

**Florida A&M University
Student Government Association
50th Student Senate
SB20FA-003**

Author: Senate President Brown
Sponsor: Chairman Walter, Liaison Braggs
First Reading: October 12, 2020
Second Reading: October 12, 2020

Title: Reverting the Fall Election Schedule
Legislation: Senate Bill

Whereas, The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Student Senate is the Legislative Branch of the Student Government Association and is empowered to pass legislation as it deems necessary to carry out the functions of the Student Government Association, and

Whereas, The Student Senate has an annual responsibility of ensuring the governing documents of the Student Government Association and the Student Body function in a capacity that is in the best interest of the Students, and

Whereas, The previous change to the Fall declaration of candidacy schedule would invalidate the previous elections from this semester and the changes were made in the General Primary Election section of the statutes, therefore they did not specify application to the new or special election, and

Whereas, Chapter 600 will revert back to its original state and the previous dates approved for the new and special election stand for the Electoral Commission which start the Declaration of Candidacy at October 26th and reinstate the positions from the completed elections,

Therefore, **Be it amended** that Chapter 600 in the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University's Student Body Statues be reverted back to its original state as follows:

Proviso Language: This piece of legislation will take effect upon signage by the Student President.

TITLE VII ELECTION CODE

Chapter 600 General Primary Election Schedule 600.

1. Election Schedule

The election schedule shall be as follows:

1. Declaration of Candidacy
2. Dead Days
3. Campaign Period
4. Election Day
5. Run-off Election Day

2. Declaration of Candidacy

1. Fall Timeframe:

Declaration of Candidacy will take place during the third (3rd) week of the Fall Semester (Monday – Friday). Declaration of Candidacy will run from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. each day. Declaration of Candidacy forms may be obtained from the Electoral Commissioner no earlier than 9:00 a.m. on the first school day of the third week of the Fall Semester and must be submitted by 6:00 p.m. on the last day of the Declaration Period. The Candidate/Ticket shall sign and date the form. The Electoral Commission shall sign and date the form “received.”

2. Spring Timeframe:

Declaration of Candidacy for Spring Elections will take place during the first week of February in the Spring Semester (Monday - Wednesday). Declaration of Candidacy will run from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. each day. Declaration of Candidacy forms may be obtained from the Electoral Commissioner no earlier than 9:00 a.m. on the first school day of the first week of February and must be submitted by 6:00 p.m. on the last day of the Declaration Period. The Candidate/Ticket shall sign and date the form. The Electoral Commission shall sign and date the form "received".

3. Candidates Responsibilities:

All Candidates/Tickets must sign the "Candidate's Statement of Understanding" indicating that he/she will adhere to the rules submitted by the Electoral Commission. Any candidate not adhering to the rules will be subjected to suspension from all campaigning activities.

4. Electoral Commission Duties and Responsibilities

a. The Electoral Commission shall immediately post an un-official list of the Candidates/Tickets filing for office on the Election Bulletin Board and sent via FAMUInfo and /or istrike at 6:00 p.m. on the last day of the Declaration of Candidacy Period.

b. The Electoral Commission shall provide all potential Candidates/Tickets:

1. A copy of the Election Code

2. An Election Schedule detailing all elections activities/meetings.

3. All the forms required to be used in Chapter 600 shall be made available upon request, in alternative electronic formats, as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Public L. No 101-33b, and 42 U.S.C. ss. 1202 et. Esq. by the Electoral Commission.

5. Responsibilities of the Attorney General:

The Attorney General shall provide the Electoral Commission with a current, indexed pamphlet of the Election Code prior to the Declaration of Candidacy Period. The cost of printing the pamphlets shall be paid out of funds appropriated for conducting elections

6. Changing Declaration of Candidacy Period:

The Student Senate with 2/3 vote of all those present and voting may change the time of the declaration with at least two weeks' notice prior to the original date of declaration. This change will only be in effect for the current academic semester.

a. All tickets are valid only as declared. Changes will not be made after 6 p.m. on the last day of the Declaration of Candidacy Period.

b. Students may only be declared for candidacy for one position per election.

c. The Electoral Commission shall allow students to declare candidacy when away from school by any means of communication via fax, mail or email format, during the declaration period.

3. Dead Days

Spring and Fall Timeframe:

Dead Days will take place from the first day after the Declaration Period ends until the day before the first day of the Campaign Period.

Period of Dead Day the Electoral Commission shall:

1. Verify all campaign materials.

2. Approve all campaign materials

3. Obtain and approve sample ballots for each voting academic class to be approved by all Candidates/Tickets. Candidates/Tickets shall meet with the Electoral Commissioner the first Monday of the Dead Day period between 9:00am and 6:00pm to verify that he/ she is accurately represented on the ballot for his/her academic class. All candidates/Tickets who fail to meet this deadline forfeit this opportunity.

4. Host in person and/or virtual events and promote initiatives that emphasize the importance of the democratic process.

4. Campaign Period

Campaign Period (Wednesday-Tuesday) shall commence on the first school day following the Dead Days and end on the Tuesday of the following week. In the instance of a run-off election, the campaign period will end on the Thursday following said Tuesday.

5. Election Day

1. A General Election shall be held on the final day of Campaign Period from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

2. The Electoral Commissioner shall post the voters bill of rights and Responsibilities on the opening page of the electronic ballot. In the event at each voting precinct, the Voter's Bill of Rights and Responsibilities shall be posted at each voting precinct. This document shall be passed by a two-thirds 600.6 (2/3) vote of the Student Senate.

6. Run-off Election

If no candidate/ticket in any race achieves a majority (50 % +1) of all votes cast for that race, a Run-off Election shall be held. If a Run-off Election is required:

1. The Run-off Election shall be held within two (2) business days after the general elections.

2. The two candidates receiving the highest vote count in the general election shall run in the Run-off Election, which shall be subject to the following exceptions:

a. In any election in which there is a tie for first place in the general election, only the names of the candidates/tickets so tying shall be placed on the ballot in the run-off election.

b. In any election in which there is a tie for second place in the general election and the candidate/ ticket placing first did not receive a majority of the votes cast, the name of the candidate/ticket placing first and the names of the candidates/tickets tying for second shall be placed on the ballot in the Runoff election.

c. The candidate who receives the highest number of votes cast for the office in the Run-off shall be declared elected. In case of a tie another runoff shall occur.

3. There shall be no write-in votes cast in a Run-off Election.

4. Run-off Elections for multiple seat races will only be held in case of a tie for the last seat.

7. Secret Balloting

In all elections held on any subject which may be submitted to a vote, the voting shall be by secret, official ballot which will be sent via FAMU emails of the student body and/or printed and distributed as provided by this code, and no vote shall be received or counted in any election, except as prescribed by this code.

Exceptions

- A. Any proposed deviation from the election schedule must be sent to the E&A committee in the form of a memorandum at least five (5) business days prior to the start of the declaration period. A revised schedule must be presented by the Electoral Commissioner to the senate and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
- B. B. Online Voting shall be the primary way that the Electoral Commission shall conduct elections. Paper balloting shall only be used in the event of a system malfunction or failure, or if the system is unable to be used.

For Office Use Only

For: 13

Opposed: 0


Abstain: 1

Pass:

Fail:

Student Senate President 

Date: 10/13/2020

Student Body President 

Date: 10/14/20

