

Committee on Student Elections (CSE) Bylaws
Goes in Conjunction with the CSE Guidelines

Revised by CSE Chair Laura Perkinson '14
Approved by SGA on Tuesday September 19, 2013

Article I - Authority

1. The Committee on Student Elections (CSE) shall conduct and regulate all elections, under the jurisdiction of the Johns Hopkins University Student Government Association (SGA).
2. If a decision of the CSE should be appealed by a candidate, the decision shall be turned over to the SGA Judiciary.
3. The CSE is authorized to set all election procedures and officer qualifications.
4. Any undergraduate, regardless of candidacy in the election, who interferes with the election procedures, shall be referred by the CSE to the proper authorities for appropriate disciplinary action.

Article II - Membership

1. The CSE shall consist of seven members nominated by the Appointments and Evaluations (A&E) Committee. These members shall elect amongst themselves one person to serve as Chair. There shall also be a non-undergraduate administrator that oversees the actions of the group and who is familiar with the Johns Hopkins Student Government Association's policies and procedures.
2. At no time shall members of the SGA and/or class officers be members of the CSE.
3. The Chair of the CSE shall chair all meetings of the CSE, must report the SGA 2 weeks before each election to discuss election processes for the following election, and function as spokesperson for the board.
4. Should a member of the CSE resign, be removed, or for any reason be incapable of continued service during the academic year, the CSE chair shall immediately work with the SGA Appointments and Evaluations Committee so it may fill the vacancy.
5. A member may have his or her office revoked by a majority vote of the CSE or by a 2/3 majority vote of the SGA.
6. Quorum shall consist of a minimum of five members of the CSE, with one being the chair; however, under special circumstances such as during the vacancy period when not all seven members have been appointed, the available CSE members shall make a decision amongst themselves.

Article III - Amendments and Interpretation

1. The CSE may revise its by-laws by a 2/3 vote of the CSE members present and subject to approval by a 2/3 SGA vote.
2. Amendments to this constitution will be made by a 2/3 vote of the CSE members present, subject to approval by a 2/3 SGA vote.
3. The final authority to interpret this constitution shall lie with the SGA Judiciary. However, the A&E Committee has the authority to make suggestions to the CSE.
4. No changes to the CSE's rules may occur from the start of campaigning period for Executive elections to the end of appeals for Upper classmen Senate elections.

Article IV - Election Rules & Procedures

1. There shall be a total of three elections per year:
 - a. The Freshman Senate elections
 - b. The Executive SGA board elections
 - c. The Upper classmen Senate elections

2. Candidates must follow the rules here laid out by the CSE or be subject to disqualification:
 - a. Postering Rules
 - i. Candidates can flyer after the deadline for submitting candidate petition forms.
 - ii. All flyers that are on university housing property must be approved by the Office of Residential Life before being posted.
 - iii. The candidate may poster on any of their own personal property
 - iv. The candidate may not poster on other individual's personal property without that individual's consent.
 - v. All flyers not in university housing property need to be approved by CSE via email at cse@jhusga.com before being posted.

 - b. Campaign Finance Rules
 - i. Candidates for Freshman elections shall not spend over \$50 on their campaign
 - ii. Candidates for Executive Board elections shall not spend over \$100 on their campaign
 - iii. Candidates for Upper classmen elections shall not spend over \$75 on their campaign
 - iv. All candidates must produce a Campaign spending report which outlines their spending of the campaign
 - v. All write-in candidates must submit candidate spending form before assuming office and must abide by the campaign finance limit for their specific elections. All Write in candidates must gain at least 25 votes from their respective class.
 - vi. Candidate spending reform is due when voting ends and will be reviewed by the committee.
 - vii. Candidates will not be put on the ballot if any form is missing before voting period begins with the exception of the candidate spending.
 - viii. For all elections, each black and white 8 ½ x 11 poster is assumed to cost \$0.07 and each color copy is assumed to cost \$0.20 regardless of using public or private services. Public services include any services that payment is made to a business or vendor. Private services include personal printers, scanners or any electronic machine owned by an individual.

 - c. Election Timeline
 - i. Freshman elections must occur before the second week of October
 - ii. Executive elections must occur before the end of first week of April
 - iii. Upper classmen Senate elections must occur before the end of the fourth week in April
 - iv. Election timelines are subject to change according to the CSE's discretion

 - d. Petitioning
 - i. All candidates must submit a petition form from the appropriate constituency in order

- to be an eligible candidate.
 - ii. Each freshman candidate must solicit 200 signatures by himself or herself from the Freshman class in order to be considered a candidate for Freshman election.
 - iii. Each Executive Board Candidate must solicit 300 signatures total by himself or herself from all classes to be considered a candidate.
 - iv. Each upper classmen Senate candidate must solicit 100 signatures by himself or herself from their respective classes (i.e sophomores, juniors and seniors)
 - v. No drugs, alcohol or illegal narcotics can be used to solicit signatures.
- e. Attendance Policy
- i. Candidates must attend one mandatory session to be considered a candidate.
 - ii. ii. Make-ups can be granted at the discretion of the CSE chair
- f. Proper Campaigning: *Campaigning is defined as the indirect or direct utilization of personal or public services to assist in getting votes.*
- i. All candidates, on the ballot or write in, must represent themselves in a tasteful and respectful manner
 - ii. No candidate shall solicit offensive or explicit material
 - iii. No candidate shall speak negatively against another candidate
 - iv. No candidate may use any listserv or mass emailing services of student groups or organizations in which Johns Hopkins undergraduates are members of.
 - v. No mass text messages can be used to campaign.
 - vi. Correspondence including, but not limited to, emails, letters, Facebook messages, Facebook wall posts, Twitter private messages, or text messages may be sent to individuals but must address the said recipient by his/her name.
 - vii. Letters cannot be put under doors in university housing but can be sent to mailboxes.
 - viii. The use of social networking sites such as Facebook is allowed. All previous and following rules still apply, explicitly those set out under 'Proper Campaigning,' including but not limited to 'all candidates must represent themselves in a tasteful and respectful manner,' and 'no candidate shall speak negatively against another candidate.' All Facebook and other social networking “groups” must be open for access to everyone in the Johns Hopkins network, and any fliers, including electronic, must be approved by CSE via email at cse@jhusga.com.
 - ix. “Dormstorming” (petitioning or campaigning door to door in university housing) is against University policy and therefore against CSE rules and is not permitted.
 - x. No drugs or alcohol can be used to solicit votes.
 - xi. If unsure about any of the preceding or following rules contact CSE via cse@jhusga.com for clarification.
3. Disqualification Procedures
- a. If a candidate is found to be guilty of any of the **preceding** or following rules, he/she may be disqualified:
- i. If campaigning alone or with other candidates as a group and anyone on your campaigning team violates any of the preceding rules, the candidates will be held responsible.
 - ii. ii. The CSE reserves the right to evaluate any violation at their discretion.

4. Complaints and Violations

- a. If you discover any violation of these rules, you must contact the CSE ASAP via email at cse@jhusga.com with hard evidence such as pictures, copy of letters etc. of the alleged violation.
- b. The last date for all complaints to be filed to the CSE is 7am on the Monday after voting period ends.
- c. When a formal complaint is filed to the CSE, the CSE will notify all relevant parties and determine the validity of the alleged complaint.
- d. The CSE's decision will be made within 24 hours from the period that the formal complaint is filed.
- e. If a candidate wishes to appeal the CSE's decision, the appeal must be made in writing to the SGA Judiciary at judiciary@jhusga.com within 24 hours of the announcement of the CSE's decision.
- f. The CSE's chair must be informed by the candidate if he/she chooses to appeal the CSE's decision.
- g. Decisions by the SGA Judiciary are final and may not be appealed.