

ELECTION LAWS PERTAINING TO SENATE ELECTIONS

700.4 The individual receiving a plurality of votes in the Senate election shall be awarded the concerned seat. In the event a vacancy shall occur the individual receiving the next highest number in the election shall be awarded the concerned seat. In the event the seat was uncontested, the seat will be available in the next vacancy election. The Clerk of the Student Government Association shall be responsible for maintaining these records. This clause applies to Senate seats only; Executive Officer vacancies shall be filled according to Article IV, Section H of the Constitution.

700.5 All elections sponsored by the Student Government Association shall be held electronically by secret ballot. The time, place, and date of such elections shall be publicly announced seven (7) calendar days in advance.

700.7 The advisor to the Senate and the Clerk shall secure the ballots and all other election records for seven (7) calendar days after the election, after which they shall destroy and or delete the ballots and all other election records, unless a member of the Student Government Association reports a violation of any Election Law. This report must be made in writing to the SGA Clerk within seven (7) calendar days after the election in which the alleged violation occurred.

700.8 There shall be no candidates added to the ballot after the application deadline has passed in any Student Government Association election.

700.10 In General Elections there shall be an absentee ballot box located in the Student Government Association office three (3) calendar days before Election Day. All absentee votes must be cast the day prior to the election.

700.11 To cast a vote in any Student Government Association sponsored election, each Troy University student must present a current Trojan ID that must be Blackboard approved at the polling place. Refusal to comply will result in the student not being allowed to vote.

700.12 The voting procedure shall be as follows:

- a. The student will present their own Trojan ID card to the SGA member working the polling place outside of the polling place doors.
- b. The SGA member will verify the student's name and ID number in the Troy University student database via Blackboard by initialing next to the student's name.
- c. The student will receive a voting pass, which they must take into the polling place.
- d. The student will turn in the voting pass to the SGA member inside of the polling place, and in turn will be granted permission to use one of the computers specifically designated for on-line voting.
- e. The student's ID card must remain visible during the entire voting process.
- f. The student may not speak to anyone in the polling place or remainder of the room while voting.
- i. The student may not use their cellular phone while voting in the polling place.
- j. The student will verify their required information to log into the Votenet system.

k. The student may not remain in the polling place following completion of the ballot for any reason.

l. If for any reason, power and broadband is lost, paper ballots and ID lists will be used.

700.13 Fraudulent voting is strictly prohibited. It is illegal for any student to assume the identity of another student for any purpose. If a student is caught partaking in fraudulent voting practices, the SGA will pursue the case. Fraudulent voting activity is defined as but not limited to:

a. Voting with a student ID number, student ID card, social security number, email address or any other piece of information requested at the polling place that does not belong to the student presenting it.

b. Voluntarily giving your student ID number, student ID card, social security number, email address or any other piece of information requested at the polling place to any other individual.

c. One individual voting multiple times.

d. Tampering with the outcome of the election results.

e. Violating a single or multiple guideline illustrated in the Oracle, University Technology Policy, or any other standard set forth by Troy University.

f. Unethical conduct, which shall be determined by the SGA Executive Council and the university administration, could result in judicial hearing.

700.15 If an individual or organization is caught partaking in fraudulent voting activity during an Executive Officer Election, Senate Election, or Vacancy Election, the punishment will include but not be limited to the following:

a. That candidate and any individuals involved will be banned from any type of membership in the SGA, elected or appointed, during his or her tenure at Troy University.

b. The SGA Supreme Court will hold a hearing and will determine whether further action needs to be taken.

c. The SGA Executive Council will write a referral to the SGA Supreme Court of suggested punishments.

d. The matter may be referred to the Troy University Judicial Affairs Committee for further discussion and appropriate action.

700.16 In sections 700.13 and 700.14, the term ‘organization’ is defined as two or more individuals working together in fraudulent voting activities that are members of a single organization.

700.17 All times and dates can be changed by the Clerk with the Executive Committee’s approval.

701.1 All campaign laws and violations are subject to the regulation of the Clerk who shall be assisted by the Director of Elections.

701.2 There shall be no campaigning of any form within the building in which the polling place is located on the day of the election. This includes any of the campaign materials listed in sections 701.7-701.22. This rule will be enforced at the discretion of the Clerk and Director of Elections.

701.3 It is the candidate's responsibility to make sure that no one is wearing a candidate's campaign material or distributing a candidate's campaign material on the day of the election inside the building where the polling place is located.

701.4 The Clerk is responsible for removing all signs posted in the building where the election is being held prior to the opening of the polls.

701.5 All campaigning may begin the day after the application due date at 12:00 a.m. No Campaigning may occur prior to this time. If campaigning occurs prior to this time, the Candidate will be disqualified. All social media pages may not be public or published prior to this time.

701.6 No food or beverages are allowed in any SGA campaign.

Campaigning Tips:

- Face to face is always the best method for doing anything, but especially when it comes to elections. Utilize the opportunities you have to talk to fellow students in the Trojan Center, SAGA and especially during class or just simply walking through campus. Ask them to vote for you one on one.
- Facebook is probably the easiest way to get the word out about your running. Create a group and let them know the dates, and make sure they know where they can go to vote.
- Use catchy slogans. You want your potential voters to be able to distinguish you from the rest of your competition.
- Every academic building on campus has bulletin boards that can be used to display flyers and things of that nature. The campaign rules specifically identify places that signs cannot be hung, so please abide by the guidelines set.
- Also take advantage of the other campus organizations on campus. Most organizations don't mind visitors, and with their permission wouldn't mind if you came and spoke with them about the election and to ask for their vote. Every organization is different; therefore YOU must approach the organization to ask for this favor.
- **ALSO REMEMBER THAT IF YOU ARE HANGING CAMPAIGN MATERIALS OUTSIDE, MAKE SURE THEY ARE SOMEWHAT WEATHERPROOF.**

If you have any further questions regarding the election or campaigning, feel free to contact me at (256) 874-4927 or any other SGA member, and we will do our best to assist your need! Go Trojans!