THE ELECTION RULES OF PURDUE STUDENT GOVERNMENT
REVISED January 16, 2012

Article I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1.01 Authority

The Election Rules of the Purdue Student Government shall take direct authority from Article X, Section 10.04, of the Constitution of the Purdue Student Government. The Election Rules herein shall be subordinate to the Constitution of the Purdue Student Government.

Section 1.02 Ethics

The Student Body shall be arbitrators and legitimizers of any action done in their name, and it shall be the charge of every member of Purdue Student Government to ensure they are presented with an unbiased, fairly conducted and professional election.

Article II. THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Section 2.01 Composition

Part A. The Elections Committee must be composed of at least three members, one being designated as the Elections Director.

Part B. The Elections Committee shall be appointed by the Purdue Student Government Chief of Staff. Upon appointment, the Chief of Staff shall designate the members of the committee.

(a) The Chief of Staff must submit the members of the Election Committee for approval by the second Senate meeting of the spring semester. All members of the election committee, including the Election Director, must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Student Senate.
(b) Members of the Elections Committee are prohibited from filing candidacy for office.
(c) In the event that there is a vacancy on the Elections Committee, the Chief of Staff shall appoint a replacement, subject to two-thirds confirmation by the Student Senate.

Section 2.02 Function

The Elections Committee shall be the primary facilitator of the Student Body Elections and shall be charged with the following responsibilities:

(a) Ensuring a fairly conducted, unbiased and well-publicized election;
(b) Ensuring the timely release of all records and results of the election;
(c) Creating the election schedule, election packets, and all petitions required by these election rules;
(d) Remaining publicly unbiased throughout the Student Body Election;
(e) Contacting all candidates by email before a ticket goes to court for a grievance hearing;
(f) Ensuring that all university rules and regulations are available to the candidates;
(g) Responding to all reasonable administrative requests of the candidates with regard to the Student Body Election within 24 hours.

(i) Requests will be deemed reasonable at the discretion of the Election Director.
Section 2.02 Oversight

Part A. Oversight of the Elections Committee: The Chief of Staff shall maintain direct oversight of the Elections Committee and ensure that the election is proceeding in a timely and organized manner:

(a) Upon findings of untimely and unorganized proceedings, the Chief of Staff shall take the proper steps necessary to ensure a well conducted Student Body Election;
(b) In the event of a removal of an Elections Committee member, proper steps shall be taken as outlined in the Purdue Student Government Constitution, Article XI, Section 11.01, Part B. The Chief of Staff may take over all Elections Committee responsibilities, upon two-thirds confirmation of the Student Senate;
(c) In the event that the Chief of Staff intends to submit a petition for candidacy or publicly support any candidate in the Student Body Election, all of the Chief of Staff’s powers of oversight shall be immediately transferred to an executive officer designated by the Student Body President who does not intend to be a candidate in the election, subject to two-thirds confirmation of the Student Senate. If no executive officer meets these criteria, the power shall be transferred to the most senior (Semester Classification) Student Senator not seeking another term or office, upon two-thirds confirmation of the Student Senate.

Part B. The Student Body President shall be charged with ensuring the competency of the Elections Committee and that the election is proceeding in an unbiased and fairly conducted manner. Upon findings of gross negligence, incompetence, or other malfeasance of office, the Student Body President may immediately recall the Elections Committee, with two-thirds consent of the Student Senate.

Part C. Oversight by the Student Government Advisor(s): The Student Government Advisor(s) is charged with ensuring that the Student Body is presented with a fair and unbiased election.

Article III. STUDENT SUPREME COURT

Section 3.01 Composition

Refer to the Constitution of the Purdue Student Government, Article VII, Section 7.01.

Section 3.02 Function

Part A. The Student Supreme Court shall be responsible for the review, upon petition of any member of the Purdue Student Government, of any document or action of the Student Government with regard to its constitutionality. The Student Supreme Court shall be the primary facilitators for resolving disputes relating to infractions, malfeasance, and/or other violations that may occur throughout the Student Body Elections. The Student Supreme Court may establish a resolution or directive for any unforeseen circumstance that directly affects the Student Body Election for the above disputes. PSSC shall determine point values for violation of directives. The Student Senate may repeal any directives or amend corresponding point values upon majority vote.

Part B. The Student Supreme Court shall be the judicial body of oversight during the Student Body Elections.
Part C. The Student Supreme Court shall reserve scheduled sessions of the Student Supreme Court the first two Fridays following Spring Vacation.

Section 3.03 Procedures

Subject to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Purdue Student Government and the Standing Rules of the Supreme Court, the Student Supreme Court shall be responsible for conducting a proper hearing as outlined in the Purdue Student Supreme Court Standing Rules.

Article IV. PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Section 4.01 Eligibility Requirements

Part A. Members wishing to be placed on the ballot for the Office of Student Body President or Vice President must provide proof to the Elections Committee that they meet the requirements for holding office as stated in Part 7, Section III of the Purdue University Regulations.

Part B. Members must provide proof to the Elections Committee that no less than one thousand members of the current Student Body support their petition for candidacy, as defined in Article VI, of the Election Rules.

Section 4.02 The Formulation of the Ticket

Part A. The Student Body President and Vice President shall run for office as a single, non-splitting ticket.

Part B. The candidates shall make clear which member is running for the Office of Student Body President and which is running for the Office of Student Body Vice President.

Section 4.03 Financial Limitations

Part A. Presidential and Vice Presidential tickets shall be limited to $3,500 in campaign expenditures.

Part B. Presidential and Vice Presidential tickets may not receive campaign contributions in excess of $500.00 from any single source, including any individual or organization.

Article V. SENATORIAL ELECTIONS

Section 5.01 Eligibility Requirements

Part A. Members wishing to be placed on the ballot for the office of School Senator must provide proof that they meet the requirements for holding office as stated in Part 7, Section III of the Purdue University Regulations. Members shall provide proof that they are currently enrolled in the school that they are petitioning to represent.

Part B. Members wishing to represent their college shall provide proof to the Elections Committee that the lesser of five percent or one hundred constituents enrolled within their school supports their candidacy, as outlined in Article VI of the Elections Rules.
Part C. Students filing Senatorial candidacy to represent the Undergraduate Studies Program shall provide proof to the Elections Committee that no fewer than the lesser of five percent or twenty-five constituents within a program support their candidacy.

Part D. Members wishing to represent the Council of Organizations for Respect and Equality (“CORE”) in the Student Senate must provide proof that they meet the requirements for holding office as stated in Part 7, Section III of the Purdue University Regulations and shall initially be screened by the previously elected or appointed CORE Senators, who shall determine the candidates' eligibility as members of CORE.

Part E. Senators representing the Council of Organizations for Respect and Equality (“CORE”) shall be elected in accordance with the procedures outlined in Article VI, Section B of the CORE Constitution. At least one of the Senators elected to represent CORE must qualify as an international student as determined by the Registrar.

Part F. Student Senators running to represent their respective schools shall be elected from and by the students of their respective schools during the election.

Part G. A candidate for Senator shall only appear on the ballot once.

Part H. A third allocated Senate seat belonging to each School/College shall have the following restrictions imposed:
(a) Exclusively filled by filing for Senatorial Candidacy for the candidate’s respective School/College during the specified filing period.

Section 5.02 Financial Limitations

Part A. Senatorial tickets shall be limited to $500.00 in campaign expenditures.

Part B. Senatorial tickets may not receive campaign contributions in excess of $100.00 from any single source.

Article VI. ELECTIONS PROCESS

Section 6.01 The Petition

Part A. Each member of the Student Body wishing to be placed on the ballot for consideration of office must submit a petition for candidacy to the Elections Committee.

Part B. The petition for candidacy shall be produced annually by the Elections Committee and shall contain the following minimum requirements:
(a) The names and student ID numbers of the candidates;
(b) The signatures of the candidates as required for eligibility.

All petitions for the office of Student Body President and Vice President must clearly state which student is the candidate for President and which is the candidate for Vice President. Any changes to the Presidential or Vice Presidential candidate after a petition has been signed will invalidate that petition.

Part C. The petition must be accompanied by a copy of the Election Rules from each candidate with the candidate’s initials on each page of the document.
Part D. It is the responsibility of all candidates to verify that all activities are in compliance with the Election Rules. Candidates are responsible for understanding all of the Election Rules.

Part E. The petition for candidacy is required to be submitted to the Elections Committee no later than 5:00 PM by the final Monday before Spring Vacation.

Section 6.02 The Formulation of the Ballot

Part A. The official Student Body Election ballot shall be published by the Elections Committee no later than 3:00 PM on the final Wednesday before Spring Vacation.

Part B. Ballot format shall be at the discretion of the Elections Committee.

Section 6.03 Campaigning

Part A. Definition: Campaigning is the public release of a campaign platform or the distribution of campaign material.

Part B. Election campaigning shall commence at 12:01 am on the Wednesday after the student body returns to class from Spring Vacation and continue until 11:59 pm on the second following Thursday.

Part C. A ticket may schedule campaign appearances at any time after the submission of their petition, but may not make an appearance until the first day of campaigning.

Part D. Campaign logo and literature shall not incorporate any of the following and must be approved by the Elections Committee prior to distribution:

(a) No logo or symbol of Purdue University, or the Purdue Student Government may be altered or incorporated into a larger symbol without the expressed written permission of the Student Government Advisor(s), which must be included in the initial submission of the logo and literature to the Elections Committee;
(b) Statements or graphics depicting illegal substances, alcohol, tobacco, weapons, or any derogatory, inflammatory or offensive material shall not be used without the expressed written permission of the Student Government Advisor(s), which shall be included in the initial submission of the logo and literature to the Elections Committee;
(c) The Student Government Advisor(s) shall be the final authority on the suitability of statements or graphics.

Part E. Prohibited Campaigning: Types of prohibited campaigning are defined in Article VIII, Section 8.02, Part B.

Section 6.04 Voting

Part A. The Student Body Election shall be held the third Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday after the return of the Student Body to regular classes following the Spring Vacation of each year.

Part B. Voting shall take place through a Purdue University-sponsored voting system in accordance with the following regulations:

(a) The Election Committee shall provide at least one voting station on campus during each day of voting. The times and locations of each voting station shall be designated by the Elections Committee and must be made publicly available to the Student Body. The Elections Committee shall
have the authority to make reasonable limitations upon the conduct of student volunteers at voting stations in order to ensure that no candidate is advantaged over another candidate.

(b) All campaigning by a candidate or member of a candidate's campaign shall be prohibited within twenty feet of a designed voting station or within twenty feet of a University computer lab. Candidates and campaign members shall furthermore be prohibited from operating a voting station, except with the prior approval of the Elections Committee, and from facilitating voting through a computer owned by a candidate or campaign member.

(c) A University computer lab shall be defined as any room consisting of fifteen or more computers owned or operated by Purdue University.

Part C. Votes shall be tabulated by the Office of the Dean of Students and returned to the Director of the Elections Committee.

Part D. The ticket that receives the plurality of votes shall be declared the winner of the election and shall gain the title of office-elect.

Part E. Each ticket may make one request for a recount to the Elections Committee within twenty-four hours after the results are made public. The request will only be granted if deemed reasonable by the Elections Committee, or Student Government Advisor(s). No further recounts shall be allowed.

Part F. In the event that tickets receiving the highest number of votes are tied, the election shall be decided by a runoff election of the tied tickets. The runoff election will be governed by the Elections Committee and must occur no later than three business days from the announcement of election results. The runoff election will last no fewer than twenty-four hours and no longer than seventy-two hours. In the event that two or more tickets still receive the same number of votes, the election shall be decided by a majority vote of the Student Council Presidents for a Presidential tie and a majority vote of the respective Student Council for a Senatorial tie.

Section 6.05 Campaign Clean-Up

Part A. All campaign flyers or campaign materials left on university property must be disposed of by 11:59 pm on the Saturday following the final voting day.

Section 6.06 Announcement of Results

Part A. The announcement of the results shall take place within one week of the final tabulation of results. The Elections Committee, with consent of the Student Body President, may delay the release of results for no more than thirty days from the date of final tabulation in order to allow grievances to be resolved, financial records to be reconciled, and campus to be cleared of campaign literature.

Part B. No persons may know the results until announced other than the appointed members of the Elections Committee, the Student Government Advisor(s), and the manager of the Purdue University sponsored voting system. Release of results by the Elections Committee before the public release date shall constitute a malfeasance of office.

Article VII. FINANCIAL LIMITATIONS, DISCLOSURES, AND INFORMATION

Section 7.01 Financial Records
Part A. Candidates shall be required to keep record of all campaign expenditures and provide proof of those expenditures.

Part B. Candidates shall be required to keep record of all campaign contributions that shall include the following minimum requirements:
(a) Name of contributing organization or individual;
(b) Amount contributed.

Part C. Candidates shall be required to keep record of all campaign contributions that they make from their own personal resources that shall include the following minimum requirements:
(a) Individual contributions;
(b) Amount contributed.

Part D. Candidates shall keep records of all donated goods and services along with the fair market value of those services that shall include the following minimum requirements:
(a) Name of contributing organization or individual;
(b) Value of donated goods and services.

A service provided free of charge by a member of the Student Body shall not constitute a campaign contribution and shall not contribute to a candidates total allowed expenditures, but must still be recorded.

Part E. Fair market value shall be defined as the price at which the property would change hands between a willing buyer and a willing seller, neither being under any compulsion to buy or to sell and both having reasonable knowledge of relevant facts, except in the case of private discount not available to the general public. If a good or service is offered at a discounted price, and the discount in question is not available to the general public, the price available to the general public must be reported as the fair market value.

Section 7.02 Financial Disclosures

Part A. The method and format of all financial disclosure shall be at the discretion of the Elections Committee, with the approval of the Student Body Treasurer.

Part B. Each candidate shall submit a projected final expense report no later than the first date of voting that shall include:
(a) All campaign expenditures;
(b) Fair market value of all goods and services;
(c) Contributed funds.

Part C. A final financial report shall be submitted within twenty-four hours after the close of polls on the final date of polling and it shall include:
(a) A full account of all campaign expenses;
(b) A full disclosure of all donated funds, services and materials;
(c) Copies of all receipts and financial records associated with the campaign.

Section 7.03 Public Reporting

Part A. The Elections Committee, with the guidance of the Student Body Treasurer shall make the financial records of each campaign public, upon request, before any election results are announced.
Part B. The Elections Committee shall create a financial report of all campaigns that shall be maintained by the Student Government Staff Secretary for public review for one calendar year. The report shall include:

(a) The total amount of election expenses from the Candidate ticket;
(b) A financial report of each ticket;
(c) A record of any financial violations.

Section 7.04 Financial Reimbursements

Part A. The Student Senate shall budget $3,000.00 for allocation to Purdue Student Government Presidential Candidates.

Part B. Financial reimbursement of candidates for President and Vice President shall follow the procedure below:

(a) In any case of candidacy, the $3,000.00 shall be distributed evenly among all tickets, up to the total expense incurred, pending any infractions;
(b) To receive financial reimbursement each ticket is responsible for clearly identifying expenses incurred;
(c) The total expense incurred shall not exceed $500.00 per candidate and shall include only the amount each candidate contributed to his or her own campaign, not external contributions, in accordance with Section 4.03 Part B of the Election Rules.

Part C. When a ticket submits a completed petition with all requirements and no infractions, they will be eligible for reimbursement, after review from the Elections Committee and Student Body Treasurer.

Article VIII. DIRECTIVES, INFRACTIONS, AND PENALTIES

Section 8.01 The Process for Grievances

Part A. Grievances against a candidate who fails to comply with the Elections Rules shall be submitted to the Elections Committee.

(a) Reporting Violations

(i) Anyone may report alleged violations to the Elections Director:
   (1) Reports shall include evidence, a list of all witnesses, and any other information that the Elections Committee deems necessary;
   (2) The Elections Committee shall establish a manner in which reports shall be prescribed prior to the commencement of the election;
   (3) Reports must be submitted within seventy-two hours of the time of the violation;
   (4) The Elections Committee shall determine the legitimacy of all reports.

(ii) Upon the finding of a legitimate violation, the Elections Committee shall immediately surrender the report and all evidence to the Student Supreme Court. The date, time, and location of a hearing by the Student Supreme Court shall be announced within twenty-four hours upon receipt of a report from the Elections Committee. The subsequent hearing shall occur no later than forty-eight hours after Student Supreme Court receives the report from the Elections Committee.
(b) Student Supreme Court Procedures

(i) During the hearing, the candidate shall have the right to participate in the hearing, including but not limited to: the right to cross-examine any person testifying, to testify, and to produce witnesses to support each party’s claim, in accordance with the Purdue Student Government Constitution, the Bylaws of Purdue Student Government, and the Purdue Student Supreme Court Standing Rules;
(ii) The Student Supreme Court shall make its ruling immediately after deliberation.
(iii) The Student Supreme Court shall assign points for candidates in violation of the Election Rules, as defined in Section 8.03, Part B.
(iv) All tickets shall be notified of the decision of the Student Supreme Court after deliberation.

Part B. Anyone may issue a grievance against the Elections Committee.

(a) Grievances must be submitted within seventy-two hours of the alleged abuse by the Elections Committee to the Student Body President and the Student Government Advisor(s).

(b) The Student Body President and the Student Government Advisor(s) shall issue a mutual binding opinion on these grievances, which shall be made public, and may recall the Elections Committee.

Section 8.02 Infractions

Part A. Infractions shall consist of any actions or supporters of a ticket that violates the Election Rules, University Regulations, or directives of the Student Supreme Court.

Part B. Infractions shall be weighted by the following severity

(a) Illegal display or distribution of campaign materials:
   (i) 1-50 flyers left on campus after the period of campaigning has ended  1 point
   (ii) 50 or more flyers left on campus after the period of campaigning has ended  2 points
   (iii) Use of unauthorized facilities or improper use of university facilities  2-4 points

(b) Early campaigning, including but not limited to the following:  6 points
   (i) Facilitation of an online presence prior to the campaign period.
   (ii) Public release a campaign platform or distribution campaign materials.
   (iii) Public campaign appearances prior to the campaign period.

(c) Prohibited campaigning activities:
   (i) Actively campaigning within twenty feet of a University computer lab  6-10 points
   (ii) Operating an unauthorized voting station  6-10 points
   (iii) Using a Purdue University administration operated email list  6-10 points
       to campaign for a specific candidate
   (iii) Permanent defacing of public or university property  6-10 points
   (iv) Coercing a member of the student body to vote unwillingly  6-10 points
   (v) Destroying or tampering with other candidates’ campaign materials  6-10 points
   (vi) False representation to the Elections Committee  6-10 points

(c) Other violations:
   (i) Violation of University Regulations  4-10 points
   (ii) Infraction of residence hall regulations  4-10 points
**Part C.** Points incurred from infractions shall be cumulative.

**Part D.** The determination of point incurred for infractions with a point range given above shall be at the discretion of the Elections Committee with oversight by the Supreme Court.

**Section 8.03 Penalties for Infraction**

**Part A.** Each point that a presidential ticket incurs shall result in the reduction of financial reimbursement for campaign costs by one hundred dollars per candidate.

**Part B.** Any ticket receiving ten or more points shall be removed from the ballot and disqualified. Within twenty-four hours of disqualification, and prior to removal from the ballot, any disqualified party may appeal to the Office of the Dean of Students, who may reinstate a candidate to the ballot.

**Part C.** Any ticket violating University Regulations shall be immediately reported to the Office of the Dean of Students.

**Section 8.04 Claims of Gross Negligence or Corruption within the Election Process**

**Part A.** Any member of the Purdue Student Government, by procedure herein, may submit a petition of no confidence in the Student Body Election. The petition shall be submitted to the Student Government Advisor(s) within five business days of the first day of voting and must contain the reasons for a no confidence vote along with the signatures of at least one twentieth of the Student Body, of the constituency base in question, as determined by the University Registrar. Once verified by the Office of the Dean of Students as legitimate, the Office of the Dean of Students, or a representative of, shall investigate the election process and determine the legitimacy of the claim.

**Part B.** Upon written ruling of no confidence, signed by the Office of the Dean of Students, the Student Government Advisor(s) shall appoint Purdue Student Government members to initiate a new election within fifteen calendar days. A board of oversight that is appointed by the Dean of Students, or representative thereof shall oversee the Election and all persons having an active role in the Election, including the Elections Committee.

**Part C.** The decision by the Office of the Dean of Students may be appealed to the Campus Appeals Board. In such cases, it may affirm, change, or reverse a decision, and its action is final.