



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

2244 THE U 1705 BADGER STREET LA CROSSE, WI 54601 (608) 785-8775

BYLAWS OF THE UWL STUDENT ASSOCIATION: ELECTION COMMISSION

ARTICLE I- NAME

Section 1.1-

The name of this committee shall be the Election Commission, a commission of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (UWL) Student Senate, the legislative branch of the UWL Student Association.

ARTICLE II- PURPOSE

Section 2.1-

This Commission is set-up solely to administer and monitor all elections and referenda of the UWLSA. The objectives of the Election Commission are to ensure a fair campaign period and a fair election. The Election Commission is to be free of any political influences of Student Government. These objectives shall underlie all activities of the Election Commission.

ARTICLE III- MEMBERSHIP

Section 3.1- Inclusivity of Members

The members of the Election Commission shall be free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, military or veteran status, proficiency of language, physical ability, marital status, national origin, political ideology, or age.

Section 3.2- Voting Members

The Election Commission shall consist of six (6) students, and either the Dean of Students or a designee.

3.201- Student representatives shall be composed of two (2) non-returning Senators and four (4) at-large students. The UWLSA Student Court Justices cannot serve on the Election Commission. If on the Election Commission, one cannot be on the Executive Cabinet for the following school year. All student appointments must be approved by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the Student Senate.

3.202- Commission members shall serve for one (1) academic year.

3.203- Commission members shall be appointed by the Student Court in the spring semester prior to the fall term in which they will begin serving.

3.204- Vacancy of seat shall be filled by appointment from the Student Court and approved by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the Student Senate.



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

2244 THE U 1705 BADGER STREET LA CROSSE, WI 54601 (608) 785-8775

Section 3.3- Election of Officers

3.301- Positions

The commission shall elect a commissioner and recorder from its membership.

This will be done by the end of the first meeting of the year by a majority cast for election.

3.302- Term

The election commissioner and recorder shall serve for one (1) academic year and their term shall begin immediately after election.

3.303- Vacancy

If a vacancy of the commissioner or recorder occurs, a replacement shall be elected by the same election process.

Section 3.4- Removal

3.401- Removal of any commission member shall require a 2/3 vote of the body followed by a resolution approved by the Student Senate with a 2/3 vote.

ARTICLE IV: RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 4.1- Duties of the Commission

4.101- The Election Commission shall, acting in accordance with all provisions of the UWLSA Constitution, have the authority to establish any rules it deems necessary for the purpose of conducting an election and/or Student Senate referendum.

4.102- Draft a statement to be sent to all division or department heads (to then be forwarded to all faculty and staff) prior to the campaign period outlining that an endorsement for or against a specific candidate or candidates is prohibited.

4.104- Prior to the campaign period, distribute the Election Commission Bylaws, Campus Publicity Guidelines, and Residence Life policies to the candidates. Upon candidate request, the Election Commission should supply hard copies of these documents.

4.105- Maintaining an accurate account of the total funds each candidate has fundraised and spent.

ARTICLE V: DUTIES OF STUDENTS

Section 5.1- Election Commissioner

- a. Call meetings of the commission



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- b. Preside at meetings of the commission
- c. Prepare and establish an agenda for the committee
- d. Account for all Senate vacancies and comprise a list of total available seat positions prior to the end of the nomination period
- e. Ensure compliance with Wisconsin Open Meetings Law

Section 5.2- Recorder

- a. Maintain a file of all records, appeals, and minutes
- b. Share a copy of all materials with the UWLSA secretary for further publication

Section 5.3-

Members of the Election Commission are encouraged to refrain from participating in any UWLSA campaign activity while serving on the commission, including both on and off campus activities.

ARTICLE VI: VOTING

Section 6.1- Quorum

A quorum will consist of a simple majority of the voting members.

Section 6.2- Motions

Action of the committee shall be by a majority vote.

Section 6.3-Proxy Voting

Members will not be allowed to utilize proxy voting.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

Section 7.1-

Meetings shall be held as needed at the discretion of the commissioner during the academic year.

7.101- Mandatory Meetings

The Commission must meet at the beginning of the campaign cycle to discuss rules of the campaign with candidates. The Commission must meet on the night of the election to certify the results and notify candidates.

Section 7.2- Convening the First Meeting

It shall be the duty of the Dean of Students (or designee) to convene the commission of each academic year.



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–LA CROSSE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

2244 THE U 1705 BADGER STREET LA CROSSE, WI 54601 (608) 785-8775

Section 7.3- Open Meetings

All meetings will be held in compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

7.301- The commission shall have the ability to enter a closed session for discussion of sensitive matters pertaining to individuals.

7.302- The commission is required to be in closed session to validate the results of the election.

Section 7.4- Parliamentary Procedure

Robert's Revised Rules of Order shall be used as the parliamentary authority.

Section 7.5- Business Conduct

7.501- The commission will conduct its business in accordance with the rules of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

7.502- The commission will conduct its business in accordance with the rules of the University of Wisconsin System.

7.503- The commission will conduct its business in accordance with the rules of the State of Wisconsin.

Section 7.6- Dissolution

The Election Commission shall dissolve on the final day of the academic year of which it is convened.

ARTICLE VIII: ATTENDANCE

Section 8.1- Absences

Members will be given one (1) unexcused absence and two (2) excused absences.

Absences must be excused by the Commissioner. More absences than this will be considered abandonment of the commission and will result in dismissal.

ARTICLE IX: VOTERS

Section 9.1- Eligibility

All undergraduate and graduate students who are registered at UWL for the semester at which the election will be held are eligible to vote. Students may vote for candidates for executive positions and senatorial candidates in the college (or school) in which they are enrolled.

9.101 Special Elections

Any student who is a first-time degree-seeking student or a continuing degree-



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seeking student who has less than 30 credits from other sources (Advanced Placement classes in high school, transfer credits from other institutions, etc.) is eligible to vote for the First Year Senator positions. Any student who is enrolled in a Graduate program at UW-La Crosse is eligible to vote for the Graduate Senator positions.

Section 9.2- Procedure

Voters may vote for only one candidate, cast no vote at all, or to write in a name which does not appear on the ballot.

9.201- Executive Positions

No voter shall cast more than one vote for each executive position.

Students may vote for any combination of one candidate for President and one candidate for Vice President.

9.202- Senator Elections

The number of votes that a student may cast in their college (or school) shall be equal to the number of open positions.

ARTICLE X: CANDIDATES

Section 10.1- Eligibility

Any candidate for office shall maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 at the time of election and must meet the qualifications for that office as established by the UWLSA Constitution. Students running for a college seat must be currently enrolled as a member of that college. If a student is working towards majors in different colleges, the student may choose the college in which they run. Teacher candidates may fill the seat regardless of the college in which their major is housed, as long as they have a declared major in a program for future educators. Write-in candidates shall be responsible to know and adhere to all election and campaign rules. Candidates for First Year Senator must be either a first-time degree-seeking student or a continuing degree-seeking student who has less than 30 credits from other sources (Advanced Placement classes in high school, transfer credits from other institutions, etc.). Candidates for Graduate Senator must be Graduate students currently enrolled in a Graduate program.

Section 10.2- Filing

All candidates must complete and file the proper nomination form into the Office of Student Life by 4:00pm by the final day of the nomination period. The Commission shall oversee the sending of nomination papers to the student body no less than two class weeks prior to the due date, in accordance with section 12.1.

10.201- Candidates for President and Vice President may file for office jointly or



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individually. Those who file jointly shall be listed as tickets on the ballot.
10.202- If nomination papers are handed in after the deadline, their eligibility shall be decided by the Commission. The candidate affected shall present their defense to the Election Commission. A vote by simple majority will be needed for requalification.

ARTICLE XI: CAMPAIGN

Section 11.1- Definitions

11.101- Campaigning

Campaigning will be defined as any activity, either written or spoken, that is designed to influence students to vote for a prospective or official candidate or a referendum question on the ballot. Active Campaigning is defined as any activity, written or spoken, that is adding information or influence about the candidate into the world. Passive Campaigning is defined as any material, written, that is already present in the world and simply remains in place after the campaign period is over.

11.102- Endorsements

Any individuals or organizations can endorse a candidate. For organizations, this requires a simple majority vote of members to affirm support in either the candidate, ticket, or slate.

11.103- Slates

Slates are unofficial unions of candidates which promote each other through the campaigning process.

Section 11.2- Campaign Period

In accordance with section 12.1, The campaign period shall begin for a candidate after they have filed completed nomination papers and attended the mandatory meeting with the Election Commission. It shall last at least 3 weeks for Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates and at least 2 weeks for all other Senatorial candidates.

11.201- Both active and passive campaigning outside of the campaign period is discouraged.

Section 11.3- Conduct

Candidates and their supporters must adhere to the Office of Residence Life Policies, Campus Publicity Guidelines, and University Policies. All active campaigning shall be



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done within the boundaries of the UWL campus or in accordance with 11.301 and 11.302 of the Election Commission bylaws. University sponsored or hosted events cannot be used as campaigning opportunities. Resources that are specifically allocated for university organizations cannot be used for campaign purposes. All candidates will have an equal opportunity to access reservable spaces. Candidates may not use the University Seal, Student Association logo or any other copyrighted materials without explicit permission. The Student Senate office area is off-limits for any campaigning or storage of campaigning materials. Candidates and their supporters are NOT allowed to distribute food items or beverages to potential voters. Candidates can come together to create slates and be on more than one slate if they choose.

11.301- Online Conduct

For any online campaigning, the accounts used must be reported to the Commission for monitoring. Official university- or department-managed web pages, sites, and social media accounts cannot be used to campaign. This does not include registered student organization web pages, sites, and social media accounts. Personal web space may be used to campaign. “Reposting” or sharing of digital campaign materials may be done by the social media pages of voters and student organizations, if it is done without coercion or bribery.

11.302- Email

Candidates may use UWL provided email. They may not use any electronically created university administrative lists for campaign purposes or in any other way that violates the university’s Student Handbook. The use of organization lists is acceptable only if the organization has endorsed the candidate. Candidates cannot be the one to send an email to an organization list. Manually entering all email addresses from an already-formed list is acceptable. The use of class lists, provided by Canvas (or similar online educational platform) or faculty, is acceptable.

Section 11.4- Financing

Items purchased to promote the campaign must be directly related to the candidate and/or their promotion. The use of campaign funds to purchase items for giveaways not related to the campaign is prohibited (examples include gift cards, food, technology, etc.). It is allowed to conduct this type of event if the prize is related to the campaign directly such as a t-shirt or button.

11.401- Reporting

If money is raised, it must be reported to the Election Commission. The report should include the amount of money raised and who or what organization donated



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2244 THE U 1705 BADGER STREET LA CROSSE, WI 54601 (608) 785-8775

said money. If the candidate supplied their own funds for the purchase, this must be noted as well. Each candidate must turn in receipts to show how much money has been spent on all expenses. Copy must be given to the Election Commission within 24 hours of the purchase. Any campaign materials that are bought using money that is fundraised must say “AAPFB” or authorized and paid for by candidate name “with donations from” person/organization that donated.

Section 11.5- Violations

The Election Commission is charged with overseeing Campaign Violations and enacting consequences they deem necessary. Complaints should be emailed to the Election Commissioner with all relevant supporting material. The Commission shall meet within two (2) class days of receiving the complaint to discuss the consequences of such violation. Candidates are expected to cooperate with any and all inquiries made by the Commission about violations. Candidates are also expected to provide truthful answers and behave with decorum and professionalism.

11.501- Punishments

Disqualification can occur if parts of the Election Bylaws, Residence Life Policies, Campus Publicity Guidelines or University Policy are violated by a candidate or by their supporters with the candidate’s knowledge. Campaign materials that do not meet these standards will be required to be taken down and edited to meet the requirements. Any decision made by the Commission will be available to those whom it affects within two (2) hours of the decision. Failure to comply may result in referral to the Student Life Office under UWS Chapter 17 at majority vote of the election commission.

11.502- Appeals

All Commission judgments may be subject to an appeal from candidate(s) against whom a decision was rendered within one (1) class day of notification. The appeal to the Commission and all correspondence related to it is expected to remain confidential until the matter is fully resolved. Once an appeal is received, the Commission shall meet within two (2) class days of the receipt of the appeal to consider it. Candidates shall have the opportunity to appear in person before the Commission in support of their



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2244 THE U 1705 BADGER STREET LA CROSSE, WI 54601 (608) 785-8775

appeal. During this time, it is expected that the candidates will cooperate with investigative processes and compose themselves with integrity. If any candidate(s) want to appeal, they must take the issue to the Student Court.

ARTICLE XII: ELECTION PROCESS

Section 12.1- Election Schedule

The Commission shall oversee the sending of nomination papers to the student body no less than two class weeks prior to the due date.

The campaign period shall begin for a candidate after they have filed completed nomination papers and attended the mandatory meeting with the Election Commission. It shall last at least 3 weeks for Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates and at least 2 weeks for all other Senatorial candidates. The President/vice presidential debate shall be hosted by the election commission no more than one week, but no less than one day prior to election day.

Spring Elections shall be held on the twelfth (12) week of the semester for senatorial and executive positions. Fall Elections shall be held on the sixth (6) week of the semester. If circumstances arise that do not allow for the dates set by the Commission to be used, the Commission shall announce feasible, substitute dates.

The Commission shall have 5 class days to evaluate and decide if a re-election is necessary.

A notice to the student body will be sent within 24 hours of the Commission's decision. The new election day shall be no later than 2 class days after the notification.

Section 12.2- Conduct of Campaign

Candidates cannot ask, pay or bribe anyone to vote on their behalf. Any organization or entity who campaigns for a referendum or candidate must obey all election conduct outlined in the Election Commission Bylaws.

Section 12.3- Ballot Counting

The Election Commission shall supervise the vote tally. Any person who has access to the voting data while votes are being tallied may not release partial results. All individual voting data will be held by the



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2244 THE U 1705 BADGER STREET LA CROSSE, WI 54601 (608) 785-8775

Commission fourteen class days following the election day at which time they will be inaccessible unless an appeal, recount, or reelection is pending, in which they shall be held until the dispute is resolved.

Aggregate data will be maintained for archival purposes.

12.301- Recounts

Recounts can be requested by a candidate up to three class days after the election. Such a recount is to be authorized by the Commission after hearing the case. A simple majority vote of members is needed for the recount decision.

12.302- Ties

In case of a tie between candidates for an executive or senatorial position, there shall be a runoff election between those tied candidates, two weeks following Election Day.

12.303- Write-ins

In case of write-in candidates for Senate positions, the Election Commission shall determine the winner by write-in votes and individual's consent.

12.304- Certification of Election Results

The Election Commission must certify the election process and results before they are made available to the public. Simple majority of the Election Commission is needed to certify the results. Candidates may request the final counts by contacting the Commissioner.

Section 12.4- Approval of Results

Once the Election Commission has certified the results, a senator from the Commission will compose a resolution to be sent to the Senate. This resolution requires a simple majority vote of the Senate, after the passage of which, the results will be considered “approved.”

Section 12.5- Re-election

The Commission may choose to authorize, through a 2/3 vote, re-election for the office(s) if the election outcome was affected by the violations of a candidate or the actions of parties unassociated with any candidate. In accordance with section 12.1, the Commission shall have 5 class days to evaluate and decide if a re-election is necessary. If a re-election is called, the Commission may leave the names intact, or may



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2244 THE U 1705 BADGER STREET LA CROSSE, WI 54601 (608) 785-8775

disqualify certain names from the ballot for the re-election. If the person(s) making the appeal wish(es) to appeal the action of the Election Commission, they must take the issue to the Student Court.

12.501- Re-election process

A notice to the student body will be sent within 24 hours of the Commission's decision. The new election day shall be no later than 2 class days after the notification.

ARTICLE XIII: AMENDMENTS

Section 13.1- Amendments to Election Commission bylaws shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Commission and the approval of Student Senate.

Ratified and Enacted 05/18/2018

Revised 2/24/2022

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