

# **Boston University College of Arts and Sciences Student Government**

## **Election Rules**

\_\_\_\_ REVISION 5/2020 APPROVED \_\_\_\_

### **Introduction**

These election procedures and rules are written for the purpose of electing the President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of Financial Affairs, Vice President of Student Affairs, and Vice President of Public Relations of the Boston University College of Arts and Sciences Student Government.

The College of Arts and Sciences Office of Student Programs and Leadership (CAS OSPL) will enforce any and all regulations, rules, policies, and procedures relating to the Boston University College of Arts Sciences Student Government elections. In addition to these procedures and rules, it is expected that all candidates and campaigns will conduct their activities in accordance with all applicable University policies and procedures.

### **Section I - Eligibility of Candidates and Voters**

#### I. Candidates

- A. All Candidates for office must be full-time undergraduate students in good academic and judicial standing and majoring in the Boston University College of Arts and Sciences.
- B. Candidates may run for only one elected position during a semester.
- C. Graduating seniors are not eligible to run for any officer position in the semester they intend to graduate.

#### II. Voters

- A. Eligible voters are full-time undergraduate students majoring in the Boston University College of Arts and Sciences.

### **Section II - Election Timeline**

- I. The election will be held annually during the spring semester. Exact dates will be set by the Boston University Student Elections Commission.
- II. The filing deadline for elections will be set by the Boston University Student Elections Commission.
- III. The Campaigning period will be set by the Boston University Student Elections Commission.
- IV. Election results will be announced within two academic days of the end of the voting period.
- V. In the event of a tie for first place, a revote shall occur between the Slatetickets that have tied for first place. The CAS OSPL will establish and publish the timeline for the revote.

- VI. The winning ticket will assume office on the day following the Boston University All-University Commencement Ceremony, and hold office until the day of the Boston University All-University Commencement Ceremony the following academic year.
- VII. A transition meeting will be held prior to the end of the outgoing ticket's term in office.

### **Section III - Candidate Registration**

- I. Filing with CAS OSPL
  - A. All portions of the Intent to Run Form must be submitted via the CAS OSPL voting website prior to the filing deadline. The Intent to Run Form packet includes:
    - 1. Intent to Run Form, completed and submitted electronically.
    - 2. Slate Photograph/Ticket Photograph, submitted electronically, to be used in voter information materials and on the voting website. The photograph should depict only the candidates.
  - B. An email confirmation will be sent to the slate once all portions of the Intent to Run Form/Ticket Intent packet have been received by the CAS OSPL.
  - C. Slates will be considered registered upon verification of eligibility as outlined in *Section I - Eligibility of Candidates and Voters*.

### **Section IV - Campaign Rules**

- I. Individual candidates may not file for more than one slate during a given election cycle. Individual candidates may also not file for candidacy in both the CAS Student Government election and the BU Student Government election during a given election cycle.
- II. A candidate or slate choosing to withdraw their name from the ballot must do so in writing and a signed statement submitted to the CAS OSPL.
- III. No write-in option will be available during the CAS Student Government election cycle.
- IV. All campaigning is strictly limited to the campaign period. Any candidate who begins campaigning prior to the start of the campaign period will be deemed in violation of the Election Rules.
  - A. Discussion of candidates, campaigns, or election topics in a verbal manner is allowed outside of the campaign period; however, it cannot be done in an official capacity (e.g. club meetings, club events).
  - B. Any promotion utilizing physical and/or electronic media is prohibited until the start of the campaign period.
- V. All campaign materials **MUST**:
  - A. Not be physically damaging to others' personal property or grounds;
  - B. Not slander opponents or their campaigns;
  - C. Comply with Boston University posting guidelines;

- D. Not use any Boston University, CAS Student Government, or or other trademarked logos;
- E. Not violate local, state, or federal law.
- VI. The following restrictions apply to campaigning zones:
  - A. Libraries: campaigning may not be conducted in any University library.
  - B. University Housing: Campaigning in Boston University Housing must comply with the rules, restrictions, and policies of Boston University and the Office of Housing.
- VII. The CAS OSPL reserves the right to issue a Cease and Desist Order to any campaign for any action that may or may not be specified in the Election Rules that is deemed to be an inappropriate or improper form of campaigning.

### **Section V - Campaign Expenses**

- I. The CAS Student Government shall be the sole provider of funding for campaign expenses. Slates/Tickets are not permitted to spend personal funds on campaigning.
- II. Each slate will be granted \$200.00 to use for campaigning expenses.
- III. The CAS OSPL reserves the right to request an itemized list of campaign costs at any time.

### **Section VI - Voting Procedures**

- I. Elections will be conducted online and organized by the Boston University Student Elections Commission.
  - A. Students will be required to verify their identity online via the Student Link.
- II. Only eligible voters may cast a vote, as outlined in *Section I - Eligibility of Candidates and Voters*.
- III. Students may vote at any time during the voting period. Without exception, votes may not be cast after the end of the voting period.
- IV. Once a vote has been submitted, it may not be cancelled or altered by the voter.
- V. The CAS OSPL reserves the right to disqualify votes for ineligible candidates.

### **Section VII - Election Rule Violations**

- I. The Election Rules and Procedures are under the jurisdiction of the CAS OSPL, which serves as the hearing board.
- II. Filing an Alleged Election Rule Violation Report
  - A. Any full-time undergraduate student studying in the Boston University College of Arts and Sciences may file a report.
  - B. The alleged violation must be submitted via the online Election Rule Violation form.

- C. The violation must be submitted within 24 hours of gaining reasonable knowledge that the violation has occurred.
- D. The CAS OSPL shall decide whether a violation has taken place, according to the evidence presented, and after discussing the incident with both parties involved. If a violation has occurred, the CAS OSPL shall then decide upon the appropriate action to be taken, and the decision shall be presented to the candidate.
- E. If the CAS OSPL determines that a violation has occurred, the party found responsible for the violation has the right to appeal the decision within 24 hours to the CAS Associate Dean for Student Academic Life. The decision stated by the CAS Associate Dean for Student Academic Life closes the case.

### **Section VIII - Vacancy of Office**

- I. In the event of vacancy in the office of the President, the Executive Vice President shall become the President.
- II. In the event of a vacancy of the Executive Vice President, the Vice President of Financial Affairs, the Vice President of Student Affairs, or the Vice President of Public Relations, a successor shall be appointed by the President, in consultation with the remaining seated members of the Executive Board, and subject to approval by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the organization's active membership.

### **Section IX - Impeachment and Removal from Office**

- I. A two-thirds vote of the organization's active membership shall be necessary to impeach an elected member of the CAS Student Government, provided that written notice specifying charges is given to all members of the organization and the Advisor at least one General Assembly meeting prior to the motion.
- II. Upon impeachment, a three-fourths vote of the organization's active membership shall be necessary to convict any elected member of the CAS Student Government.
- III. All appointed members of the CAS Student Government may be removed from office by their appointing officer. Such a person must be given 10 class days written notice of removal.
- IV. Any person removed from an elected or appointed office has the right to file an appeal with the CAS Assistant Dean for Student Academic Life within 10 class days.
- V. All impeachment and removal votes shall be completed by secret ballot, and tallied by the Advisor.

### **Section X - Amendments of the CAS Student Government Election Rules**

- I. These Election Rules may be amended by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the organization's active membership. The amendment shall become effective after approval by the CAS Student Government President and the Advisor.