



THE EIU STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS RULES AND REGULATIONS

DRAFT REVISIONS - PROPOSED-FEBRUARY 28, 2009

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AS SUBMITTED & REVISED BY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS REFORM TASK FORCE

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The Elections Reform Task Force
FINAL REVISIONS

Effective Date - TBD

Article I – Purpose

The Student Elections Commission (SEC) at Eastern Illinois University shall be the governing agent for the coordination of all EIU Student Government elections, including General, Special, run-offs, and referendums. The Student Elections Commission shall interpret, execute, and enforce all election rules in accordance with the Student Government Constitution, By-laws and Election Commission Rules and Regulation in a manner consistent with University policy.

The Student Elections Commission shall review and revise, as necessary, the Election Commission Rules & Regulations yearly.

All Executive Office and Senate members of the Eastern Illinois University Student Government shall be elected by vote of the entire EIU student body. The Executive Officers and Senate members shall be elected to their position at the end of each academic year for the next academic year. The election process shall be governed and conducted in the manner as set forth herein in the **EIU Student Government Student Elections Commission Rules & Regulations**, as set forth in the EIU Student Government By-Laws.

The Student Government **Student Elections Commission, Student Elections Commission Rules and Regulations** are hereby established.

That such Commission shall exercise administrative supervision of the following:

- A. Student Body Senator and Executive Officer elections.

The Student Elections Commission shall be responsible for conducting elections in a fair, honest, and impartial manner. The Commission and its individual members shall not endorse or campaign on behalf of any candidate(s) in elections in which the Commission exercises administrative supervision.

The EIU Student Government Advisor and/or SLO Graduate Advisor shall serve as the Advisor to the Student Elections Commission.

Article II – Members of the Student Elections Commission

The *Head Student Elections Commissioner* of the Student Elections Commission shall serve as chairperson and be appointed by the Student Senate, subject to confirmation by a two-thirds majority vote by the Student Senate. The Head Student Elections Commissioner shall retain full voting privileges in student body elections while serving as a member of the Student Elections Commission. The Head Student Elections Commissioner may appoint additional assistants to aid in their duties as needed.

The Student Elections Commission shall be composed of two (2) *Deputy Student Elections Commissioners* appointed by the Head Student Elections Commissioner, subject to confirmation by a two-thirds majority vote of the Student Senate at least one month prior to elections. The members of the Student Elections Commission shall retain full voting privileges in student body elections while serving as a member of the Student Elections Commission.

Members of the Student Elections Commissions must meet the following requirements to hold office:

- A. Must be a currently enrolled full-time undergraduate student (12 credit hours) at Eastern Illinois University
- B. Must have a 2.5 cumulative GPA, and be in good academic, disciplinary, and judicial standing with Eastern Illinois University.
- C. Must have completed at least two (2) academic semester at Eastern Illinois University prior to appointment.
- D. Must not be a candidate for any position in the EIU Student Body Election
- E. Must not be a EIU student currently employed by the Eastern Illinois University Student Life Office at the time of application or appointment.

A member of the Student Election Commission shall **not** occupy any of the following offices or positions:

- A. Student Body Executive Officer
- B. Student Senator
- C. Student Supreme Court Justice (if applicable)
- D. Chairperson or Vice Chairperson of University Board

- E. President of RHA
- F. President of IFC, NPC or NPHC
- G. Member of the Apportionment Board, University Judicial Board, Student Publications Board.
- H. Editor-in-Chief, editor, or member of the editorial board of the DEN newspaper, station manager of the WEIU radio/tv or any news-gathering capacity in which the duties involved would be relevant to the EIU Student Government.
- I. Graduate Assistant

Should a member of the Student Elections Commission be appointed or hired to any of the above offices/positions, they must resign from the Student Elections Commission effective immediately.

Upon a member of the Student Elections Commission submitting a petition for a EIU Student Body Executive Officer or Student Senator position to run in the current student body election, a member of the Student Elections Commission must resign from the Student Elections Commission effective immediately.

Article III – Terms of Office

The Student Elections Commission shall be appointed by the EIU Student Government – Student Body President and shall serve until the end of the academic term in which they were appointed, or until the execution of charged duties are complete. Members of the Student Elections Commission are subject to re-appointment and approval by the EIU Student Senate.

Article IV. – Powers and Duties of Student Elections Commission

The Student Elections Commission members shall meet on a regularly basis as Student Elections Commissioners. The Student Elections Commission shall oversee and approve student elections and voting - procedures, results, returns data and other related information following EIU Student Government elections.

1. The Student Elections Commission shall maintain regular correspondence and meetings as needed with the EIU Student Body President, SLO Graduate Advisor, and SLO Director or Staff.
2. The Student Elections Commission shall administer an orientation to all eligible candidates for senator and executive office positions which describes and includes details of the following:
 - a. Position Descriptions

- b. Requirements of the positions - Office Hours/Time Commitment Meeting/Committee, and Event Coordination/Planning
- c. Eligibility Requirements
- d. Duties/Responsibilities/Expectations of the positions
- e. Review Campaign Rules/Regulations - campaigning, debate, voting, and appeal process, etc..

Eligibility & Criteria - Student Body Executive Office Positions:

The EIU President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of Student Affairs, and Vice President of Academic Affairs of the EIU Student Body are all required to meet and adhere to the following requirements to run for and retain an executive office:

1. Shall have a **2.75** cumulative GPA and be in good academic, judicial, and disciplinary standing with Eastern Illinois University.
2. Must be a full-time EIU undergraduate student currently enrolled at Eastern Illinois University with a minimum of **12** credit hours undergraduate EIU students and/or **9** credit hours for EIU graduate students.
3. Must commit to attending all regularly scheduled Executive Board meetings, Student Senate meetings (7:00 pm Every Wednesday), office hours and weekly one-on-one meetings with a designated SLO Graduate Advisor.
4. Must be able to commit a minimum of **8-10 hours** weekly during regular university business/operating hours – **8:00am – 4:30pm** to conduct official business associated with a respective office and/or duties during term of office.
5. Must be able to commit to a minimum **4** planning meetings, either virtual or in person, over the summer vacation holiday
6. Must be able to regularly attend and/or assist with all EIU Student Government sponsored events/programs/projects as required and necessary unless excused in advance. i.e. classes, work, medical, emergencies etc..

Eligibility & Criteria - EIU Student Senate Positions:

The position of EIU Student Senator of the EIU Student Government is required to meet and adhere to the following requirements to hold a senate position:

1. Shall have a **2.5** cumulative GPA and be in good academic, judicial, and disciplinary standing with Eastern Illinois University
2. Must be a full-time EIU student currently enrolled at Eastern Illinois University with a minimum of **12** credit hours for undergraduate EIU students and/or **9** credit hours for EIU graduate students.

3. Must attend all regularly scheduled weekly EIU Student Senate Meetings - 7:00 pm Every Wednesday
 4. Must attend all regularly scheduled weekly committee meetings as pre-determined.
 5. Must establish and complete a minimum of (2) weekly office hours in order to conduct official business associated with committee and general body meetings.
 6. Must be able to regularly attend and/or assist with all EIU Student Government sponsored events/programs/projects as required and necessary unless excused in advance. i.e. classes, work, medical, emergencies etc.
3. The Student Elections Commission shall announce all unofficial election results at the EIU Student Government Meeting immediately following the close of the voting period. All election results shall be deemed official after 72 hours of the announcement of the unofficial election results should no appeals be received prior to the close of the 72 hours.
 4. The Student Election Commission shall oversee all appeals made in the event of an infraction during any part of the election process. Any Eastern Illinois University student can submit an appeal of the unofficial/official elections results.

A. Student Elections Commission

1. Regularly meetings shall be established by the Student Elections Commission as determined.
2. The Student Elections Commission shall be available, upon request, to meet with any candidate regarding election rules, campaigning, or other questions regarding student body elections or related concerns.
3. The Student Elections Commission shall oversee the marketing campaign for all student body elections.
4. The Student Elections Commission shall ensure that all campaign publicity which promote a candidate or party affiliate, including, but not limited to digital,

social media and print materials have been reviewed appropriately according to Student Elections Commission regulations.

5. The Student Elections Commission shall monitor the posting and removal of all campaign materials for student elections. Candidates are not allowed to distribute or post any campaign materials for student elections until review by the Student Elections Commission.

6. The Student Elections Commission shall have authority to modify the election calendar or timeline if conflicts arise with the academic mission of the institution.

B. Head Student Elections Commissioner

1. Shall oversee the Student Elections Commission and shall preside over all regular and special meetings of the Student Elections Commission
2. Shall determine the position of names on the ballot by lottery at a meeting of the Student Elections Commission.
3. Shall supervise the verification of electronic student votes cast in all student elections under the jurisdictions of the Student Elections Commission.
4. Shall report to the EIU Student Government Student Body President, EIU Student Government Graduate Advisor and/or EIU Director of Student Life the results of all student elections following the tallying of electronic ballots.
5. Shall conduct an informational orientation with all candidates regarding eligibility, election dates/deadlines, terms of office, campaign rules, voting procedures, and election violations.
6. Shall maintain accurate records of all Student Elections related documents, investigations, and procedures.
7. Shall maintain documentation of all the Student Elections Commission meetings with copies sent to the following: Members of the Student Elections Commission, the EIU Student Government Grad Advisor, and any other Student Government or university officials deemed necessary.
8. Shall file a written Student Elections Commission Report following student body elections with the EIU Student Senate and Student Life Office of Student

Government that summarizes the elections, elections results and elections recommendations or revisions.

C. Deputy Student Elections Commissioners

1. Shall review and authorize candidates petitions.
2. Shall oversee and monitor campaign marketing practices, postings, distributions and report any violations or infractions.
3. Shall enforce Student Elections Rules and Regulations, university policies and other duties as assigned.
4. Shall oversee and monitor the enforcement of the Student Elections Commission rules and regulations.
5. Shall review and investigate all election complaints, alleged violations, and infractions.

D. Student Government Advisor or Grad Advisor

1. Shall insure student candidate petitions for office are made available to the EIU Student Body prior to the student body elections.
2. Shall verify eligibility status and all necessary information on the candidate's petition (name, office/position, and grade release form).
3. Shall verify that student candidates are not on Eastern Illinois University academic, disciplinary, or judicial probation.
4. Shall oversee notification of student candidates that do not meet requirements in writing within receipt of student petition.
5. Shall review student elections protests, violations, or infractions in writing after student elections results and shall supervise the investigation of said alleged violations or infractions by the Student Elections Commission in accordance with Student Elections Commission Rules and Regulations.

Article V. – Meetings of the Commission

The Student Elections Commission shall convene regular meetings during the Spring semester before the student body election. Meeting dates and times shall be determined following the confirmation of the appointments of all members of the Student Elections Commission by the EIU Student Senate.

The Student Elections Commission shall adopt the following procedure regarding meetings:

- A. All regular and special meetings shall be presided over by the Head Student Elections Commissioner, unless through some circumstances is absent, in which case a designee shall preside.
- B. Special meetings may be convened by the Head Student Elections Commissioner.
- C. Members shall be required to attend all meetings unless excused by the Head Student Elections Commissioner.
- D. An accumulation of three (3) unexcused absences per semester shall result in the member being removed from Commission.

Article VI. – Vacancies

That in the event of a vacancy in the membership of the Student Elections Commission during the Spring semester, the Student Government Student Head Student Elections Commissioner shall within ten (10) days of the vacancy appoint an EIU student to fill the vacancy. This appointment is subject to approval and confirmation by the EIU Student Government by a two-thirds majority vote.

That in the event of a vacancy in the office of the Student Body Head Student Elections Commissioner, the Student Government Graduate Assistant and/or the Student Government Advisor shall within ten (10) days of the vacancy appoint a new Executive Director subject to the process outlined in Title II of this act. This appointment is subject to approval and confirmation by the EIU Student Government by a two-thirds majority.

Article VII. – Types of Elections

- A. General Elections
 - 1. Fall elections shall be held on the last Monday and Tuesday of November.
 - 2. Spring elections shall be held in March.
 - 3. If the date of the Fall and Spring elections is a holiday, candidate petitions will be available fifteen (15) days prior to Election Day.
- B. Runoff Elections
 - 1. Shall be conducted following Fall and Spring Elections in the event a re-count produces the same result of a tie vote in any Student Body

Executive Officer election, or a candidate for Student Senator receives the same number of votes as another candidate. Runoff elections for Student Senator shall be conducted only if a tie vote permits one of the tied candidates to receive a Senate seat.

2. Shall be conducted within seven (7) days following the completion of general election. If the date of the runoff is a holiday, the runoff shall be held on the next academic day following the holiday.

C. Special Elections

1. If a Student Body Executive office is vacant the EIU Student Body President shall schedule a Special Election may be held as outlined by the Student Elections Commission Regulations and the EIU Student Body Constitution & By-laws.
2. All Student Government Special Elections shall be held under the same rules as determined in the Elections Rules and Regulations.

Article VIII. – Notification of Elections

- A. Annual EIU Student Government Elections shall be publicized prior to designated Election Days. Marketing should include social media, digital and print. i.e. fliers, posters, campus newspaper, newsletters, announcements. Election publicity will specify positions available, candidate qualifications, when and where to file, and other information which the Student Elections Commission Rules find necessary.
- B. The Student Elections Commission will publicize student elections to the EIU Student Body for a minimum of two weeks, information concerning the elections dates, times, positions, process, rules, eligibility, etc...
- C. The Student Elections Commission will prepare a *Candidates Information Packet* to issue each candidate. The *Candidates Information Packet* should contain a summary of candidate eligibility criteria, job descriptions & duties, EIU Student Government Constitution and governing policies, which will serve to inform the candidate concerning deadlines, qualifications, and duties for all positions in EIU Student Government and concerning the election procedures. The Student Elections Commission may also provide other candidate information, as necessary.

D. The Election Commission will establish and include in the *Candidates Information Packet* the following specific instructions:

- Dates when campaigning begins and ends.
- Marketing Guidelines on campaigning
- Formal application Forms & Petitions
- Eligibility Requirements & Criteria
- Job Description, Duties & Responsibilities of elected positions
- Date and time of candidate's orientation meeting, debates, and elections.
- Location of the polls.
- Elections Protest Process
- Date when all campaign materials must be removed from display on campus.

Article IX – Candidate Rights & Responsibilities

- A. Eligible EIU students may file a petition for a position as an on-campus, off-campus, at-large Senate or Executive office position, or form a party affiliation.
- B. All candidates must adhere to the qualifications set forth in the Student Government Constitution, & by-laws, and all regulations enforceable by the Election Commission, as well as the EIU Student Body Constitution.
- C. Candidates may file to run for only one elected Student Government office per election term. Upon request, prospective candidates shall be informed, prior to their filing for office, of the identity of candidates already filed for any office for which the prospective candidate is eligible.
- D. Any candidate wishing to be removed from the elections ballot may do so by written notification no later than 72 hours prior to student elections.
- E. Candidates are responsible for all actions and conduct of their representatives and associates on behalf of a candidate's campaign.
- G. Candidates who fail to meet eligibility requirements will be disqualified immediately and notified of this action verbally or in writing.

Article IX. – Eligibility Requirements for Candidates

- A. Candidates must be enrolled in the University during the semester they seek office.
- B. Elected candidates must be enrolled in the University during their term of office.
- C. A person shall not occupy any two (2) or more of the following offices simultaneously:
 - 1. Student Body Executive Officer
 - 2. Student Senator
 - 3. Student Supreme Court Justice (if applicable)
 - 4. Member of the Student Body Student Elections Commission
 - 5. Chairperson or Vice Chairperson of University Board
 - 6. Voting member of the Apportionment Board, Judicial Board and Student Publications Board.
- D. Elected or appointed Student Government officials may not, while in or seeking office serve as Editor-in-Chief, editor, or on the editorial board of the campus radio and television stations, or work in any news-gathering capacity in which the duties involved would relate to the Student Government staff of the campus newspaper, radio/television stations.
- E. Candidates seeking office as a Student Body Executive Officer must be enrolled in the University a minimum of two (2) semesters prior to seeking office.

Article X. – Terms of Office

That the term of office for EIU Student Body Executive Officers shall be one fiscal year (July 1, xxxx to June 30, xxxx)

Article XI. – Nominating Petitions

Currently enrolled EIU Students may sign more than one candidate petition, however, may only sign each candidate’s petition once.

- A. Petition Filing
 - 1. All candidates must petition to be placed on the elections ballot.
 - 2. Petitions shall be available on-line a minimum of (___) days in advance of the EIU Student Body elections.
 - 3. The Student Elections Commission shall make available to all candidates obtaining petitions copies of the Student Body Constitution, Student Senate Bylaws, Elections Reform Act, and University posting policies.

4. Candidates for the Senate must obtain signatures of **(50)** enrolled EIU students.
5. Candidates for EIU Student Body Executive Offices must obtain signatures of one hundred (100) EIU students enrolled in the University.

B. Processing Petitions

1. The Student Elections Commission shall conduct the following upon the receipt of each individual petition.
 - a. Verify all necessary information on the petition (name, office, district, and grade release form.)
 - b. Shall make every reasonable attempt to verify the signatures as those of currently enrolled students.
 - c. Verify that the candidate is not on University academic or disciplinary probation.
2. The position of names on the ballot shall be determined by lottery to be drawn by the Student Elections Commission.
 - a. The order in which candidate names will be placed on the ballot will be determined by a lottery at the Candidate's Orientation Meeting.
 - b. At the discretion of the Election Commission, all candidates shall have the option of placing initials or other type of nickname or Party Affiliation on the ballot, so long as those additions or substitutions do not coincide with any issue at the poll of the election. **NO** inflammatory, offensive, or derogatory names, acronyms or words shall be allowed on the ballot
 - c. Any "change" in a candidate's eligibility status due to disqualification because of petition fraud, disciplinary actions, probation status or any violations of the Student Elections Commission Regulations must be notified in writing prior to the Candidate's Orientation Meeting, or immediately upon notification of status change.

Article XII. – Election Code of Ethics

No member of the Election Commission can campaign for a candidate or a candidate's party affiliation.

- A. No University Funding or account may be used by a candidate or a party affiliate to fund personal or party elections campaign.

B. No candidate may use office supplies or equipment maintained in the Student Activity Center for the purpose of campaigning, which is also prohibited. i.e. copier, paper, fax, computer, etc...

- A. Campaign materials may be posted or distributed, and other campaign activities carried out, in accordance with Student Elections Commission Rules and Regulations and EIU University policy:
1. Campaign material may not be placed on the exterior of any University windows, walls, doors, trees, poles, fences, or walks.
 2. Campaign material may not be placed on glass or paneled areas in any University building or housing facility.
 4. In classroom buildings, including Old Main, only one (1) poster (not exceeding 11 x 17) may be posted in assigned posting areas. Posting in classrooms and on chalkboards will not be permitted.
 5. In administrative or service buildings, such as the University Union, Booth Library, and Student Services, each candidate may post materials in assigned posting areas. Posting in academic classrooms on chalkboards will not be permitted areas.
 6. Banners and/or sandwich boards may be used outside if they do not damage property or disrupt the University. One (1) per candidate not exceeding on a side may be used.
 7. Signs and other materials in Eastern Illinois University housing facilities must be approved by the appropriate hall complex director or counselor.
 8. **All door-to-door campaigning, posting on doors, campaigning in dining halls, or slipping information under doors or inside mailboxes in the residence halls, Greek court, university court or university apartments is expressly prohibited.**
 9. Candidates are allowed to post a maximum of one (1) campaign flyer or poster on each of the following designated bulletin boards:

Old Main (6) – 1st floor: E & W stair landings: 2nd; W stairs

Buzzard Building (4) – 1st floor N corridor; main entrance; NW entrance

Science Building (4) – NE, NW entrances

McAfee Gym – NE, NW entrance; Basement N corridor; 1st floor gym entrance

Booth Library (2) – 2nd & 3rd floor corridors; on kiosk in foyer

Blair Hall (5) – 1st floor; star landing between 1&2, 2&3

Coleman Hall (17) – Each main entrance; each stair landing

Klehm Hall (4) –Each NW floor landing; 1st floor W corridor

*** These posters may not be placed over other candidate’s materials or upcoming events. These posters, pluggers, or other campaign materials may not be placed on cars,**

11. **No** candidate or their designated representative(s) may remove, deface, obscure, or destroy any written posted campaign material prior to the election.
12. Candidates may not take actions to remedy posting violations aside from reporting the violations to the Student Elections Commission and/or the EIU Student Life Office.
14. Candidates are responsible for removing ALL campaign materials and postings within **24** hours following the EIU student body elections.

Article XIII. - Campaigning

- A. Campaigning for the EIU Student Body general elections will officially begin at 8 AM, ___ days **PRIOR** to the designated election days of the semester in which the student elections are held.
- B. Campaigning is defined as the distribution of campaign materials, including but not limited to - social media, digital, print. Any of these forms of marketing conducted on behalf of a candidate by a third party are also considered to be campaigning.
- C. Campaigning does include meetings attended by candidates and their workers for developing a platform, petitioning students, or announcements **PRIOR** to the elections process.

Article XIV. – Elections Expenses and Auditing

- A. Candidates may be subject to a Student Elections Commission Audit and may be required to present to the Student Elections Commission an itemized list of campaign expenditures with receipts of all materials utilized and expenses incurred.

Article XV. Violations Enforcement and Warning

- A. The Student Elections Commission shall investigate all formal violations in writing with expediency. Complaints, protests, or grievances must be addressed within **36** hours. All parties shall be given a chance to speak before a decision is rendered. An investigation will be conducted by the Student Elections Commission.
- B. All alleged violations of the student Election Commission Rules and Regulations will be required to be submitted in writing to the Student Elections Commission for further review and investigation. The Student Elections Commission has determined that candidates will be subject to election violations or infractions which may include but are not limited to:

*Posting Campaign materials in prohibited areas. I.e. signs, banners, signs, flyers, etc.

* Missing mandatory campaign events. I.e. SG Debates, Candidate's Orientation Meeting, etc...

* Display of inappropriate social media materials or print campaign materials or slogans including bribery of voters with discounts, financial compensation, or contraband,

* Malicious slandering or inappropriate behavior towards opposing candidates

* Other violations as determined by the Student Elections Commission

- C. **A 3rd Warning will result in disqualification of the candidate from the election processes.**
- D. The Student Elections Commission will submit in writing to the Student Accountability within _____ hours for further investigation and a ruling, any alleged violations of the Elections Rules and Regulations by any candidate or party affiliates deemed major violations.
- E. A candidate found in flagrant violation of the election rules may be subject to forfeiting said candidacy or elected position.
- F. The Student Elections Commission shall weigh each offense and determine the severity of the violation(s) and the necessary punishment. Offenses of a major nature could potentially warrant a candidate(s) immediate removal from the campaign or election process.
- G. To determine whether the violation warrants forfeiture of a candidacy all sides involved in the offense will be able to present their case before the Student Elections Commission. The Student Elections Commission will then deliberate and inform the candidate(s) accused of the results of this deliberation within four hours.
- H. If a candidate or party affiliation is disqualified, any and all votes that candidate received in the election are forfeited. If the candidate or party affiliation is disqualified early in the race and the opportunity to appeal has elapsed before the polls close, the candidate or party affiliation will be removed from the ballot and any votes cast for that candidate or affiliation will be lost and null & void.
- I. If the candidate(s) with the most votes is found to be in violation of any election rules and is excused from the election, the candidate(s) generating the next highest votes **shall succeed.**

Article XVI. – Voting Procedures

- A. Voter Eligibility

1. Must be a registered student at Eastern Illinois University with a minimum of _____ credit hours. No currently registered and enrolled EIU student will be denied the opportunity to vote.

2. EIU Students eligible to vote in the EIU Student Body elections will receive a weblink to a digital ballot on the student body elections days.

Article XVI. – Digital Ballots & Ballot Counting

The Election Commission is responsible for coordinating with the EIU Information Technology Services (ITS) elections electronic balloting, voting, and voting results.

A. Digital balloting and voting will take place on the designated dates from 8:00 AM to 4:30 pm on the second day of voting of the election.

B. Extended hours and days for voting may be designated only by the Student Elections Commission and approval by the EIU Student Life Office.

C. All voting shall be done by electronic ballot. There will be no absentee voting. A valid ballot is a ballot that has been received and counted electronically by EIU Information Technology Services (ITS) and received by the Student Elections Commission.

D. A candidate's name and position of office shall appear on the electronic ballot as it appears on his/her petition form.

F. Electronic Ballot positions will be drawn by lottery.

Article XVII. – Tabulation of Electronic Ballots

A. After the polls have closed, all electronic ballots will be tabulated by EIU Information Technology Services (ITS), and the voting results submitted to the EIU Student Life Office and the Student Elections Commission.

B. All information will be kept confidential by the EIU Student Life Office and the EIU Information Technology Services (ITS) before, during, and after the voting tabulation. The final votes tabulation shall be made available to the general public and campus media.

C. The Student Elections Commission will rely solely on the computer tabulation of votes by the EIU Information Technology Services (ITS). The official results shall include the votes each candidate received.

F. The official electronic voting results of the student body elections will be released to the Office of the Vice President Student Affairs, student candidates and public after official voting results have been confirmed. If necessary, due to extenuating circumstances, the official results may be withheld after voting ends. The Student

Elections Commission makes the decision with the consent of the Director of Student Life or designee.

G. Candidates have the right to challenge the validity of the voting process or tabulation of any student elections within seventy-two (72) hours after the release of the unofficial voting results. This must be done in written form and submitted to the Student Elections Commission within 72 hours.

Article XVIII. - Elections Ballot/Voting Infractions

- A. If an EIU Student or candidate files an alleged voting infraction(s) or violation(s), the EIU student or candidate shall notify the Student Elections Commission in writing within hours.
- B. Once an EIU student or candidate files a protest for a voting infraction(s) or violation(s) the Student Elections Commission verifies the validity of the infraction(s) for further investigation.
- C. An EIU student or candidate may be asked to meet with the Student Elections Commission after the closing of the elections to review, provide proof or justification for a challenge to elections ballot.
- D. The Student Elections Commission shall have final authority over the acceptance or rejection of challenged ballots.

Article XIX. – Counting Ballots

- A. All requests for an election re-count by a candidate will be subject to review and approval by the Student Elections Commission.
- B. If a tie occurs in any EIU Student Body Executive Office or Senate election a recount of electronic voting will be requested by the Student Elections Commission.
- C. If a recount again produces a tie, runoff student body elections shall be extended and conducted at the request of the Student Elections Commission.

Article XX. – Election Results

- A. The results will also be announced at the next Student Senate Meeting following elections.

Article XXI. – Violation of Elections Rules

The Student Elections Commission may receive and/or file protests during the campaign or election processes. If conducted during the time of a student body election is under question, a member of the Student Elections Commission may launch an immediate investigation into the protest in question. The Student Elections Commission shall act on all protests within 72 hours' notice after they are formally filed in writing by either dismissing the protest or calling for an immediate investigation. Any alleged protest that may affect the election results may result in the disqualification of the candidate.

- A. Any EIU student or candidate may challenge and file an election protest regarding alleged violations or infractions by a candidate's campaign, candidate's party, or the election process within 24 hrs. of the alleged violation and no later than 72 hours after the unofficial Election Results, on file with the Student Elections Commission by 4:30pm.
- B. Included in the protest must be the following:
 - 1. The violation(s) or infraction(s)
 - 2. The violator(s) or infraction(s)
 - 3. Citation of the specific rule(s) violated.
 - 4. Date and time of violation
 - 5. Other relevant circumstances, evidence, or documentation of the violation or protest, and the signature of the protester.
- C. The purpose of the investigation is to gather the information necessary to make a decision, order, or ruling that will resolve an elections violation or infraction. The following guidelines should guide all investigations:
 - 1. Complainant parties shall be allowed no more than two witnesses, however the Student Election Commission may call witnesses in

accordance with the alleged violation or infraction as needed. If said witnesses are unable to appear during the investigation, signed affidavits may be submitted to the Student Elections Commission Chair for the purpose of testifying by proxy.

2. All inquiries and decisions associated with the parties in dispute shall be directed to the Student Elections Commission.

- D. The Student Elections Commission shall determine the format for the investigation, that may require the complainant and plaintiff parties appear before the Student Elections Commission to discuss the issues through a complaint, answered, rebuttal format. The purpose of the investigation is to gather the information necessary to make a decision, order, or ruling that will resolve an election protest ethically and fairly.
- E. If, after an investigation, the Student Election Commission upholds the violation or infraction by a candidate, or a candidate's representatives or associates, the Student Election Commission may restrict the candidate, representatives, or associates from engaging in campaign activities for the remainder of the campaign.
- F. A deduction of a 20% of votes to be determined by the Student Elections Commission based on the severity of the violation or infraction can also be used as a recourse of action against an offending candidate or the candidate's representative or associates. This deduction would be taken from the "Total" of overall student votes for the offending candidate.
 - a. Every additional infraction, up to two (2), will be an additional 5% deduction of "Total" votes a candidate received and shall be added to the 20% deduction from the initial elections infraction totaling a maximum of 30% votes deduction should it be deemed by the Election Commission that there was a violation of the rules or guidelines.
 - b. Should any candidate receive more than the total allotted three (3) elections infractions against them, the candidate will be automatically disqualified.
- G. The Student Elections Commission must determine the percentage of votes to be deducted prior to the final count of votes so that the results will not influence the determination of the percentage of votes to be deducted.
- H. Alleged violations of the Student Election Commission Rules will be subject to appeal and further review, investigation, and action by the office of the EIU Vice President of Student Affairs.

- I. Candidates may appeal the decision of the Student Elections Commission to the EIU Vice President of Student Affairs Office within 24 hours of an official ruling or decision.
- J. After the violation or infraction period has been observed, the Student Elections Commission will certify the student body election results and forward its conclusions and results to the EIU Student Senate and the office of the EIU Vice President of Student Affairs Office within 24 hours.

Article XXII - Appeals

The Student Election Commission shall uphold the following elections appeal process”

1. Any Student Elections appeal must be received in writing within 72 hours after the announcement of any unofficial/official Student Elections Results immediately following the close of the voting process.
2. Elections appeals will be assessed and investigated in the order which received; a minimum of 36 hours is allotted for each individual appeal to be investigated.
3. All elections appeals are to have decisions rendered and delivered in writing within 36 hours of receipt.
4. First/Initial Infraction will result in an 20% deduction in “Total” votes received should it be deemed by the Student Elections Commission that there was a violation of the rules or guidelines.
5. Every additional infraction, up to two (2), will be an additional 5% deduction of “Total” votes a candidate received and shall be added to the 20% deduction from the initial elections infraction totaling a maximum of 30% votes deduction should it be deemed by the Election Commission that there was a violation of the rules or guidelines.
6. Should any candidate receive more than the total allotted three (3) elections violations or infractions against them with sanctions, the candidate will be automatically disqualified.
 - a. Should a candidate or EIU student appeal the decision rendered by the Student Elections Commission on their appeal, the Student Elections Commission shall refer all documentation, evidence, and rationale to the office of the EIU Vice President of Student Affairs for a final appeal and ruling. The ruling administered by the Office of the EIU Vice President of Student Affairs will be the final ruling rendered and cannot be appealed further.

Article XX. - Election Rules & Regulations Modifications

- A. Amendments to the Student Elections Commissions Rules and Regulations may be made by a 2/3 vote of approval by the EIU Student Senate.
- B. No amendments may be made to the student election rules and regulations less than thirty (**30**) days prior to a EIU Student Body Elections.

SG STUDENT ELECTIONS TIMELINE & DEADLINES:

DATE	EVENT	DUE	LOCATION
February 22 nd	Candidate's Petition Available	March 4 th @ 4:30pm	
March 7 th	Candidate's Orientation Session (Zoom)		5:00pm & 7:00pm ?? Rm. – MLK Jr. Union
March 9 th – 27 th	Candidates Campaigning Begins/End		
March 23 rd	Candidate's Debate (Student Executive Officer Candidates)		TBD
March 28 th – 29 th	EIU Student Body Elections		Online
March 30 th	Un-Official Elections Results Announced	7:00 pm	
	Candidates Marketing Material Removed	4:30 pm	
March 31 st – April 2 nd	Elections Violations/Infractions Submissions	April 2 nd , 2022 7:00 pm	
April 27 th	Oath-of Office (Student Executive Officers)		TBD

Election Timeline

1. Social Media Marketing Begins: **February 14th, 2022**
2. Print Marketing Distribution: **February 22nd, 2022**
3. Applications/Petitions for Candidates become available: February 22, 2022
4. All Petitions Due: **March 4th, 2022** 4:30 pm
5. Candidate Orientation: **March 7th, 2022** at 5:00 pm or 7:00 pm with **March 8th, 2022** reserved for candidates who cannot make either those times
6. Campaigning Begins: **March 9, 2022** 12:01 am

7. Executive Officer Candidates Debate: March 23rd, 2022
8. Campaigning Ends: **March 27th, 2022 11:59 pm**
9. Voting: **March 28th, 2022** 8:00 am to **March 29th, 2022** 4:30 pm
10. Announcement of Unofficial Results: **March 30th, 2022 7:00 pm** at Student Government meeting
11. Elections Appeals Process: Completed by **April 2nd, 2022** 7:00 pm
12. Elected Executive Officer Orientation Meeting: TBD
13. Executive Officer Transition Meetings: Begins April 4th, 2022
14. Oath of Office Administered: **April 27th, 2022**