

Elections Committee UGBC Campaigning Code, 2022-2023

In accordance with the authority bestowed upon by the Office of Student Involvement and the Constitution of the Undergraduate Government of Boston College (hereafter referred to as “UGBC”), the Elections Committee of Boston College (hereafter referred to as “EC”) will be a body of undergraduate students with the following responsibilities in relation to UGBC Student Assembly (SA) and presidential elections:

- Facilitate and manage campaign seasons: Fall First-Year Student Assembly election, Spring Presidential/Vice-Presidential election, and Spring Student Assembly election.
- Determine the results of all elections and release the results of said elections to the Boston College undergraduate community in a timely manner.
- Promote adherence to all Boston College policies and standards as outlined in the student guidebook by all campaigns.
- Publicize election information to all candidates. This includes but is not limited to deadlines, dates of events, and election rules.
- Publicize voting information to the Boston College community. This includes but is not limited to election dates and instructions on how to vote.
- Ensure that individual financial circumstances do not disadvantage the ability of any candidate to run a competitive campaign.
- Host public events (e.g. forums or debates) in which candidates can share their platforms with voters.
- Appropriately apply sanctions to candidates for any conduct that is inconsistent with the expectations outlined in this document.
- Remain unbiased in the completion of all of the functions listed above.
- Send the Elections Code to each candidate before the start of the election season.

Section 1: General Campaigning Guidelines for All Candidates

A. General Expectations

Candidates, along with their campaign teams, are expected to act with integrity throughout the entirety of the campaign season. As leaders of the Boston College community, it is in the best interest of all candidates to act as role models both within and outside of campaigning.

Candidates and members of their campaign team should respect and be mindful of all other campaign teams, members of the student body, Boston College faculty and staff, and the Elections Committee.

Candidates should employ campaign practices that are in accordance with Boston College policies and values. Boston College is Catholic Jesuit institution and candidates are expected to act in adherence to those values.

Candidates are encouraged to infuse energy and creativity into their campaigns and to act in ways that promote the unity of the Boston College community.

The Office of Student Involvement and the Elections Committee reserves the right to expel a candidate from the elections ballot based on unethical conduct. This unethical conduct includes but is not limited to negative campaigning, slander and other violations of this code.

i. Negative Campaigning Definition

The Elections Committee defines negative campaigning as any personal attacks or insults that are not pertinent to the campaign. Objections to platform criteria are considered to be fair and are not considered negative campaigning.

B. Specified Expectations of Candidates

i. Requirements for All Candidates

Any student running for and holding a UGBC Office must be a full-time undergraduate student in acceptable academic standing with a 2.5 GPA or administrative approval. Students running for office must also be in good disciplinary standing with the university.

ii. Endorsements

Candidates may not be or endorsed by off-campus businesses or organizations. Newspapers that are produced on a regular basis, focused on campus news and available to the public are exempt from this (i.e. Heights, Torch, Gavel, etc.).

Candidates may not be endorsed by recognized Boston College student organizations (RSOs) within OSI, or University Programs (UGBC, Student Organization Funding Committee (SOFC), Campus Activities Board (CAB), Board of Student Organizations (BSO)).

iii. Drugs and Alcohol

Campaigning is not permitted in the presence of drugs and/or alcohol. Any such violations will be grounds for disqualification of a candidate.

iv. Pre-Campaigning

There shall be no campaigning or information distribution (i.e. electronic, paper, verbal, etc.) before the official start of campaigning as specified by the EC.

Candidates must abide by Boston College posting policies, which are available in the Office of Student Involvement and online. [Posting Policy](#)

C. Campaign Materials for All Candidates

i. Copyrighted Material

Any copyrighted material may not be used without the written permission of the copyright holder (i.e. the BC athletics logo, other insignias, fonts, or logos owned

by BC, or the intellectual property of any public or private individual or company).

The UGBC Logo does not have a copyright and thus is allowed to be used in campaign materials.

ii. Office of Student Involvement Material Approval

All campaign materials must be approved by the Office of Student Involvement located in Carney 147 between the hours of 9 AM and 5 PM (including flyers, quarter sheets, banners, etc.).

The EC does not require that social media posts are approved before posted. However, these posts must be aligned with Boston College community standards. If not, they are grounds for sanctioning.

Paid promotions on social media (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, etc.) DO need to be approved by OSI.

No campaign materials will be approved that contain slanderous or defamatory statements or anything inconsistent with the Jesuit/Catholic values of BC. If a statement is determined to be slanderous, the candidate is required to retract the material or statement upon request of the EC. Failure to honor a request by the EC to remove such items may result in sanctions or disqualification.

D. Electronic Communications and Social Media

i. Unsolicited Communication

Unsolicited messaging through voicemails, emails, text messages, phone calls or any other form of unsolicited communication is not allowed. Failure to abide by this policy will result in punitive sanctions and may result in disqualification at the discretion of the EC.

Presidential election campaigns may use direct messages from their official Instagram campaign account.

A candidate's official campaign social media account sending out a follow request is not considered unsolicited.

ii. Personal Campaign Pages and other Social Media

Candidates are permitted to make their own promotional campaign sites. These sites may be built prior to campaigning, but they may not go live prior to this time. This applies to Twitter and other social media sites. The Social Media Coordinator must share all personal websites with the EC. Failure to do so will lead to sanctions.

iii. Social Media Account and Group Requirements

EC Campaign Liaisons must be designated as administrators on all campaign Facebook pages and groups. On Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, or TikTok pages,

the liaison following this account suffices. Prior to the start of campaigning, pages may be built and candidates may put campaign platforms up on these pages. But pages/groups will not go live or be able to invite others to like or join until the start of campaigning.

In terms of Facebook groups, settings must be set such that individuals must accept to join the group. Individuals cannot be automatically added to that group.

Official Class Year Facebook pages can be utilized to display platform information and voting information, but posts by campaign teams on these platforms is limited to 2 posts a day per class page.

E. Campaign Financial Procedures

Any donation of materials or services by a third party will be considered in the candidate team's total spending limit at "Fair Market Value", or at the least expensive posted price of the item that the candidate can find. Copies should be valued at 3 cents / black and white and 25 cents / color.

Any materials used that students would reasonably have free access to, whether through their own means or the means of others, will not be included on a candidate team's financial form. The EC reserves the right to determine whether or not the material used falls into this category.

Candidates are responsible for funding their own campaigns. Candidates who demonstrate significant financial need have the option of approaching the EC to discuss alternative options for funding.

Late, falsified, or illegal financial forms would be cause for sanctions against a candidate team.

F. Violations, Complaints, and Sanctions

i.

Sanction Guidelines



The EC may also mandate a meeting with the Office of Student Involvement if deemed necessary

ii. Disqualification

All candidates are subject to disqualification by a two-thirds vote of the EC if they have not upheld the ethical standards or regulations outlined in the Elections Code.

iii. Violations

The EC has the right to monitor all campaign activity to ensure that no violations of the Elections Code are taking place. The EC will actively monitor social media, university postings, campaigning in the Residence Halls, and all other tasks deemed vital to the campaign season.

For a Level 3 Sanction, there is a baseline of 5 negative votes; however, the number of negative votes may be higher given EC discretion. Negative votes will not be implemented unless agreed upon by a Supermajority of the Elections Committee.

iv. Complaints

Complaints will be received by the EC through the MyBC complaint form website. They can be found at the EC website—[Election Committee MyBC](#)

Because it is the purpose of the EC to ensure that all campaigns are being run fairly and responsibly, the EC will review and investigate complaints at its discretion in order to determine whether candidates are adhering to reasonable campaigning practices. Complaints must be submitted before voting ends.

If a complaint is valid, the candidate/s will be informed of the impermissible campaign action.

Candidates may appeal EC decisions if they have sufficient evidence to prove that the EC's decision was rooted in unfairness or prejudice, or if new evidence regarding the EC's case against the candidate is discovered following the EC's decision. All appeals must be brought to the Associate Director of the Office of Student Involvement.

G. Elections Committee Hours of Operation

The Elections Committee will be available to answer and respond to questions or complaints between the hours of 9am and 9pm. Any contact with liaisons or the elections committee beyond these hours will have to wait for a response until the next day.

Section 2: Guidelines for the Presidential Elections

A. Declaring Presidential Candidacy

In order to declare candidacy for the UGBC Presidential Elections, representatives from campaign teams must attend one of two mandatory informational meetings. Representatives must be two of the three following: candidate for president, candidate for vice president, campaign manager. Only two are required to attend. If campaign teams are unable to attend they must inform the EC by a specific date. If they fail to do so, they will be barred from entering the race.

All Intent to Run forms and guidelines for the offices of President and Vice President will be available at the mandatory informational meeting for all prospective candidates at the beginning of the election period as set by the EC. These forms must be completed and returned to the EC by the specified deadline.

All other required forms specified by the EC must be submitted by the date determined by the EC. Any candidate who fails to turn in these materials by the deadline shall be subject to immediate disqualification at the discretion of the EC.

If only one team declares their candidacy after the mandatory meetings have passed, the EC reserves the right to reopen the field and encourage other candidates to run. If a team(s) drops out prior to the campaign leaving only one team remaining, the EC reserves the right to reopen the race.

If all teams except for one drop out of the race during campaigning then the EC reserves the right to reopen the race.

B. Presidential Candidacy Signature Collection Requirement

Candidates must have 250 signatures in order to be nominated to run for office. Candidates must hand the signature form in to the EC by the date provided by the EC at the general interest meeting.

C. Expectations for Campaign Team and EC Liaisons

The EC will assign a representative from our committee to act as a liaison with each campaign team to which they are assigned. All communication between the campaign teams and the EC will be limited to the campaign team liaison and the EC member assigned to them.

The candidate shall be held responsible for all work undertaken on his/her behalf.

Each candidate shall be responsible for assuring that his/her campaign workers are fully acquainted with the Elections Code and the regulations of the EC.

The EC expects each candidate to update this list if they receive new campaign members during the election season. Failure to do so will result in sanctions or possible disqualification.

No official UGBC or Student Organization Funding Committee (SOFC) resources, publications, or funds may be used to further any candidacy over another. This shall include but is not limited to the UGBC website.

i. Presidential Campaign Team - Social Media Coordinator

Candidates must designate one member of their campaign team to serve as a Social Media Coordinator to handle all social media content for the campaign. This includes, but is not limited to, making sure the content posted is appropriate, removing items deemed inappropriate by the Elections Committee, and acting as a liaison between the candidates and the Elections Committee concerning the candidate's social media platforms. Candidates or campaign managers are permitted to serve as their own Social Media Coordinator.

ii. Students Unaffiliated with a Campaign Team

If a student that is not a part of a campaign team has a complaint, they may submit it in the same fashion as those on a campaign team (through the complaints form on myBC).

Negative campaigning by students unaffiliated with a campaign team will be reported to the Dean of Students Office ("DOS"). All students are held to the Code of Student Conduct provided by DOS.

D. Presidential Election Campaigning

i. Campaign Spending Limit

Campaign teams will have a \$300 dollar spending limit for the primary campaign. Candidates will be required to submit receipts for all purchases along with a detailed financial summary, which will be audited by EC financial officers.

Candidate teams that continue on to final voting will be permitted to spend an additional \$150 dollars to spend on their campaign. A supplementary financial form must be submitted by these candidates.

The EC does not provide funding for campaigns.

ii. Campaigning in the Residence Halls

The EC and Residential Life will work together to grant candidates permission to campaign in the residence halls. The EC will set specific days and times in which candidates and their teams can go door to door and campaign. Each team must provide a list of campaign team members who will be participating in residence hall campaigning. These campaign team members will be checked in and out at

the start and close of the events by members of the EC. Campaigning in the residence halls outside of these hours may lead to sanctions and loss of residence hall campaigning privileges. The EC will be working with the resident assistants and other administrators in Residential Life to monitor campaigning activity in the residence halls.

iii. Presidential Campaign Residential Life Posting Policy

Flyers and other posting materials may not be posted in residence halls unless it is on an individual person's door. That individual must give permission to the candidate or campaign member for this post to be permitted.

iv. Presidential Campaign Banners

Candidates and candidate teams are permitted the use of a maximum of three banners during campaigning. One banner may be placed in the Stokes Lawn, the second banner may be placed on the Commonwealth Avenue Parking Garage, and the last banner may be placed on approved areas on either Newton or Upper Campus. If demand exceeds space, the EC will determine the allocation of banner space through a lottery.

E. Primary and Final Voting

If after the mandatory informational meeting, there are four or less teams running for candidacy, then primary voting will not occur, and all four teams will move on to the final vote. If this occurs, then each team will be allowed to use the additional \$150 in the second week of campaigning.

If after the mandatory informational meeting, there are five or more teams running for candidacy, then primary voting will occur, and the three teams with the highest number of votes will move on to final voting.

Section 3: Guidelines for the Student Assembly Elections

A. Declaring Student Assembly Candidacy

In order to declare candidacy for the UGBC Student Assembly Elections, the candidate must attend one of the available mandatory informational meetings.

All Intent to Run forms and guidelines for the Student Assembly Elections will be available at the mandatory informational meeting for all prospective candidates at the beginning of the election period as set by the EC. These forms must be completed and returned to the EC by the specified deadline.

All other required forms specified by the EC must be submitted by the date determined by the EC. Any candidate who fails to turn in these materials by the deadline shall be subject to immediate disqualification at the discretion of the EC.

i. Student Organization Representatives Requirement

Candidates running for a specific Student Organization Senate position must be a member of an organization that falls under the position's representation. (Ex. The Music, Arts & Performance Senator could belong to an acapella organization).

B. Expectations for Campaign Team

Each candidate must submit to the EC a list of their entire campaign team (if applicable).

The EC expects each candidate to update this list if they receive new campaign members during the election season. Failure to do so will result in sanctions or possible disqualification.

The candidate shall be held responsible for all work undertaken on his/her behalf.

Each candidate shall be responsible for assuring that his/her campaign workers are fully acquainted with the Elections Code and the regulations of the EC.

The EC expects each candidate to update this list if they receive new campaign members during the election season. Failure to do so will result in sanctions or possible disqualification.

No official UGBC or Student Organization Funding Committee (SOFC) resources, publications, or funds may be used to further any candidacy over another. This shall include but is not limited to the UGBC website.

i. Students Unaffiliated with a Campaign Team

If a student that is not a part of a campaign team has a complaint, they may submit it in the same fashion as those on a campaign team (through the complaints form on myBC).

Negative campaigning by students unaffiliated with a campaign team will be reported to the Dean of Students Office. All students are held to the Code of Student Conduct provided by DOS.

C. Student Assembly Elections Campaigning

i. Student Assembly Campaign Spending Limit

Candidates will have a \$50-dollar spending limit. Candidates will be required to submit receipts for all purchases along with a detailed financial summary, which will be audited by EC financial officers.

The EC does not provide funding for campaigns.

ii. Campaigning in the Residence Halls

There will be no campaigning or posting in residence halls for Student Assembly Candidates.

iii. Residential Life Posting Policy for Senatorial Elections

Flyers and other posting materials may not be posted in residence halls unless it is on an individual person's door. That individual must give permission to the candidate or campaign member in order for this post to be permitted.

Section 4: Temporary COVID-19 Addendum

At the time of the amendments and ratification of this document, the COVID-19 global pandemic continues to affect daily life at Boston College. In order to campaign responsibly and promote safe practices, all candidates must follow COVID-19 safety precautions as they are outlined by Boston College and the State of Massachusetts. For more up to date information, please visit bc.edu/bc-web/sites/reopening-boston-college.html and www.mass.gov/covid.