GAMECOCK
THE VOTE
STUDENT
GOVERNMENT
ELECTION 2014
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All information regarding elections can also be found on the Student Government website:

http://www.sa.sc.edu/sg/electioninformation
January 17, 2014

Dear Candidates,

Welcome to the 2014 Election Season! I hope you are as excited as I am to be a part of this year’s election process. As we begin this process together, I hope that the Elections Commission will be able to assist you with anything you or your campaign staff may need. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions, comments, or concerns—we want this to be the best possible experience for everyone involved.

There are a number of important dates I would like you to be aware of, as well as their corresponding pages in this packet:

- Filing Dates: Tuesday and Wednesday, January 21\textsuperscript{st} and 22\textsuperscript{nd} from 9:00a.m.-4:00p.m. in the Campus Life Center, Room 227 in Russell House (page 31)
- Platform statements due via email: January 22\textsuperscript{nd} at 9:00p.m. (page 8)
- Mandatory Candidate Meetings: Tuesday, January 28\textsuperscript{th} at 7:00p.m. for Senatorial candidates and 8:00p.m. for Executive candidates in the Russell House Senate Chambers (page 5)
- Executive Debate: Monday, February 10\textsuperscript{th} – 7:00p.m.-9:00p.m. (page 8)
- Election Dates: Tuesday and Wednesday, February 18\textsuperscript{th} and 19\textsuperscript{th}
  - Results will be announced in Russell House Lobby next to information desk
- Runoff Election Dates (if needed): Tuesday and Wednesday, February 25\textsuperscript{th} and 26\textsuperscript{th}
  - Results will be announced in Russell House Lobby next to information desk

The changes to the Election Codes for this year from last are quite extensive. In addition to the apportionment of Senate seats, there is now a period of soft campaigning versus hard campaigning, please refer to the code 4-2-80 for more information. Also, our voting system is different. All other changes can be seen in your copy of the election codes. Please be aware that no campaigning, including distribution of candidate platforms or materials, may occur prior to the Mandatory Candidate Meetings on January 28\textsuperscript{th}, including via email, Facebook, Twitter, or any other social media. This also includes any direct contact with student organizations.

Additionally, all University offices and departments cannot assist in the production of promotional materials of any campaign. Furthermore, any materials or equipment from the Department of Student Life are considered off-limits to candidates and campaign staff. No campaigning may take place in the Campus Life Center—please respect the work that Student Government will be continuing to do through campaign season.

As you go about campaigning, please take the ideals of the Carolinian Creed to heart and conduct your campaign in a manner we would all be proud of. We are thrilled to have each of your passions and talents contributing to this election, and we hope that this election will lead to a fantastic crop of Student Government members.

Please feel free to contact any of the Commission members at any time—we are here to help you. Best of luck!

Thank you,

William O'Shields
Elections Commissioner 2013-2014
Student Government, University of South Carolina
Important Information

Mandatory Candidates Meeting

You MUST attend your respective candidates’ meeting on Tuesday, January 28th in order to be eligible for candidacy in the Student Body Elections. Senatorial candidates will meet at 7:00 p.m. and Executive candidates will meet at 8:00 p.m. Each meeting will be held in the Russell House Senate Chambers, on the third floor by Student Media. If unable to attend, the candidate must file a written excuse prior to the meeting with the Elections Commission pursuant to Elections Code 4-2-70(C) and schedule a make-up meeting with the Commission within two business days following the mandatory meeting. Any potential candidate who misses the meeting without prior approval will be disqualified.

Filing Fees and Executive Candidate Refunds

Pursuant to Election Code 4-2-60, all filing fees will be deposited into the Student Government university account until refunds are issued. Only Executive candidates are eligible for a partial refund after all of their campaign materials have been removed. When refunding filing fees the university will first apply the funds to any outstanding balance (library fees, parking tickets, etc.) an Executive candidate may personally have at USC. Please be aware that if you owe the university any amount of money you will not be refunded this portion of the filing fee. In addition, processing refunds will take time. Please expect any refund several weeks after the election.

Senate Districts & Apportionment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Number of Seats Available</th>
<th>District Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts and Sciences</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRSM</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Work</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journalism</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-Pharmacy</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Seats:</strong></td>
<td><strong>50</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Qualifications for Office
From the Student Government Constitution

ARTICLE III THE LEGISLATURE
Section 2 COMPOSITION
   B. Representation
      1. Senate apportionment shall take place before the spring of each year. The most current official enrollment statistics for a complete semester shall be used as the basis of reapportionment. As stipulated in the codes, the Powers and Responsibilities Committee of the Senate shall propose apportionment each year to be confirmed by the Senate body by a 2/3 majority.
      2. All students shall be represented from their colleges, regardless of residence status or class. Potential Senators may only run for office in the college in which he or she is enrolled according to his or her major. If a vacancy occurs during the Senate term, the Powers and Responsibilities Committee shall have a period of one (1) month to fill the seat with a student who is enrolled in the district according to the student’s minor.

ARTICLE V ELECTIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS
Section 1 QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE
   A. The President of Student Government must be at least a junior in class standing at the time of inauguration and must have earned at least thirty (30) hours at the University of South Carolina-Columbia Campus.
   B. The Vice President of Student Government must have earned at least forty-five (45) credit hours at the time of inauguration and must have earned at least thirty (30) hours at the University of South Carolina-Columbia Campus.
   C. The Treasurer of Student Government must be at least a sophomore in class standing at the time of inauguration with at least fifteen (15) hours earned at the University of South Carolina-Columbia Campus.
   D. Where class standing is a requirement for office, class standing shall be defined as follows:
      1. Junior Standing - 60 hours.
      2. Sophomore Standing - 30 hours.
   E. Any student who is considered full time by University policy may be a candidate for any office provided the other specific requirements for the particular office are satisfied. (Amended by SBL(91)007 dated 2/6/91.)
   F. No Senator may simultaneously be a member of the Executive Branch or serve on the Constitutional Council.
   G. No member of the Executive Branch may simultaneously serve in the Legislative Branch or serve on the Constitutional Council.
   H. No member of the Constitutional Council may simultaneously serve in the Legislative or Executive Branch of Student Government.
   I. All elected or appointed Student Government officials must maintain the cumulative GPR requirement for graduation and remain in good standing in their respective college and shall cease to serve at any time these standards are not maintained.
Officer Expectations

Senate
• Attend weekly Senate sessions – every Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. in RH Senate Chambers
• Attend committee meetings
• Assist with SG programs (e.g. Carolina Convoy, Blitz Week)
• Commitment of one academic year
• Other duties outlined in the Constitution and SG Codes

Treasurer
• Meet weekly with SG Advisor and Coordinator
• Work 10 office hours a week, including summer break
• Attend Freshman Council retreat in the Fall
• Attend LEAD Retreat and Diversity Retreat in the Spring
• Serve on various University Committees
• Attend and assist with Treasurers’ Workshops
• Communicate with student organizations regarding budgetary concerns
• Assist with SG events & programs
• Be familiar with Finance Codes
• Recruit & supervise Student Comptrollers
• Help with New Student Orientation & First Night Carolina
• Oversee operational budget
• Personal initiatives
• Commitment of one academic year
• Other duties outlined in the Constitution & SG Codes

Vice President
• Serve in lieu of the President in his/her absence
• Preside over the Student Senate
• Work 10 office hours a week, including summer break
• Meet weekly with SG Advisor & Coordinator
• Attend Freshman Council retreat in the Fall
• Attend LEAD Retreat (May 4-5) and Diversity Retreat (March 16-18) in the Spring
• Assist with SG events & programs
• Serve on various University Committees
• Be proficient in Parliamentary Procedure
• Working knowledge of Legislative Codes
• Conduct a Senate retreat prior to end of Spring semester
• Recruit Senate Clerk & Parliamentarian
• Assist with New Student Orientation & First Night Carolina
• Personal initiatives
• Commitment of one academic year
• Other duties outlined in the Constitution & SG Codes

President
• Meet weekly with SG Advisor & Coordinator
• Act as official representative of USC Student Body
• Serve on various University Committees
• Work 10 office hours a week, including summer break
• Attend Freshman Council retreat in the Fall
• Attend LEAD Retreat (May 4-5) and Diversity Retreat (March 16-18) in the Spring
• Listen to student concerns
• Assist with SG events & programs
• Uphold Constitution & SG Codes
• Appoint Cabinet members
• Deliver State of the Student Body Address
• Help with New Student Orientation & First Night Carolina
• Speak at New Student Convocation in August
• Personal initiatives
• Commitment of one academic year
• Other duties outlined in the Constitution & SG Codes

Candidate Webpage & Platform Statements

All candidates (both Executive and Senatorial) should be prepared to take a picture at the Mandatory Candidate Meeting on January 28. If that is not possible, candidates may be able to schedule an alternate time to have their picture taken. These pictures will be used on the Candidates’ web page housed on the Student Government website. If your picture is not taken, you will not be shown on the website nor will your platform be posted.

Platform statements should be emailed to saec@mailbox.sc.edu no later than 9:00 p.m. on January 22nd. Senatorial platform statements may be no more than 75 words. Executive candidate platform statements should be no more than 100 words. Please remember that candidates who do not submit a platform statement, or submit a late platform statement, will not have their photograph posted on the Student Government website.

It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that the platform statement arrives on time and in a usable format (i.e. Microsoft Word attachment, PDF or in the body of the email). If you have any questions, please contact the Elections Commissioner, William O’Shields.

2014 Executive Candidate Debate

All candidates for the offices of Student Body President, Vice President, and Treasurer will participate in a debate to be held on the Russell House Patio on the evening of Monday, February 10th, 2014.

More information, including the specific format of the debate, will be shared via email as it becomes available.
Violations Process

Any student, staff, or faculty member of the Carolina community may file alleged violations. All complaints must be filed by 2:00p.m. to assure that candidates be notified by 3:00p.m. Once the complaint is filed, the Commission will have two business days to deliberate and announce its decision. The Commission will meet Monday through Friday in the Russell House as needed to discuss violations. The process outlined below will be used by the Commission to review and assess all complaints received.

Posting Violations

Campaign materials may be placed on University posting locations and other places specifically designated for announcements and public notices. Dormitory doors (and doorknobs) are considered private property, and campaign materials cannot be placed on them without the consent of the owner. **No campaign materials may be placed in any official polling location (polling locations listed on www.sa.sc.edu/sg/electioninformation).**

- Complaints of a poster or banner, which is in violation of the posting violations, will be kept on file in the Student Government office.
- Although candidates will be contacted by 3:00p.m., candidates are responsible for checking this file for any violations that apply to them.
- Candidates are strongly encouraged to keep track of any posters or banners that they post in order to make correcting any violations that may occur easier and more efficient.
- Once a complaint has been filed, the candidate against whom the complaint is directed has until 12:00p.m. (noon), the following day to correct the alleged violation.
- At the time a candidate incurs his/her third (3) infraction, s/he will be asked to meet with the Elections Commission in order to ascertain that the candidate is aware of the number of infractions s/he has received.
- If repeated violations are witnessed and reported, yet fixed by noon the next day, the Elections Commission may suspend the candidate’s privilege to correct the violation. Instead of warnings, infractions may be issued. This system is designed to be as fair as possible to every candidate, but if it is abused, the Commission will take further action.

All Other Violations

On the day the complaint is filed, the Commission will meet with the complainant, who will further explain and elaborate upon the complaint. The candidate will then have the opportunity to defend himself or herself and explain the alleged violation.

The Commission will meet to discuss the alleged violation to determine whether a warning or an infraction will be issued. The Commission will notify both the complainant and candidate of the result. The complainant and candidate will be given two business days to submit an appeal.

***A notebook containing all complaints filed will be kept in the Office of Student Government & Student Organizations (227 Russell House) for the candidates’ and public examination. Although candidates will be contacted by 3:00p.m. if a complaint has been filed against them, the Commission strongly recommends candidates check the notebook every day to remain aware of complaints filed against them. This way, the candidate will have more time to check on the complaint.***
2014 Posting Regulations

*For buildings that have approval requirements, the postings must be initialed and dated by the person approving them.

Barnwell (777-4137)
Post only on designated bulletin boards. DO NOT POST ON WALLS.

Blatt PE Center (777-4602)
Materials may be posted on the bulletin board in the front.

Business Administration (777-3176)
You may post on bulletin boards located in the basement of the building or inside the classroom. However, you are not allowed to post on boards labeled MISC, STUDENT ADS, STUDENT INFO, and CAMPUS ACTIVITIES. DO NOT POST in the STAIRWELLS or on DOORS. NO TAPE. You are limited to only 1 poster per bulletin board.

Byrnes Center (777-5458)
You must receive approval from the front office on each floor.

Callcott Center (777-5234)
You may post on the basement and first floor bulletin boards. DO NOT POST ON WALLS. NO TAPE.

Coker Life Sciences Building (777-4151) & Earth and Water Sciences Building (777-4535)
You may post in the snack room (2 posters on wall, 1 poster on window), on Student Activities board between elevators, in the entrance foyer between the two sets of glass doors, on the bulletin board across from CLS 005, and in the foyer between the Life and Earth Water Science buildings. DO NOT POST ON WALLS, MURALS, OR WALLPAPERED SURFACES.

Coliseum (777-5113)
You may post on bulletin boards only after checking with the Student Affairs office. There are bulletin boards on the second level, but they belong to individual departments that must be contacted prior to posting. DO NOT POST ON PAINTED SURFACES AND ONLY USE SCOTCH TAPE.

Currell College (777-7099)
You can post on the bulletin board but DO NOT POST OVER PREVIOUS POSTING.

Davis College (777-3858)
You may only post on the student bulletin board in the main hall (second floor) next to the computer lab. You must also bring a copy to the Office in room 113 for approval.

Flinn Hall (777-2993)
You may place material inside the building as long as it does not interfere with University property.
Gambrell Hall (777-7161)
You may post on bulletin boards on the first floor exits and boards on the 3rd and 4th floors. Limit large posters to only 1-2 per board to conserve space. DO NOT PUT TAPE ON WALLS OR DOORS.

Hamilton (777-6500)
You must get approval first from Room 317. Then they will tell you where you can post.

Harper College (777-8102)
You may post on bulletin boards outside the 2nd floor office, and bulletin boards in the stairwells. DO NOT POST ON ANY OTHER FLOORS OR ON THE WALLS.

Health Sciences Building
Check with the front office before posting.

Humanities
All bulletin boards in hallways are available for posting.

Jones Physical Science Center (777-4121)
Materials may be posted on the first floor bulletin boards only.

Law Center (777-6857)
You may post on bulletin boards only after clearing your materials with the Student Affairs office in Rm. 137.

LeConte College (777-5313)
You may post on bulletin boards only.

Longstreet Theatre (777-4288)
You may post in elevators only.

McKissick Museum (777-7251)
You may only post in the canteen on the bulletin board above the sink.

McMaster College (777-4236)
You may post on bulletin boards only.

Medical School
Bring the items to the office and it will be posted on outside bulletin boards.

Music School (777-4280)
You can only post on basement bulletin boards, general announcement bulletin boards, and on windows in the canteen areas. NO POSTING ON WALLS AND ABSOLUTELY NO TAPE.

Nursing (777-3861)
Materials must be approved by Student Affairs office (Rm 140) before posting. You may post only on the bulletin boards on the first floor. NO TAPING ON WALLS; ONLY PUSHPINS ARE ALLOWED.
Residence Halls (777-4283)
NOTE: Distribution is available for registered student organizations and University departments only.
Materials must be brought to USC Housing Department located in Patterson. Access to flyer distribution forms can be found at: http://housing.sc.edu/flyerdist.html

Russell House (777-3196)
Only executive candidates may post inside the Russell House. You may take six flyers to the Information Desk located on the 2nd floor. They may be no bigger than 25 x 40 inches. The RH staff will post them for you. DO NOT POST ON ANY OTHER SURFACES.

Greene St. Wall Banners
Only executive candidates may post banners on the brick wall in front of the Russell House on Greene St. beginning at the corner of Woodrow residence hall to the end of the wall by Melton Observatory. The banner locations must be reserved through the Elections Commission.

Sloan College (777-5251)
You may post materials after going to room 321 for approval.

Strom Thurmond Center (777-3656)
Materials can be posted on the bulletin board in the front entrance.

Sumwalt (777-5581)
You may only post on bulletin boards in the stairwell.

Swearingen (777-4177)
You may post only on the regular bulletin boards or on free standing clip posts. NO WALLS.

Thomas Cooper Library
Posting is only allowed on the kiosk by the coffee shop.

Thomson Health Center
No posting is allowed.

Wardlaw (777-6732)
You may post on the 2nd floor lounge on the Peabody side after checking with the Dean’s office (located before room 274).

Prohibited posting locations include but are not limited to:

- Parking Garages
- Trees
- Sidewalks
- Light Poles
- Parked Cars
• Candidates are responsible for removing all improperly posted materials, regardless of who posted them. Candidates and their staff must respect University property and policies when posting materials.

• If the Commission issues a warning or infraction, material must be removed by noon of the following day or further action will be taken.

• Only ONE poster is allowed per bulletin board per candidate in accordance with the above regulations. Each classroom may have 2 posters per candidate. However candidates are not allowed to post over other candidates’ posters and each poster must be on a separate wall in accordance with the above regulations.

• Flyer size limit is 11” x 17”. This applies for all fliers and posters in all locations. Two posters connected together will be counted as two and not one. Banner size limit for Greene St. is 8 ft x 8 ft.

• No tear-offs are permitted on flyers.

**Clean Sweep Posting Regulations**

In an effort to keep the campus clean and orderly, all elections related material must be removed campus-wide within 48 hours of the general Student Body Elections. Candidates who continue onto a runoff election have until 48 hours after the final runoff election.

Executive candidates who fail to meet this deadline will forfeit their filing fee refund.
Policies for Solicitation
(Adapted from the Carolina Community – Please note these are University Policies)

PURPOSE
The University of South Carolina has the duty and responsibility to maintain a safe and healthy environment conducive to its principal mission of education. At the same time, the University recognizes and respects the constitutional protection of free speech as well as the individual student’s right to privacy. Accordingly, the University hereby adopts this solicitation policy for the purpose of establishing reasonable time, place and manner restrictions on campus solicitation.

DEFINITION OF SOLICITATION
Solicitation is defined as contact for the purpose of:
• Soliciting funds or sales or demonstrations that result in sales
• Distributing advertising or other materials
• Compiling data for surveys, programs, or other programs
• Recruitment of members or support for an organization or cause
  (NOTE: spontaneous gatherings of individuals for a singular purpose are considered solicitation.)
• Providing educational information or sessions
  (Exclusive of formal University of South Carolina academic classes)
• Solicitation activities may not substantially disrupt or materially (or significantly) interfere with the educational, administrative, or operational activities of the University. Commercial speech which is false, fraudulent, or misrepresentative is not permitted. Events which are in violation of local, state, or federal law, Board of Trustees policy, or rules, regulations, and guidelines of the University are prohibited.
• An event that places an undue burden on campus facilities; interferes with the use of campus facilities by other persons; disrupts normal operations; infringes on the protected rights of others; has as a principle goal to incite a riot or to disrupt other activities, may be denied the privilege to use University facilities (or grounds) for solicitation.

DESIGNATED AREAS
Solicitation activities are permitted in the following designated areas:
• Specific areas of the Russell House University Union including the front and back patios,
• Ballroom, meeting rooms, and main lobby may be used for campaigning purposes. To make reservations and find out about special stipulations (i.e. use of RH equipment etc.), contact Ryan Gross, RH 218 at 777-2827.
• Greene Street (between the gates ONLY and at specified times)

Contact Jerry Brewer, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, at 777-5782 for additional information about designated locations.
DIRECT MAIL SOLICITATION

The University of South Carolina postal office is responsible for providing services for USC faculty, staff, and students for official University business only. Mail determined to be of personal nature (such as checks, bank statements, utility bills, personal packages) will be returned to the sender. The only exception to the policy is mail service to on-campus resident students whose mail is delivered to their residence.

University Intra-campus Mail Service cannot be used by faculty, staff, students, or outside businesses or organizations for campaign notices, advertising, solicitation, or for any purpose that is not determined official University business. No USC mailing list will be available for use other than for official University of South Carolina business. (Student organizations may be contacted through the Office of Student Government & Student Organizations.)

CONTACTING STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

A candidate may contact registered student organizations to speak at an organizational meeting. A notebook with current student organizations and contact information will be kept in the Office of Student Government & Student Organizations, 227 Russell House. The information contained in the notebook may only be used for Elections purposes. While information may be transferred to personal records, the notebook cannot be removed from the Office of Student Government & Student Organizations. It is the responsibility of the individual to ensure that the notebook is returned and that the sign out sheet is updated. Individuals listed in the Student Organization Contact Notebook should only be contacted between the hours of 10:00a.m. and 10:00p.m. Student organizations reserve the right to grant meeting access at their convenience.

DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE

Distribution of literature by University or non-University individuals or organizations is subject to solicitation policy to prevent harassment of students and to maintain the campus environment. The person-to-person distribution of literature by University or non-University individuals or organizations is restricted to the areas available for solicitation and must be registered and reserved in advance through the Office of Student Life. The distribution of a publicity material(s) shall be consistent with the orderly conduct of the University’s affairs, the maintenance of University property, and the free flow of traffic and persons. Efforts must be made to avoid litter. Distribution by means of accosting individuals, hawking, or shouting is strictly prohibited.

The posting of literature by University or non-University individuals or organizations is restricted to appropriate reserved areas of bulletin boards in University buildings or on the Carolina Information Boards located at various outdoor points around campus. Some bulletin board space is designated for University activities only. The posting or attachment of fliers, posters, advertisements, or announcements of any type on the external/internal sides of buildings, trees, sidewalks, light posts, parked cars, or other similar structures is prohibited.

POSTING PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL (INCLUDING BANNERS)

Groups or individuals that post materials on non-designated structures will be fined and/or billed for clean-up and damages. Violations of this policy constitute violations of University policy and will be addressed through appropriate disciplinary channels.

Publicity material(s) shall be posted only on bulletin boards or other approved areas designated in this policy. Under no circumstances shall any publicity material be
placed, written, or painted upon any surface (interior or exterior) including, but not limited to, trees or shrubs, poles, signs, doors, windows, walls, sidewalks or other campus structures.

Posting material on buildings, walls, doorways, light posts and other structures defaces the property of the University, causes permanent damage and costs thousands of dollars each year in clean-up and repair expenses. Individuals caught defacing property will face prosecution. Questions or comments should be directed to Jerry Brewer, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, at 777-5782.

Only ONE poster is allowed per bulletin board per candidate IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CURRENT POSTING REGULATIONS. Candidates will not be allowed to place their poster over another candidate's poster. Each classroom is allowed to have two (2) posters per candidate. Each poster must be on a separate wall IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CURRENT POSTING REGULATIONS.

NOTE:
• Candidates wishing to display banners on the wall on Greene Street must reserve a space through the Elections Commission. Banners are subject to approval of the Elections Commission and Russell House Administration.
• Space is available on a first come - first served basis. Registration for banners/posters will be accepted until space is filled on any given day.
• Banners/posters may be hung up to a week before the event (Regarding elections, banners may be hung when campaigning begins, which is directly after the Mandatory Candidate Meeting on January 28th, 2014). The Elections Commission, Office of Student Government & Student Organizations, and Department of Student Affairs assume no responsibility for security of banners/posters at any time during display. Candidates are encouraged to secure banners with locks or remove them at night.
• Any candidate is eligible for immediate removal from their race if they or a member of their campaign staff are found to have tampered with, destroyed, or stolen another candidate's banner.
• Candidates are responsible for removal of banners, including all debris (tape, paper, etc.) from wall and surrounding area, immediately after the advertised event is over.
• All banners must have the official approval sticker that is provided by the Office of Student Government. This sticker must be visible on the top, left corner of the banner.

Greene Street Tables
Pursuant to Election Code 4-3-30(A): Executive Candidates will be allowed to have tables on Greene Street on the days of elections (and run-offs if necessary) and on one day during the week prior to the election as determined by the Elections Commission. Candidates are not allowed to reserve tables on Greene Street on any other days.

Please reference the Elections Codes when campaigning at tables and be mindful of all restrictions on person-to-person distribution of campaign materials.
Reminders

**Ethics**
The eyes of the Carolina Community, including faculty, staff, and student body, are upon you. As a student leader at Carolina, you have an obligation to uphold the principles of the Carolinian Creed and conduct yourself and your campaign in an appropriate manner.

**Posting/Campaigning**
- You must abide by all posting regulations and make sure your campaign staff members are fully aware of these policies. You will be held completely responsible for all of their actions.
- You are responsible for the removal of any residue from your campaign materials after the election (see Clean Sweep information).
- **Stick-on decals may be used for campaign material. They must be non-residue and must be approved by the Elections Commissioner before distribution.**
- No wooden stakes are permitted in the ground anywhere on campus.
- Don’t forget about the environment. Use recyclable materials whenever possible.
- Person-to-person distribution of literature is permitted ONLY on election days and ONLY outside specified polling locations. Keep in mind that you must remain outside any official polling location (this includes but is not limited to: residence hall computer labs, 2nd floor lobby of the Russell House, library, any other campus computer lab).
- Candidates may not use USC CSD (such as listserv or blanket mailout) to contact potential voters, as this constitutes direct mail solicitation. Candidates may develop their own homepage; however, it cannot be linked to any USC websites, including Student Government and VIP.
- You must turn in a COMPLETE list of your campaign staff before you begin campaigning (page 34 of this packet). This complete list should be turned in to the Elections Commissioner on January 31st at the Mandatory Candidate meeting. Campaigning CANNOT begin until such a list is received. Candidates are advised to update this list if the campaign staff changes.
- Executive Office candidates may have one observer present from the time the write-in poll is closed until the tabulation of the write-in ballots is completed. No transportation will be provided.
- The use of all USC Logos pursuant to election code 4-3-50(C)(6) is **prohibited**. This includes the Palm Tree, Athletic Logos, etc.

When in doubt, ask. It is better to take time to get a clarification on a code or regulation from an Elections Official than to be the subject of violation complaints. Always follow the Election Codes. The Candidate Handbook is the official source of information for Elections and is what the Elections Commission will use to guide their operations and decisions.

The Office of Student Government & Student Organizations maintains itself as neutral throughout Student Body Elections. No campaign materials (including stickers & t-shirts) should be visible when inside the Office of Student Government & Student Organizations. Additionally, no equipment in the office may be used for campaigning purposes.
CHAPTER 4 – ELECTIONS COMMISSION AND ELECTIONS

ARTICLE I.

ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Section 4-1-10. Authority.

(A) The Elections Commission shall exist as a service to the student body, conducting the student body elections and inauguration.

(B) Authority shall be derived from and regulated by the Student Government Constitution and Codes. Any changes made to Chapter 4 of these codes after January 1st shall not go into effect until after the upcoming election has concluded.

(C) The Elections Commission shall act as an independent body, advised by the Student Government coordinator.

Section 4-1-20. Funding.

(A) Funding shall be derived from student activity fees on the same basis as other Student Government bodies.

(B) All expenditures by the Elections Commission shall be approved by the elections commissioner and the Student Government coordinator.

(C) The Student Government advisor shall be authorized to disburse funds necessary to conduct elections in accordance with the Student Government Constitution and Codes.

Section 4-1-30. Composition.

The Elections Commission shall be composed of the elections commissioner, the deputy elections commissioner, and seven (7) to nine (9) assistant elections commissioners, as follows:

(1) The publicity chair;

(2) The marketing and outreach chair;

(3) The candidate relations chair;

(4) The posting regulations chair;

(5) The debate chair;
(6) The violations chair;

(7) The inauguration chair;

(8) And, optionally, two other chairs, whose titles shall be determined by the elections commissioner.

Section 4-1-40. Nomination and Confirmation.

(A) The student body president shall nominate the elections commissioner for consideration by the Student Senate within two (2) weeks of his or her inauguration.

(B) The elections commissioner shall nominate the deputy elections commissioner for consideration by the Student Senate by the conclusion of the spring academic semester.

(C) The elections commissioner shall nominate all assistant elections commissioners for consideration by the Student Senate by October 1st.

(D) No member of the Elections Commission may take office without being nominated, being interviewed by either the Student Senate Powers and Responsibilities or Judiciary Committees (or both committees in the case of the elections commissioner and deputy elections commissioner), being confirmed by the Student Senate, and taking the Student Government Oath of Office.

(E) In the event that the office of elections commissioner becomes vacant, the student body president shall nominate a replacement within two (2) weeks of the initial vacancy.

(F) In the event that the office of deputy elections commissioner becomes vacant, the elections commissioner shall nominate a replacement within two (2) weeks of the initial vacancy.

(G) In the event that an assistant elections commissioner position becomes vacant and the total number of assistant elections commissioners falls below seven (7) as a result, the elections commissioner shall nominate a replacement within two (2) weeks of the initial vacancy.

(H) The attorney general may, if requested by the Student Government coordinator, direct the postponement of the election if the minimum staff is not appointed and approved within the time limits stated herein.

Section 4-1-50. Duties of the Elections Commissioner.

Duties of the Elections Commissioner shall include, but may not be limited to:
(1) Implementing, in good faith, Chapter 4 of these Student Government Codes;

(2) Reviewing the Student Government Codes with all members of the Elections Commission and ensuring awareness of these codes;

(3) Provide a copy of Chapter 4 of these Student Government codes, along with the official Candidates’ Packet, to all student organization presidents no earlier than January 1st;

(4) Procuring all materials necessary to conduct student body elections;

(5) Nominating and training the deputy elections commissioner and assistant elections commissioners;

(6) Selecting and training any poll workers deemed necessary;

(7) Overseeing the publicity and marketing surrounding all student body elections;

(8) Overseeing the planning and holding of the candidate interest meetings, the official candidates’ meeting, the candidates’ debate, any violation hearings, and the announcement of election results;

(9) And overseeing the tabulation of results of all student body elections;

Section 4-1-60. Duties of the Elections Commission.

Duties of the Elections Commission shall include, but may not be limited to:

(1) Meeting regularly with the Student Government coordinator, beginning four weeks prior to the student body election;

(2) Publicizing student body elections to ensure that students are aware of the dates and times for candidate interest meetings, the official candidates’ meeting, the candidates’ debate, and voting;

(3) Communicating effectively and consistently with candidates prior to and during the campaign period to ensure that the candidates are aware of all rules, regulations, procedures, and relevant actions by the Elections Commission;

(4) Establishing and maintaining posting regulations and the official Candidates’ Packet, and providing this information to candidates during the official candidates’ meeting;

(5) Planning and holding candidate interest meetings and the official candidates’ meeting;
(6) Planning and holding a debate for candidates for executive office at least one (1) week prior to the regular student body elections;

(7) Establishing a process for hearing and considering complaints of election violations and fraud, and making decisions on such complaints following those hearings;

(8) Monitoring all write-in procedures and reporting any irregularities or violations to the elections commissioner;

(9) Assuring the security of all ballots and other election records for a period of thirty (30) days after the student body election. If the election is contested, records must be retained until a settlement is reached;

(10) Tabulating the results of all elections and certifying those results;

(11) Planning and holding an event to announce the results of all regular and other elections;

(12) And planning and holding an inauguration for elected candidates on the Wednesday following spring break.

ARTICLE II.

STUDENT BODY ELECTIONS

Section 4-2-10. Date and Time.

(A) So long as class is in session, the regular student body election shall be held on the Tuesday and Wednesday three weeks prior the University’s spring break.

(B) So long as class is in season, any runoff student body election shall be held on the Tuesday and Wednesday during the week following the regular student body election.

(C) All elections shall last for a period of two (2) consecutive days, beginning at 9:00 AM on the first day and lasting until 5:00 PM on the second day.

(D) If an election is determined to be null and void, a new election shall take place at a time to be determined by the Elections Commission, with the approval of the Office of Student Affairs.

Section 4-2-20. Offices Elected.

The following elective offices shall be filled in the designated Spring Elections: student body president, student body vice president, student body treasurer, and student senators.
Section 4-2-30. Election Procedures.

(A) In elections for executive offices, a winner shall be determined at such time that one candidate gains a majority of the votes cast, which shall be defined as fifty (50) percent of all votes cast, plus one vote.

(B) In elections for executive offices, a run-off election shall be held if no candidate receives a majority of votes cast for a particular office. The two persons receiving the highest number of votes cast shall be eligible for the run-off election.

(C) In elections for Student Senate, a winner or winners shall be determined as stated in the Student Government Constitution.

(D) In elections for Student Senate, a run-off election shall be held in the event of a tie for one or more seats.

(E) In the general election, but not in any run-off election, a candidate may be elected to an executive office or to the Student Senate by write-in ballots. All write-in candidates winning their election shall be notified by the Elections Commissioner after it is determined that this person is eligible to serve.

(F) For a referendum to appear on the ballot it must be published in The Daily Gamecock at least one (1) week prior to the vote of the student body pursuant to the Student Government Constitution. If necessary, a referendum may appear on the ballot in an abbreviated form, as determined by the Elections Commission.

Section 4-2-40. Student Senate Districts.

(A) The electoral districts of the Senate and the apportionment of the fifty (50) Student Senate seats shall be as follows:

(1) District 1 (College of Arts and Sciences) – thirteen (13) seats;

(2) District 2 (College of Hospitality, Retail, and Sport Management) – four (4) seats;

(3) District 3 (College of Social Work) – two (2) seats;

(4) District 4 (Darla Moore School of Business) – seven (7) seats;

(5) District 5 (College of Education) – three (3) seats;

(6) District 6 (College of Engineering and Computing) – four (4) seats;
(7) District 7 (College of Mass Communications and Information Studies) – three (3) seats;

(8) District 8 (School of Law) – two (2) seats;

(9) District 9 (College of Nursing) – three (3) seats;

(10) District 10 (South Carolina College of Pharmacy) – two (2) seats;

(11) District 11 (South Carolina College of Pharmacy – Pre-Pharmacy) – two (2) seats;

(12) District 12 (Arnold School of Public Health) – three (3) seats;

(13) And District 13 (School of Music) – two (2) seats.

(B) Any school or college having more than one hundred (100) full-time students (as defined by the University Registrar) shall have a corresponding Student Senate district, and each district shall have at least one (1) seat.

Section 4-2-50. Student Senate Reapportionment.

(A) Each fall, the Elections Commission shall review the enrollment figures for each academic college and school at the University for the purpose of reapportionment of Student Senate districts.

(B) The apportionment of Student Senate seats shall occur as follows:

(1) Each district shall be assigned one (1) seat.

(2) The additional seats assigned to each district shall be derived by dividing the number of full-time students (FTS) enrolled in that particular college or school by the number of FTS enrolled in the University, and then multiplying the result by the number of seats remaining after all districts have been assigned one (1) seat. This formula shall be as follows:

\[
\text{Additional seats per district} = \frac{\text{FTS enrolled in the college or school}}{\text{FTS enrolled at the University}} \times \text{Remaining seats}
\]

(3) All number of remaining seats per district shall be properly apportioned by the whole number, excluding the decimal.

(4) If a district receives no whole additional seats through this process, assign one of any remaining seats to each district bringing them to two (2) seats. If not possible, award the seats
based on the decimal value in descending order. By receiving this additional seat, these districts are excluded from the remaining apportionment process.

(5) If seats still remain, they shall be allocated to the districts based upon which districts’ had the highest decimal value. In descending order, the remainder of additional seats per district shall be apportioned based upon the above formula. (For instance, a district with 2.6 additional seats per district shall be awarded a remaining seat over a district with 1.3 or 3.3 additional seats per district).

(C) Once the apportionment of seats is calculated, the elections commissioner shall transmit the calculations and a recommendation for reapportionment (if necessary) to the student body vice president, who shall refer them to the chair of the Student Senate Powers and Responsibilities Committee.

Section 4-2-60. Candidate Filing and Fees.

(A) The Elections Commission shall plan and hold a period during which any candidates wishing to be placed on the ballot for a particular office must file for election in the Student Government office. Filing shall start at 9:00 AM on the Monday seven (7) weeks before the University’s spring break and continue through 5:00 PM on that Tuesday. If that Monday is a holiday, filing shall start at 9:00 AM on the Tuesday seven (7) weeks before the University’s spring break and continue through 4:00 PM on that Wednesday.

(B) During the filing period, each candidate shall submit a filing form certifying that he or she meets the requirements for the office, has read the appropriate rules, and grants the Student Government advisor permission to certify his or her academic eligibility. In accordance with university policy, no student can be approved for candidacy if he or she is currently on academic probation or is otherwise not in good standing with the University.

(C) During the filing period, each candidate must provide to the Elections Commissioner a list of his or her campaign staff, and must update this list if the membership of his or her campaign staff changes. A person who operates on the behalf of a particular candidate shall be judged a member of that candidate’s campaign staff if it is determined that this person received explicit or implicit encouragement to campaign on that candidate’s behalf. If it is determined that this person is a member of that candidate’s campaign staff, he or she may be given consideration for the purposes of assessing elections fraud or elections violations against that candidate.

(D) The filing fee to run for Student Senate shall be a non-refundable amount of five (5) dollars.

(E) The filing fee to run for executive office shall be fifty (50) dollars, of which forty-five (45) dollars is refundable, provided that all of the candidate's campaign materials are removed within forty-eight (48) hours of the last election to the satisfaction of the Elections Commissioner. If not, the money is forfeited to the Elections Commission.
(F) A receipt for fees paid shall be issued to each candidate by a Student Government office staff employee upon the candidate’s filing.

(G) The student body treasurer shall keep on file for one year a copy of each receipt issued. These shall constitute a public record.

(H) All collected monies shall be deposited to the Student Government elections account, as prescribed by University policy.

(I) Candidates filing to run for Student Senate may only do so in district according to their academic certification pursuant to the Student Government Constitution.

(J) A candidate running for an executive position may simultaneously file for a seat in senate. In the case of the candidate winning both the executive election and senate election, that candidate will be moved to the executive office, and the then vacated senate seat will be given to the next candidate with the highest votes.

(K) Candidates must file for office using their names as listed in University records. The candidate's name as it is to appear on the ballot shall be subject to approval by the Elections Commission.

(L) If a student seeking a Student Senate seat is a member of the South Carolina Honors College, that student shall seek the seat that represents the college the he or she is enrolled in for his/her major.

(M) After the filing deadline has passed, the elections commissioner shall give the names of the applicants to the Student Government advisor for verification of eligibility.

Section 4-2-70. Candidates’ Meeting.

(A) The Elections Commission shall plan and hold an official candidates meeting that shall be mandatory for all candidates.

(B) The date of this meeting shall be determined during the fall semester, and candidates shall be informed of the meeting and its date and time when they complete the filing process.

(C) If a candidate is unable to attend the mandatory meeting, the candidate, to be eligible to run for office, must:

(1) Submit a written excuse to the Elections Commission prior to the mandatory meeting;
(2) And meet with the Elections Commission within two (2) business days after the mandatory meeting.

(D) At this meeting, the Elections Commission shall provide a copy of the official Candidates’ Packet for all candidates, which must contain Chapter 4 of these Student Government Codes, the posting regulations, a copy of the University Solicitation Policy, a copy of the Carolinian Creed, contact information for members of the Elections Commission, and any other information deemed necessary.

(E) At this meeting, all candidates must sign an agreement affirming that they have read the documents mentioned above and fully understand all of their meanings and implications. It is the responsibility of the Elections Commission to explain any ambiguities or answer any questions that the candidates may have.

**Section 4-2-80. Campaign Period.**

(A) The period in which candidates may campaign shall begin immediately following the official candidates’ meeting and shall end upon the conclusion of the final voting period for that candidate’s particular race.

(B) There shall be two distinct periods of campaigning: Soft Campaigning and Hard Campaigning.

(1) Soft Campaigning may consist of all campaign methods not including:

(a) Those in violation of these Student Government Codes;

(b) The distribution of campaign promotional items such as cups, t-shirts, food, beverages, and items related to the exchange of food, beverages, or consumer products;

(c) Or the holding of campaign rallies or special events.

(2) Hard Campaigning may consist of all campaign methods not including those in violation of these Student Government Codes.

(C) The period of Soft Campaigning shall begin with the conclusion of the official candidates’ meeting and shall end at the conclusion of the Wednesday four (4) weeks before the University’s spring break.

(D) The period of Hard Campaigning shall start at the conclusion of soft campaigning and shall end at the conclusion of the final voting period for each race.
(E) The distribution of campaign promotional items to campaign members, as named at the official candidates’ meeting, shall not be prohibited at any point during the campaign period.

Section 4-2-90. Polling Locations.

(A) Students may vote from any computer with access to the designated online voting system.

(B) The Elections Commission may designate other polling locations where voting may be encouraged and facilitated by the Commission.

(C) The Elections Commission shall determine whether an area constitutes a polling location for the purpose of complaints of election violations or fraud.

(D) Every person eligible to vote in the student body elections shall receive an e-mail from the University reminding them to vote. This email must contain a link to online voting system, instructions for voting, and candidate information or a link to candidate information. This email shall be sent out the day of elections to students’ official University email accounts. In case of a runoff, new, or special election, the same requirements apply.

Section 4-2-100. Voting Procedures.

(A) The Student Government advisor, in coordination with University Technology Services, shall be responsible for the implementation and preparedness of all ballot information for the elections.

(B) Voting shall occur through the designated online voting system and all ballots shall be automatically tallied by the system.

(C) Voters shall access the election site through the website of the designated online voting system.

(E) All students registered at the University of South Carolina – Columbia campus will be provided electronic ballots for regular and other elections. The ballot shall be appropriate based on their college or school of enrollment.

(D) Each student will be allowed to access the electronic ballot to vote one time. Additional attempts to access the site shall not be allowed.

(E) If not possible through electronic randomization, the order of candidates’ names on the ballot shall be determined through a random drawing to be conducted by the Elections Commission.
during the mandatory candidates’ meeting only for contested races. Candidates’ names in uncontested races will appear in alphabetical order.

(F) Each candidate’s name on the ballot must contain no more than twenty-five characters or letters. Each candidate is responsible for viewing the ballot on the online voting system and verifying the correct spelling of their name on the ballot with the Student Government advisor no later than four (4) days prior to the election. Any requests for a change of ballot information must be submitted in writing four (4) business days prior to the election and must be issued a receipt by the Student Government advisor.

(G) The online voting system must be accessible for at least seventy-five (75) percent of the allotted election time available during any election. If it is not, that election may be considered null and void at the discretion of the Elections Commission.

(H) Students wishing to submit a write-in ballot during the general election must do so through the electronic voting system. If unavailable, students may submit a write in ballot at the Student Government office polling location by the following process:

1. The student shall present to the poll worker a picture identification.

2. The student shall log onto the online voting system and submit a blank ballot.

3. The student shall be provided a paper ballot by the designated member of the Elections Commission monitoring the write-in location. This paper ballot must contain the names of all executive candidates and senatorial candidates for the student’s college or school of enrollment, spaces for the student to write-in votes for each office, and an envelope.

4. The student shall indicate his or her selections on the ballot, seal the ballot in the envelope, and place it in the designated ballot box.

(I) The Elections Commission shall be responsible for providing the following items at the write-in polling station located in the Student Government office:

1. One large, lockable ballot box;

2. Write-in ballots and envelops;

3. Instructions for any poll workers;

4. And materials to designate the polling location;

Section 4-2-110. Tabulation and Notification.
(A) A member of the Elections Commission must be present to close the write-in polling location at 5:00 PM on the final day of the regular student body election and to transport the ballots to the counting location. Candidates for executive office may have one observer present from the time the poll closes until the tabulation of the write-in ballots is complete.

(B) The attorney general must be present as an observer at the time the write-in ballot box is opened and until the tabulation is complete. The attorney general shall be responsible for the security of the area where counting is taking place. If the attorney general is not present, the chief justice of the Constitutional Council or an individual designated by the Office of Student Affairs shall substitute.

(C) The tabulation of the write-in ballots is the responsibility of the Elections Commission. The Elections Commission shall count the write-in ballots under the direct supervision of the elections commissioner.

(D) Upon completion of the tabulation of write-in ballots and their addition to the total vote count, the elections commissioner shall certify the results prior to publishing the results.

(E) The Elections Commission shall announce the results of the elections on the evening of their certification, barring any pending complaints of election violations or fraud.

(F) The elections commissioner shall post a copy of the results within twenty-four (24) hours of their certification, at which time the official results shall constitute a public record. The record on file in the Student Government office shall include the total number of ballots cast and the total votes cast for each candidate.

(G) Anyone wishing to contest an election must do so within twenty-four (24) hours after the posting of the official vote tabulation results by the Elections Commissioner. Contests must be filed during normal business hours.

ARTICLE III.

ELECTION VIOLATIONS

Section 4-3-10. Definition.

An election violation shall be defined as any willful act, deed, or conspiracy that violates the provisions of these codes. An election violation may occur on any date during or before the campaign period.

Section 4-3-20. General Rules and Regulations.
(A) In all instances, candidates and members of a candidate’s campaign shall, in addition to these codes, observe and abide by:

(1) The University Solicitation Policy;

(2) And the posting regulations as provided in the official Candidates’ Packet.

(B) Prior to the campaign period, a candidate may communicate with others for the purpose of enlisting campaign members, but shall not campaign for the explicit purpose of acquiring votes.

Section 4-3-30. Electronic Communication.

(A) Phone calls or text messaging may only be directed at individuals who have a pre-existing relationship with the candidate or the campaign member performing the contact.

(B) No candidate may campaign through any listserv or webpage operated by the University.

Section 4-3-40. Oral Communication.

(A) Candidates wishing to reserve tables for their campaign shall do so through the Elections Commission. Tables may only be reserved on the days of the election, and on one day during the week prior to the election, to be determined by the Elections Commission.

(B) Candidates or members of a candidate’s campaign may not solicit organizations to set up speaking times until that candidate has filed for office.

(C) Candidates or members of a candidate’s campaign are prohibited from soliciting on off-campus residences, which include private homes, condominiums, or apartment complexes, unless they have signed written permission by the owner or complex manager and submit a copy of that written permission to the Elections Commission.

Section 4-3-50. Materials-Based Communication.

(A) All fliers, banners, promotional items, and other forms of materials-based communication to be posted or distributed must be approved by the Elections Commission in advance.

(B) Candidates wishing to reserve space for banners for their campaign shall do so through the Elections Commission. Banners may be displayed as soon as campaigning begins.

(C) Campaign materials:

(1) May not be distributed before the official candidates’ meeting;
(2) May be distributed following the official candidates’ meeting, but in a person-to-person manner only during student organization meetings or at times designated by the Elections Commission for oral and materials-based communication;

(3) May only be placed in University posting locations and other places specifically designated for announcements and public notices;

(4) May not be placed on dormitory doors without the consent of the resident;

(5) May not be placed in any official polling location (e.g. a computer lab);

(6) May not employ any officially trademarked or copyrighted materials (e.g. The University Logo, Seal, Etc.).

(7) And may include stick-on decals, as long as the decals are of the type that do not leave a residue upon removal.

ARTICLE IV.

ELECTION FRAUD

Section 4-4-10. Definition.

(A) Election fraud shall be defined as any willful act, deed, or conspiracy that violates the integrity of the electoral process during the voting period.

(B) Elections fraud shall include the following acts, committed by the candidate or members of his or her campaign:

(1) Attempting to vote or voting in place of another;

(2) Attempting to procure or procuring – by the payment, delivery, or promise of money or other article of value – another to vote for or against any particular candidate or ballot measure;

(3) Attempting to procure or procuring – by the use of threats or intimidation – another to vote for or against any particular candidate or ballot measure;

(4) Attempting to make disparaging assertions with the intent to defame by slander, libel, or other injurious process against other candidates or campaigns.

(5) Attempting to influence or influencing a voter who is in the process of voting;

(6) Or attempting to monitor or monitoring a voter who is in the process of voting.
ARTICLE V.

COMPLAINTS AND HEARINGS

Section 4-5-10. Filing.

(A) Any student, faculty member, or staff member can file a complaint of an alleged election violation or election fraud.

(B) Any complaint of an alleged election violation must be filed with the Elections Commission at any time up until two (2) business days following the conclusion of the final voting period for the particular race in question.

(C) Any complaint of alleged election fraud must be filed with the Elections Commission during normal business hours and within two (2) business days of the incident in question.

(D) The person filing the complaint:

(1) Must state in that complaint who was involved, what was done, where the act occurred, and any other known, relevant information;

(2) Must be informed that he or she may be asked to testify before the Elections Commission or at any other level of the appeals process;

(3) And must be informed that his or her name could be made publicly available in accordance with governmental regulations at the time of filing the complaint.

Section 4-5-20. Response.

(A) The Elections Commission shall, in a timely manner, inform the person filing a complaint of an alleged election violation or election fraud that the report has been received;

(B) The Elections Commission must send an email to all candidates by 3:00 PM each business during which campaigning is allowed, detailing any complaints received and the time at which the Elections Commission will convene to consider the complaint.

Section 4-5-30. Hearing.

(A) The Elections Commission shall convene to consider a complaint at a time no earlier than 6:00 PM on the day that the complaint is filed and no later than two (2) business days after the complaint is filed.
(B) During the hearing of a complaint, the candidate against whom the complaint was filed has
the right to be present at all times during which the complaint is being considered and to witness
all documentation against him or herself, with the exception of any period reserved solely for
deliberation by the Elections Commission, Constitutional Council, or Office of Student Affairs,
which shall not include any candidates or campaign members.

Section 4-5-40. Decision.

(A) The Elections Commission shall announce its decision in response to a complaint
immediately following the hearing of the complaint.

(B) The Elections Commission may, with a two-thirds (2/3) vote of its total membership,
disqualify any candidate, including write-in candidates, who do not comply with the rules and
regulations set forth in these codes. Written notifications of disqualification must be filed with
the attorney general as they are forwarded to the candidates.

(C) The Elections Commission shall refer violations of University policy concerning general
student conduct to the Office of Student Judicial Programs. In the event that a person found to
have committed an election violation or election fraud is not a member of a campaign, he or she
will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Programs.

(D) The Elections Commission shall not impose a penalty exceeding the amount of the filing fee
or the disqualification of a candidate.

(E) The Elections Commission shall conduct a new election for each race significantly affected if
it is determined that election fraud has occurred and has had a significant impact upon the result
of the election.

Section 4-5-50. Appeal.

(A) A candidate may appeal any decision of the Elections Commission, but must do so within
one (1) business day of the Elections Commission’s decision.

(B) Any appeal of a decision by the Elections Commission, if determined to have sufficient merit
to warrant consideration, shall be heard by the Constitutional Council, which must make a
decision within two (2) business days of the appeal.

(C) The Elections Commission may, by a majority vote of its total membership, forward
responsibility to rule on any decision directly to the Constitutional Council without making an
initial ruling.

(D) A candidate may appeal any decision of the Constitutional Council, but must do so within
one (1) business day of the Constitutional Council’s decision.
(E) Any appeal of a decision by the Constitutional Council, if determined to have sufficient merit to warrant consideration, shall be heard by the Office of Student Affairs.

(F) The attorney general shall represent the decision of the Elections Commission during all levels of appeal.

(G) The outcome of any decision by the Elections Commission or Constitutional Council shall be postponed until the appeals process is complete.

ARTICLE VI.

INAUGURATION

Section 4-6-10. Date.

The inauguration of new Student Government officers shall be held no earlier than one (1) week and no later than (3) weeks following elections.

Section 4-6-20. Accommodations.

(A) Efforts shall be made to accommodate the University President.

(B) A reception shall be planned for the event, as well as advertising and the purchase of any other materials needed to conduct the event in a traditional manner.

(C) All costs associated with inauguration shall be charged to the Student Government Elections Commission Budget.

Section 4-6-30. Oath of Office.

(A) The Student Government Oath of Office shall be as follows:

I, [name], do solemnly pledge to faithfully execute the office of [name of office], to abide by the Student Government Constitution, to uphold the Carolinian Creed, and to represent my constituents to the best of my ability.

(B) The chief justice of the Constitutional Council shall administer the Oath of Office to the incoming officers. If the chief justice is unavailable, an associate justice of the Constitutional Council or the outgoing president pro tempore of the Student Senate may administer the Oath.
(C) All elected Student Government officials (the student body president, the student body vice president, the student body treasurer, and student senators) must take the Oath of Office upon their inauguration.
Candidate Filing Form
Student Body Elections 2014
Due by Wednesday, January 22nd at 4:00p.m.

This form must be filed in person in the Campus Life Center located at 227 Russell House on January 21st or 22nd 2014 between 9:00a.m. and 4:00p.m.

Note: Filing Fee MUST accompany this filing form: Senatorial candidates $5.00, Executive candidates $50.00

Note: The Student Senate meets every Wednesday at 5:30p.m. in the Russell House Senate Chambers. If you are unable to make these meetings, please consider not applying.

Print Full Legal Name:

________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
First Middle Last

Local Address: __________________________________________
________________________________________________________
Street City State Zip Code

Local Telephone Number: (___) __________

Email Address: ___________________________ VIP ID: ___________________________
*Please list an email you check regularly; this will be our primary means of communication throughout the campaign season*

Permanent Address:

________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________
Street City State Zip Code

Permanent Telephone: (___) __________

Major: ___________________________ College of Enrollment: ___________________________

Name as you would like for it to appear on ballot: (25 characters or less):
*Must be the name that is on university records *

________________________________________________________

Office applying for: ___________________________

For Senatorial Candidates: District # (see page 5): ______

For Executive Candidates: Campaign Manager's Name: ___________________________

Cell Phone #: (___) __________ Email Address: ___________________________
I certify that I understand that the Elections Codes, Posting Regulations and Candidates’ Packet are available online at the Elections Commission page of the Student Government Website (http://www.sa.sc.edu/sg/electioninformation) and a hard copy is available in the Campus Life Center. I further certify that I have read the Election Codes pertaining to filing for office and the qualifications of the office for which I am running (both included in the Candidates’ Packet) and that I am qualified for that office under all stated guidelines. I understand that if I am not in good academic or disciplinary standing, I am ineligible to run for office or serve in any capacity.

By filing this application and signing this form, I am authorizing the Student Government Advisor, or his/her assistants, on my behalf pursuant to election code 4-2-60(B), to obtain information from the Registrar’s Office and the Office of Student Judicial Programs. The information to be shared with the Student Government Advisor may include: my college of enrollment, grade point average, cumulative hours carried, and disciplinary records. I further understand the Student Government Advisor will inform the Elections Commission of my eligibility.

Signature: __________________________________________ Date: ____________________
The Carolinian Creed

Note: This form must be submitted to the Elections Commission at the Mandatory Candidate Meeting on January 28th.

The ideals that are embodied in the Carolinian Creed are essential to having a successful Student Body Election. Therefore, we would like each candidate to read and sign below as an agreement to conduct his/her campaign in accordance with the ideals of the Carolinian Creed:

As a Carolinian . . .

I will practice personal and academic integrity;

I will respect the dignity of all persons;

I will respect the rights and property of others;

I will discourage bigotry, while striving to learn from differences in people, ideas, and opinions;

I will demonstrate concern for others, their feelings, and their need for conditions which support their work and development;

Allegiance to these ideals requires each Carolinian to refrain from and discourage behaviors which threatens the freedom and respect every individual deserves.

________________________________________
Candidate Name

________________________________________
Candidate Signature

________________________________________
Date
# Campaign Staff List

**Note:** Pursuant to Election Code 4-2-60(C), campaign staff list is due at filing & needs to be finalized to the Elections Commission at the Mandatory Candidate Meeting on January 28th.

Candidate: ___________________________ Office: ___________________________

Campaign Manager: ___________________________ Email: ___________________________

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I certify the above information to be correct and will inform the Elections Commission immediately of any changes, additions, or removal of information of this list.

**Signature:** ___________________________ **Date:** ___________________________