Any discrepancies regarding eligibility should be addressed to the Elections Committee.

IV. **REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENT TRUSTEE CANDIDACY**

- A. Comply with Board Policy as determined by the current Education Code requirements.
- B. Must have have paid the current Student Activities Fee.
- C. File an application in person with the A.S. Secretary by the scheduled deadline. Candidates can run for only one office.
- D. Have a cumulative G.P.A. of no less than 2.0 and currently enrolled in five (5) credit units at Mt. SAC.

V. **REQUIREMENTS FOR A.S. OFFICER CANDIDATES**

- A. Must have paid the current Student Activities Fee, be in good standing behaviorally, and have completed six units.
- B. File an application in person with the A.S. Secretary by the scheduled deadline. Candidates can run for only one office.
- C. Maintain a 2.5 Mt. SAC cumulative grade point average, maintain a 2.0 semester grade point average, and currently enrolled in five (5) credit units at Mt. SAC.
- D. In accordance with the A.S. Constitution Article III Section 5, if students only have one (1) semester of A.S. Officer eligibility remaining, they cannot run for a new A.S. Officer position that requires a two semester term.
- E. Attend at least one Senate and E Board meeting.

VI. **OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES**

- A. The General Elections will be held during the Spring semester.
- B. Candidate filing dates shall be advertised publicly for at least 4 months prior to the application deadline.
- C. There will be a mandatory meeting for candidates. A minimum of two sessions will be scheduled to accommodate those candidates interested in running for office. Every candidate running for office MUST attend a candidate meeting.
- D. All elections must be publicized at least ten (15) school days* before voting begins. *[9/6/16 voted to change this date 9-0-0]*
- E. All elections issues may be brought to the Elections Committee. If action is requested, the elections issue must be submitted to the A.S. Elections Advisor in writing within one (1) business day of the elections issue. If a ruling of the Elections Committee is disputed, an appeal may be filed with Student Court. The Student Court's decision will be final.
- F. In the absence of Student Court, the Judicial Affairs Officer, A.S. Advisor, and Dean,

- Student Services will make the final decision.
- G. Only current Mt. SAC students are allowed to participate/campaign during elections and are responsible for abiding by this document, college policies, and regulations set forth by the Elections Committee.
 - H. Associated Students elections must be open at least four consecutive school days* during elections week. Ballots may be cast from any computers on/or off campus during the designated election dates.

VII. **COMPUTER VOTING STATIONS**

- A. The A.S. will use an internet based voting system.
- B. It is the responsibility of the Elections Committee to clearly define the A.S. voting locations on campus.
- C. It is the responsibility of the Elections Committee to define campaigning parameters. All campaign materials are prohibited at the computer voting stations except for handbills carried by voters to assist in casting a vote.
- D. Candidates will not be allowed to harass and/or deliberately serve as a physical obstruction to students.

VIII. **CAMPAIGNING REGULATIONS**

- A. Definition of Tickets:
 - 1. The A.S. President and Vice-President shall constitute one ticket.
 - 2. The I.C.C. Chair and I.C.C. Vice-Chair shall constitute one ticket.
 - 3. Senate Chairs shall run on individual tickets.
 - 4. Student Trustee shall constitute one ticket.
 - 5. Write-in candidates will not be accepted.
- B. Each ticket shall run individually, but it is permissible for tickets to endorse each other.
- C. Student Life Staff shall approve all campaign material/publicity and keep one copy of all campaign material/publicity used by each ticket.
- D. The Publicity Directive will govern all publicity. The Elections Committee will determine where postings will be allowed.
- E. All advertisement space taken out in the campus newspaper or provided by electronic means must be approved by the A.S. Elections Advisor
- F. Campaigning for eligible tickets may begin seven (7) school days* prior to the opening of the polls, on a date established by the Elections Committee.
- H. Each candidate and ticket shall remove all of their campaigning materials from the campus within 24 hours after the polls close on the last day of the election.

IX. **POTENTIAL PENALTY ASSESSMENTS**

- A. The Elections Committee has the right to assess penalties. All penalties must be pre-

established by the Elections Committee and communicated to the candidates during the candidates meeting. If a penalty is assessed, the ticket must be immediately informed in writing. All members of the Elections Committee must receive notification of the penalty assessed. In order to assess a penalty, a quorum must exist in the Elections Committee and the following penalties may result:

1. Reduction of campaigning time.
2. Restrict campaigning in specific locations.
3. Disqualification.

X. **CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES**

Constitutional changes to be voted upon in any election must be publicized ten (10) school days* prior to the start of the elections.

XI. **REQUIREMENTS TO TAKE OFFICE**

- A. Winning candidate(s) must receive *plurality* of votes cast for a given office.
- B. At least four hundred (400) votes must be cast for an election to be valid. [*recommended change this to increase the number of votes required to validate the elections*]

XII. **RUN-OFF ELECTIONS**

- A. A run-off election will be held in the event of a tie.
- B. Run-off elections shall be held no later than fifteen (15) school days* before the end of the last day of instruction.

XIII. **SPECIAL ELECTIONS**

- A. All rules and regulations stated in this document shall govern special elections.
- B. Special elections shall be held no later than fifteen (15) school days* before the end of the last day of instruction. Use the language used in the invalidation.

XIV. **ELECTION RESULTS**

Election results shall be posted for a two-week period within two (2) business days.

XV. **INVALID ELECTIONS**

In case the General Elections are invalidated by technical error, or situations characterized as uncontrollable, acts of nature, or emergency, a special election will be held by the end of the Spring Semester, if sufficient time remains. Otherwise, the elections shall be held at the beginning of the following Fall Semester.

XVI. **AMENDMENTS**

This Directive may be amended by submitting the amendment as a Bill to the Senate and Executive Board. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the quorum present is required by both. The Bill will then be forwarded to the A.S. President for approval. The approved amendment(s) will become effective immediately after the A.S. President signs it.

*School days are defined as Monday-Friday, excluding District holidays

**Elections cycle is defined as Fall and Spring semester

***Elections advisor is the Activities Coordinator

Approved by Senate 9/27/16