



Independent Election Commission Bylaws

1 Article I. Name and Purpose

2 (a) The Independent Election Commission shall hereby be referred to as the
3 Commission. The purpose of the Commission shall be to ensure that all elections,
4 special elections, and referenda of the Student Association (hereafter referred to
5 as the SA) are run in an open, secure, transparent, and fair process with
6 maximum student participation.

7 Article II. Composition, Duties, and Authorities of the Commission

8 Section 2.01 Composition

- 9 (a) The Commission shall be composed of five at-large students, one member of
10 faculty, one member of academic staff, one member of classified staff, and one
11 member of University Administration. The Commission shall organize itself in a
12 manner so that at-large students make up no less than a simple majority (50% +
13 1) of its membership.
- 14 (i) At-large students shall be appointed through the shared governance process, as
15 outlined below in Section 2.02.
- 16 (ii) All other members shall be selected through their respective processes.
- 17 (iii) Under no circumstances shall a member of the Oversight and Appeals
18 Commission (hereafter referred to as the OAC) serve as an acting, provisionary,
19 interim, or ex-officio member of the Commission.
- 20 (iv) No member of the Commission may hold or have held any other concurrent
21 elected or appointed position within any branch of the Student Association or its
22 committees during the current term.
- 23 (v) Under no circumstances may a member of the Commission run for an open
24 position in an election nor may they be appointed to an official position within
25 the SA during the next immediate term.

26 **Section 2.02 Commission Appointment Timeline**

- 27 (a) The SA, through its shared governance structure, shall actively market
28 appointments to the Commission and make applications publicly available to all
29 enrolled students no later than the first week of the fall semester.
- 30 (b) The SA Senate shall approve student appointments to the Commission and verify
31 proper appointment processes.

32 **Section 2.03 Duties**

- 33 (a) The Commission shall run all regular, special, and recall SA elections and
34 referenda in an online, fair, democratic, and secure manner.
- 35 (b) The Commission shall conduct itself in accordance with the most recent edition of
36 Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.
- 37 (i) *Meetings of the Commission require a minimum of three student members and*
38 *two non-student members present in order to meet quorum.*
- 39 (ii) *A majority is defined as 50% +1 of student members and two non-student*
40 *members voting in the affirmative.*
- 41 (c) At its first meeting, the Commission shall elect a Head Commissioner from its at-
42 large student membership.
- 43 (d) The Commission shall be responsible for creating candidate signature forms and
44 making them available to all in accordance with the timeline set forth in
45 Addendum 2.
- 46 (e) The Commission shall, in coordination with the Student Association Professional
47 Staff (hereafter referred to as SAPS) Office and Union Marketing, actively
48 advertise any general or special election no less than 30 days prior to the election.
- 49 (f) The Commission shall make publicly available equal, unbiased, nonpartisan
50 media, with information submitted by all eligible candidates, through a
51 presentation format to be determined by the Commission, about all eligible
52 candidates.
- 53 (i) *Under no circumstances shall a member of the Commission endorse or campaign*
54 *on behalf of a candidate.*
- 55 (g) The commission shall, in collaboration with SAPS, ensure that online ballots are
56 uniform and secure.
- 57 (h) The Commission shall create and make publicly available campaign violation
58 reporting forms.

59 (i) The Commission shall publicly announce, via an all-student email, a press release,
60 and an organized press conference, the winners of the elections no more than 24
61 hours following the closure of polls.

62 (j) The commission shall organize no less than three campaign events, as outlined in
63 Addendum 1 to these bylaws.

64 **Section 2.04 Authorities**

65 (a) In the event that a candidate has committed a violation listed in Addendum 1
66 after polls have opened, the Commission shall have the authority to overturn the
67 results of an election for an individual office and give the position to the
68 individual with the next largest number of votes. This decision is subject to a 2/3
69 majority vote by the Commission.

70 (i) *In the event of a tie, the Commission shall hold a run-off election for that*
71 *position on the next Tuesday, preceded by a re-opening of the campaign period,*
72 *subject to the same rules and regulations of the regular election. There shall be*
73 *no option for write-in candidates or reopening of nominations on a run-off*
74 *ballot.*

75 (b) The Commission shall have the authority to enforce all candidate and campaign
76 regulations, as outlined in Addendum 1 to these bylaws.

77 (c) The Commission shall have the authority to solicit equal, unbiased, and
78 nonpartisan votes from students.

79 (d) The Commission shall have the authority to hear and process candidate eligibility
80 appeals as its members deem necessary.

81 (e) The Commission shall have the authority to remove candidates from the ballot as
82 a consequence of campaign violations as outlined in Addendum 1 to these
83 bylaws.

84 (f) The Commission shall, subject to a 2/3 majority vote, have the authority to
85 remove its members.

86 **Section 2.05 Duties of the Head Commissioner**

87 (a) The Head Commissioner shall act as the Chair of the Commission.

88 **Article III. Candidate Eligibility**

89 (a) SAPS shall check all candidates for eligibility, based upon the below academic and
90 non-academic requirements, and inform the Commission which candidates are
91 eligible to run. Under no circumstances shall SAPS inform the Commission for
92 what reason a candidate is ineligible.

93 (b) In the event that a candidate becomes ineligible to run for office during the
94 campaign or election season, their name will immediately be removed from the
95 ballot.

96 **Section 3.01 Academic Eligibility**

97 (a) Candidates must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 in order to be
98 eligible to seek an elected position.

99 **Section 3.02 Non-Academic Eligibility**

100 (a) Candidates must be in good non-academic standing with the University of
101 Wisconsin Milwaukee.

102 (b) Any currently enrolled, degree-seeking, fee-paying student is eligible to run for
103 any open seat in an election, provided that they are a member of the
104 constituency they seek to represent and meet the above eligibility requirements.

105 **Section 3.03 Signatures**

106 (a) Candidates must collect the necessary number of signatures, as outlined below,
107 from students who are currently enrolled at UWM. A signature must consist of a
108 student's printed and signed name, school or college, student ID number, and
109 UWM email address to be considered for validation.

110 (i) *100 validated signatures shall be required to be placed on the ballot for the*
111 *Presidential or Vice Presidential tickets.*

112 (ii) *50 validated signatures shall be required to be placed on the ballot for an at-*
113 *Large Senate or Advocacy seat.*

114 (iii) *25 validated signatures shall be required to be placed on the ballot for any other*
115 *school or college Senate seat other than the School of Information Sciences.*

116 (iv) *10 validated signatures shall be required to be placed on the ballot for the School*
117 *of Information Sciences.*

118 **Section 3.04 Signature Validation**

119 (a) All signature sheets shall be turned into SAPS. This office shall validate signatures
120 and forward them to the Commission. The office shall track the order of received
121 signatures. The Commission shall not, under any circumstances, have the
122 authority to validate or invalidate signatures.

123 **Section 3.05 Candidate Training**

124 (a) All eligible candidates must attend a campaign training session, coordinated and
125 facilitated by SAPS, to learn about positive, fair, effective, and clean campaign
126 practices.

127 **Article IV. Write-In Candidates**

128 (a) For all SA elections, the Commission shall include one of the following for each
129 available position:
130

131 (i) Option for a write-in candidate:

132 1) In this case, a write-in candidate option will be provided for each of the
133 available seats for that position.

134 2) Write-in candidates shall be subject to the same eligibility requirements and
135 campaign rules and regulations as regular ballot candidates.

136 3) Should the Commission find write-in candidates to have violated campaign
137 rules and regulations, they may be prohibited from taking a seat subject to the
138 campaign rules and regulations.

139 4) Write-in candidates must obtain at least as many votes as their sought position
140 requires signatures, subject to Article III, Section 3.03, to be elected (e.g. If a
141 seat requires 50 signatures to be included on the ballot and a write-in
142 candidate receives 49 or less votes, they shall not be considered elected. If the
143 student receives 50 or more votes, they shall be considered elected, provided
144 they have more votes than the other candidates).

145 5) If the write-in candidate(s) and ballot candidate(s) are tied at the closing of
146 polls, a run-off election shall be held subject to Article II, Section 2.04 (a) (i),,
147 with all tied candidates appearing on the ballot.

148 6) If two or more write-in candidates are tied at the closing of polls, a run-off
149 election shall be held subject to Article II, Section 2.04 (a) (i), with all tied
150 candidates appearing on the ballot.

151 (ii) Option to reopen nominations:

152 1) In this case, a checkbox shall be provided. Should "Reopen nominations"
153 receive more votes than any candidate, the Commission shall hold a special
154 election within one month of the polls closing. Special elections shall only be
155 held for positions where "Reopen nominations" received more votes than
156 candidates. All other positions will stand elected.

157 (b) The Commission shall, subject to a majority vote, decide which of the two above-
158 mentioned options to include on the ballot prior to nominations opening.

159 **Article V. Referenda**

160 **Section 5.01 Constitutional Referenda**

- 161 (a) A constitutional referendum may be requested according to the process outlined
162 in the SA Constitution.
- 163 (i) *Only the Commission shall be authorized to conduct referenda.*
- 164 (ii) *In the event that 5% of SA members request a constitutional referendum:*
- 165 1) Signatures shall be turned in to the SAPS office by the petitioner for
166 verification.
- 167 2) Signatures shall not be considered if the petitioners did not provide signatories
168 with reasonable access to the proposed amended constitution prior to
169 signature collection.
- 170 3) SAPS shall have three school weeks to verify the signatures.
- 171 4) Within one month of the signature verification, the Commission shall hold a
172 referendum open to all members of SA to vote on the adoption of the
173 amended constitution.
- 174 (iii) *In the event that the SA Senate votes to request a constitutional referendum:*
- 175 1) Within one month of the senate vote, the Commission shall hold a referendum
176 open to all members of SA to vote on the adoption of the amended
177 constitution.
- 178 (iv) *No referendum shall be held until Student Involvement has approved the
179 proposed constitutional amendment, subject to University policy, which requires
180 that all student organization governing documents be approved by Student
181 Involvement.*
- 182 (v) *All referenda must be advertised to the student body, and the proposed
183 amendments made available for voting members to review both prior to and
184 during the referendum.*
- 185 (vi) *The Commission shall provide the proposed constitutional amendment in both its
186 original form, and in the form of a brief executive summary of the changes.*
- 187 (vii) *Results of the referendum shall be communicated within 24 hours of the polls
188 closing.*

189 **Section 5.02 Non-constitutional referenda**

- 190 (a) Any non-constitutional referenda shall be conducted after a majority vote of the
191 Commission, following referral from the Senate.
- 192 (b) Following referral from the Senate, the Commission shall have one week to meet
193 and vote on whether or not to hold the referendum.

- 194 (c) Following the Commission vote, the Commission shall have one month to
195 advertise and hold the referendum.
- 196 (d) Results of the referendum shall be communicated within 24 hours of the polls
197 closing.

198 **Article VI. Appeals**

- 199 (a) All students have the right to appeal to the Commission regarding its decision.
200 Students may make a final appeal to the OAC.

201 **Article VII. Election Timeline Requirements**

202 **Section 7.01 Regular Elections**

- 203 (a) At the beginning of the election cycle, signature forms shall be made available.
- 204 (b) Candidates shall have at least three weeks to obtain signatures.
- 205 (c) SAPS shall have no less than one week to complete signature validation and
206 candidate training.
- 207 (d) Eligible candidates shall have at least four school weeks to campaign.
- 208 (e) A Commission-sponsored elections kickoff event shall mark the end of the
209 campaign period.
- 210 (f) The polling period shall take place over three days, the last of which shall be no
211 later than the last Thursday of spring semester classes.

212 **Section 7.02 Freshman and Special Elections**

- 213 (a) Candidates shall have one week to collect signatures.
- 214 (b) SAPS shall have one week to complete signature validation.
- 215 (c) Eligible candidates shall have one week to campaign.
- 216 (d) The polling period shall take place over one school day. Freshman elections shall
217 take place in October.

218 **Article VIII. Addenda**

- 219 (a) Addendum 1 – Campaign Rules
- 220 (b) Addendum 2 – Election Timeline

221 **Article IX. Amendments**

- 222 (a) Amendments to these bylaws shall be made by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of
223 the Student Association Senate. Amendments shall not take effect in the same
224 academic year in which they were made. Amendments may not be made in the
225 period between a general election and the elected Senate taking office, pursuant
226 to Article X, Section 10.01 (b) and (c) of the Student Association Constitution.
- 227 (b) Amendments to addenda created by these bylaws shall require a majority vote of
228 the Commission.

229 **Article X. Enactment**

- 230 (a) These bylaws shall supersede all previous Commission bylaws. These bylaws shall
231 take effect upon approval of the Student Association Board of Trustees by a two-
232 thirds (2/3) majority vote.



Nik Rettinger III
SA Board of Trustees Chair

4/27/14

Date

AYE: 12

NAY: 0

Legislative History

December 8, 2013: Approved by the Student Association Board of Trustees
April 25th, 2014: Amendments authored by Independent Election Commission Chair Carla Greve
April 27th, 2014: Presented to the Board of Trustees



Independent Election Commission Bylaws – Executive Summary of Amendments

- **Lines 1-6: Added purpose of Commission:** *“to ensure that all elections, special elections, and referenda of the Student Association (hereafter referred to as the SA) are run in an open, secure, transparent, and fair process with maximum student participation.”*
- **Line 113:** *“Issues” to “Advocacy”*
- **All instances of “University Student Court” or “USC” to “Oversight and Appeals Commission” or “OAC”**
- **Formatted to reflect current legislative template**
- **Article IV: Write-in Candidates (lines 127-158)**
 - **Write-in candidates will be held to the same standards as candidates on the ballot, and must receive the same number of votes as the amount of validated signatures they would have been required to obtain in order to get placed on the ballot (see Article IV, (a) (i) 4) for more details – lines 139-144)**
- **Article V: Referenda (lines 159-197)**
- **Changed Article IX to reflect SA Constitution**

04/27/2014





STUDENT ASSOCIATION
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MILWAUKEE

-----SB2021-014-----

Proposal to Amend IEC Bylaws Section 3.03(a)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30

WHEREAS, at the suggestion of the Independent Election Commission (IEC), UWM Student Association Senate modified its bylaws concerning the quantity of signatures required to be collected by candidates for open Senate seats through the passage of SB2021-013;

AND WHEREAS, the changes to Senate bylaws no longer match the requirements of IEC bylaws;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; That the Independent Election Commission Bylaws, section 3.03(a) lines (ii) through (iv) are replaced with the following language:

(ii) Group 1 – Eligible candidates wishing to fill an Academic Senator seat from UWM Schools and Colleges with total student populations greater than 2000 shall be required to gather 40 validated signatures from the students in the corresponding school.

(iii) Group 2 – Eligible candidates wishing to fill an Academic Senator seat from UWM Schools and Colleges with total student populations greater than or equal to 600 students, but fewer than 2000 students shall be required to gather 30 validated signatures from the students in the corresponding school.

(iv) Group 3 – Eligible candidates wishing to fill an Academic Senator seat from UWM Schools and Colleges with total student populations fewer than 600 shall be required to gather 20 validated signatures from the students in the corresponding school.

(v) At-Large – require the same quantity of validated signatures as Group 1 above.

(vi) Advocacy, First Year, and Transfer seats – require the same quantity of validated signatures as Group 2 above.

(vii) Student population counts shall be determined by IEC based upon the prior Spring semester’s final enrollment (data provided by the Office of Assessment and Institutional Research or equivalent UWM office) for the following year’s election activities.

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED; that this legislation, upon passage, shall be sent to the Student Association Professional Staff, the Oversight and Appeals Commission, the Student Association Executive Board, and the Student Association Senate.

PASSED 3/14/21
Emma Mae Weber Date AYE NAY
Student Association President

31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42

Legislative History

March 10, 2021 – Passed by the Independent Election Commission.

March 10, 2021 – Modified for Senate by Senator Heintzkill.

March 14, 2021 – Introduced by Senator Heintzkill.

March 14, 2021 – Passed by the 2020-2021 Student Association Senate.

This legislation will be sent to the Student Association Professional Staff, the Oversight and Appeals Commission, the Student Association Executive Board, and the Student Association Senate.