

1 **UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT MONTICELLO**
2 **STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**
3 **SPRING 2011 ELECTION RULES**
4
5

6 **Rule 1. ORGANIZATION OF ELECTIONS**
7

8 **SECTION 1.**
9

10 There shall be one election organized in the Spring 2011 semester: a general election.
11

12 **SECTION 2.**
13

14 The general election shall be organized to elect officials to fill open positions (as
15 described in these rules) in the Student Government Association (SGA). The general
16 election will be held, in compliance to the SGA Constitution, three days with the polls
17 being located at a separate location each day; namely, **Tuesday, April 13, 2010 from**
18 **10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Science Center (SC) Main Entrance, on Wednesday,**
19 **April 14, 2010 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Gibson University Center (UC)**
20 **Green Room, and on Thursday, April 14, 2010 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the**
21 **Memorial Classroom Building (MCB) Lobby.**
22

23 **Rule 2. OPEN POSITIONS**
24

25 **SECTION 1. OPEN POSTITIONS**
26

27 Interested candidates may file for the following positions open for election in the Spring
28 2011 general election: SGA President, SGA Vice-President, SGA Secretary, SGA
29 Treasurer, Student Activities Board (SAB) Chairperson, SAB Position I, SAB Position II,
30 SAB Position III, SAB Position IV, SAB Position V, SAB Position VI, SAB Position
31 VII, College of General Studies Senate Position II (GSII), Division of Agriculture Senate
32 Position II (ARGII), School of Business Senate Position II (BUSII), Division of
33 Computer Information Systems Senate Position II (CISII), School of Arts and Humanities
34 Senate Position II (SAHII) (*those degrees not in Art, Music, Speech, or Journalism*), Art
35 Department Senate Position II (ARTII), Division of Music Senate Position II (MUSII),
36 Speech and Journalism Department Senate Position II (SJII), School of Education Senate
37 Position II (EDII), School of Forest Services Senate Position II (FORII), Biology
38 Department Senate Position II (BIOII), Chemistry Department Senate Position II
39 (CHEMII), Mathematics Department Senate Position II (MATHII), Natural Science
40 Department Senate Position II (NATII), Pre-Medical Department Senate Position II
41 (MEDII), Division of Nursing Senate Position II (NURII), Division of Military Science
42 Senate Position II (MILII), Psychology Department Senate Position II (PSYII), History
43 Department Senate Position II (HISTII), Criminal Justice Department Senate Position II
44 (CJII), Department of Political Science/ Pre-Law Senate Position II (PSCII), Sociology
45 Department Senate Position II (SOCII), Social Work Department Senate Position II
46 (SWII), Anthrolopology Department Senate Position II (ANTHII), At-Large Senate
47 Position III (ALIII), At-Large Senate Position IV (ALIV), and At-Large Senate Position
48 V (ALV).
49

1 **SECTION 2. SGA EXECUTIVE (CABINET) POSITIONS' DESCRIPTIONS**

2
3 The powers, duties and responsibilities of the **SGA President** can be found in Article III,
4 section 2 of the SGA Constitution.

5
6 The powers, duties and responsibilities of the **SGA Vice-President** can be found in
7 Article III, section 3 of the SGA Constitution.

8
9 The powers, duties and responsibilities of the **SGA Secretary** can be found in Article III,
10 section 4 of the SGA Constitution.

11
12 The powers, duties and responsibilities of the **SGA Treasurer** can be found in Article III,
13 section 5 of the SGA Constitution.

14
15 **SECTION 3. SGA SENATE POSITIONS' DESCRIPTIONS**

16
17 The powers, duties and responsibilities of the **SGA Senator** can be found in Article IV of
18 the SGA Constitution.

19
20 **SECTION 4. SGA SAB POSITIONS' DESCRIPTIONS**

21
22 The powers, duties and responsibilities of the **SAB Position I** can be found in Article V
23 of the SGA Constitution.

24
25 The powers, duties and responsibilities of **SAB Positions II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, & VIII**
26 can be found in Article V of the SGA Constitution.

27
28 **Rule 3. FILING FOR OFFICE**

29
30 **SECTION 1.**

31
32 **ALL CANDIDATES** interested in filing for office must fill-out a **Statement Pledge of**
33 **Departmental Support Form**, notifying the Election Commission of the candidates'
34 declared major and minor, as registered with Office of the Registrar; and a **Candidate**
35 **Filing Form**, formally registering to run for a SGA office, and declaring the office of in
36 which the candidate which's to file.

37
38 **SECTION 2.**

39
40 In order to appear on the ballot, all candidates must have **all forms and certified**
41 **petitions filed** with the Office of the Director of Student Programs and Activities
42 between Monday, March 21, 2010 8:00 AM and Friday, March 19, 2010 4:30 PM.
43 **Candidates who do not have all paperwork filed BEFORE FRIDAY, MARCH 11,**
44 **2010 4:30 PM shall not be placed on the ballot.**

45
46 **SECTION 3.**

47
48 In order to appear on the ballot, a candidate filing **FOR A EXECUTIVE OFFICE OR**
49 **A SAB POSITION** must obtain the **signature of fifty (50) students** on a certified
50 petition provided by the Election Commission. Certified petitions may be obtained by

1 filing a **Certified Petition Form** and must have attended at least five (5) SGA meetings
2 per semester for two semesters concurring.

3
4 The offices of President and Vice-President shall be elected as one ticket. Candidates
5 wishing to run for these offices, will have to select a running mate to file with in order to
6 be on the ballot.

7 8 **SECTION 4.**

9
10 In order to appear on the ballot, a candidate filing **FOR A SENATE POSITION** must
11 obtain the **signature of approval from the office seeking department's head**. The
12 Election Commission will arrange department head signature opportunity.

13 14 **SECTION 5.**

15
16 All candidates must sign an agreement recognizing that the Election Commission is the
17 authority over Student Government Association elections, and the commission's
18 decisions can be appealed to the Student Senate. In addition, a candidate filing for office
19 must sign an agreement acknowledging he/she has read Article VII of the Constitution
20 concerning the rules and regulations involved in the election process.

21 22 **SECTION 6.**

23
24 All candidates must attend a **Mandatory Candidate Meeting**, hosted by the Election
25 Commission on **Monday, March 14, 2010 at 12:40 PM in the Gibson University**
26 **Center (UC) House Room**, to review all rules of the Spring 2011 general election; and
27 to insure all candidates understand the election rules and process.

28 29 **Rule 4. CAMPAIGNING**

30
31 Campaigning shall be defined as any method of actively soliciting votes such as making
32 speeches, and distributing literature, fliers, cards, posters, electronic communication and
33 social networking mediums, or other campaign paraphernalia. There shall be absolutely
34 no campaigning before the official beginning of the campaign period. **The campaign**
35 **period shall begin Monday, March 28, 2010 12:00 AM.**

36 37 **Rule 5. CAMPAIGN FINANCES**

38 39 **SECTION 1. SPENDING LIMIT**

40
41 (a) There shall be a limit of \$100.00 in personal expenditures and \$100.00 in
42 organizational donations per candidate. Each candidate shall fill out a campaign
43 expenditure form, and sign a release authorizing the election commission to verify all
44 expenditures and amounts. If a candidate receives any free goods or services to which the
45 others in that race do not have access, the values of those goods and/or services will be
46 counted against his/her campaign limit.

47

1 i. Organizational donations shall be defined as any funds, goods and/or service
2 collected by a registered candidate from an active organization, as registered with
3 the Office of Student Programs and Activities, on campus.

4
5 ii. Personal expenditures shall be defined as any funds, goods and/or service
6 collected by a registered candidate from a single person or the candidate
7 themselves.

8 9 **SECTION 2. FINANCE POOLING**

10
11 Candidates willing to campaign with other candidates may do so with the following
12 provisions: that all goods and/or services used in which more than one candidate directly
13 benefits from, shall the equal the cost value of the goods and/or services be counted
14 against each candidate benefiting's campaign limit.

15 16 **Rule 6. ELECTION AUTHORITY**

17 18 **SECTION 1. ELECTION COMMISSION**

19
20 The University of Arkansas at Monticello Student Government Association Election
21 Commission is the authority over Student Government Association elections. The
22 Commission and The Election Commissioner, elected from the members of the
23 Commission, shall have right to interpret election rules, constitution regulations, and
24 SGA legislation to insure a au courant and fair election process. The Commission's
25 decisions can be appealed to the SGA Senate, Director of Student Programs and
26 Activities or the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

1 **APPENDIX**

2
3 **Article VI. ELECTIONS**

4
5 **SECTION 1. ELECTION COMMISSION**

6
7 (a) All Student Government Association elections shall be managed by the Election
8 Commission.

9
10 (b) The Election Commission shall consist of five members chosen by the Senate and
11 who are not running for any elected office or two University professional staff members
12 appointed by the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, in the event no student commission
13 is put together. The Election Commission will be chaired by a Commissioner of Elections
14 to insure the duties of the Election Commission are carried out.

15
16 (c) The duties of the Election Commission shall be:

17
18 i. To establish the times and places of all elections according to the guidelines of
19 the Constitution.

20
21 ii. To provide for poll workers for the election and to ensure the security of ballots
22 and the ballot boxes.

23
24 iii. To count the votes of the election.

25
26 iv. To enforce all election rules and guidelines.

27
28 v. To hear and decide upon any and all protests and possible violations.

29
30 vi. To determine the consequences for election rules violations.

31
32 vii. To receive financial disclosures from all candidates, and to verify their
33 expenditures.

34
35 viii. To certify election results after all protests and violations have been resolved.

36
37 ix. To report to the Student Government Association on any and all election
38 matters.

39
40 **SECTION 2. FILING FOR OFFICE**

41
42 (a) In order to appear on the ballot, a candidate filing for executive office must obtain the
43 signature of fifty students on a form provided by the Election Commission. All
44 candidates must sign an agreement recognizing that the Election Commission is the
45 authority over Student Government Association elections, and the Commission's
46 decisions can be appealed to the Senate. In addition, a candidate filing for office must
47 sign an agreement acknowledging he/she has read Article VI of this Constitution
48 concerning the rules and regulations involved in the election process.

49

1 (b) Candidates must also agree to disclose their campaign expenditures, and make them
2 available for verification by the Commission.
3

4 (c) The filing period will close one week prior to the beginning of elections. An
5 acknowledgement of having read Article VI of this Constitution must be turned in the
6 Election Commission by candidates prior to the end of the filing period.
7

8 (d) If any office is not filled, the newly elected President will then fill the vacancy in
9 accordance with this Constitution.
10

11 **SECTION 3. VOTE REQUIRED FOR ELECTION**

12

13 (a) The candidate that receives the plurality of the ballots cast shall be elected to that
14 office.
15

16 (b) Ballots will be invalid if votes are cast for more than one candidate for each of the
17 offices.
18

19 (c) Write-in votes are permitted for any at-large office. However, write-in votes must
20 conform to the election rules set down by the Election Commission and this Constitution
21 and write-in candidates must fulfill all eligibility requirements noted elsewhere in this
22 Constitution in order to assume office.
23

24 **SECTION 4. ESTABLISHED ELECTION RULES**

25

26 (a) The election will take place over three consecutive days for students to cast their
27 ballots. For each of the three voting days the poll shall be at a different location.
28

29 (b) All students voting must present a valid UAM ID card.
30

31 (c) There shall be a limit of \$100.00 in personal expenditures and \$100.00 in
32 organizational donations per candidate. Each candidate shall fill out a campaign
33 expenditure form, and sign a release authorizing the election commission to verify all
34 expenditures and amounts. If a candidate receives any free goods or services to which the
35 others in that race do not have access, the values of those goods and/or services will be
36 counted against his/her campaign limit.
37

38 i. Organizational donations shall be defined as any funds, goods and/or service
39 collected by a registered candidate from an active organization, as registered with
40 the Office of Student Programs and Activities, on campus.
41

42 ii. Personal expenditures shall be defined as any funds, goods and/or service
43 collected by a registered candidate from a single person or the candidate
44 themselves.
45

46 (d) Any candidate found campaigning in an academic class will be removed from the
47 ballot and will be ineligible for any office in that election.
48

1 i. Campaigning shall be defined as any method of actively soliciting votes such as
2 making speeches, and distributing literature, fliers, cards, posters, electronic
3 communication and social networking mediums, or other campaign paraphernalia.
4

5 (e) No campaigning is allowed within a fifty foot vicinity of the polls during the election.
6 Poll workers may not wear or display any campaign paraphernalia or actively campaign
7 for candidates while working at the polls. Voters will be asked to remove campaign
8 paraphernalia while voting.
9

10 (f) Campaigning will begin no earlier than ten days (excluding Saturdays & Sundays)
11 prior to the election. The specific date will be declared by the Election Commission.
12

13 (g) Candidates may not place any literature (fliers, cards, posters, etc.) inside classrooms,
14 on automobiles (except for their own), utility poles, trees, entrance doors to University
15 facilities, or any other area deemed inappropriate by the Director of Student Programs
16 and Activities or the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.
17

18 (h) In the event of a tie in an election race the two candidates in which received the
19 highest and same number of votes, shall meet in a location decided by the Director of
20 Student Programs and Activities. In the event of a tie in an election, the tie will be broken
21 by the toss of a coin conducted by the Director of Student Programs and Activities.
22

23 (i) Elections must be held at least ten class days (excluding Saturdays & Sundays) before
24 the last day of class per semester.
25

26 **SECTION 5. COMPLAINTS**

27

28 (a) All complaints, disputes, and official protests will be handled by the Director of
29 Student Programs and Activities. All contests of the election must be received in writing
30 prior to the election results being certified by the Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs or
31 his/her designee.
32

33 (b) Should an election commission be established through the Student Senate they must
34 follow the following guidelines: After the filing of a complaint or discovery of a
35 violation, the Commission shall schedule a hearing according to the Senate Bylaws. All
36 interested parties, and all involved parties, will be notified of the time and place for the
37 hearing. Decisions of the commission will be made by a majority vote. There must be at
38 least three members of the commission present and voting for any decision to be valid.
39 The following sanctions are available to the commission:
40

- 41 i. Formal reprimand, for violations of non-serious nature.
- 42 ii. Invalidation of the election and the ordering of a new election for major
43 violations and for problems pertaining to the administration of the election that
44 potentially could alter the outcome.
45
- 46 iii. Removal of the candidate from the ballot or elected position, for major
47 violations, which have occurred during the election process.
48
- 49 iv. Any combination of the above sanctions that the election commission may
50 desire to impose.

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(c) The decision of the election commission will be upheld or overturned by majority vote in the Senate of the members present and voting.

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Election Commissioner _____ Date _____

Approved Failed by _____ - _____ Clerk _____