SENATE RESOLUTION 2223 – 056
RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ELECTION GUIDELINES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023

Whereas, the Judicial Branch's Election Oversight Commission has worked diligently to craft election guidelines to ensure the fair election of executive offers and senators by the student body, and

Whereas, the guidelines will serve as the guiding document for elections, let it be

Resolved, that the Student Senate approves the attached election guidelines (Appendix A), effective immediately.

Primary Sponsor:

Alex Stencel, Class of 2023

Secondary Sponsor:

Ben Cekander, Class of 2023

Vote:

In Favor: 18

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Signatures:

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Reagan Markland, Speaker of the Senate

Student Government Association General Bylaws, Appendix B: Election Oversight Guidelines

Election Guidelines of the Butler University Student Government Association

Article I. Overview

Section 1. **Purpose.** The purpose of these guidelines shall be to set fair and reasonable rules and regulations for the election of all Student Government Association executive officers and senators.

Section 2. **Precedence.** The rules and regulations of Butler University and the Student Government Association shall take precedence over these guidelines.

Section 3. **Spring Elections.** On an annual basis, there shall be elections held in the spring for the offices of President and Vice President, as well as all senatorial offices excluding those stipulated below.

Section 4. **Fall Elections.** On an annual basis, there shall be elections held in the fall for senatorial offices held by first year students. Senatorial offices up for election in the fall will include first-year class, all housing seats, and any vacancies that result from unfilled positions in the spring election.

Article II. Election Oversight Commission

Section 1. **Purpose.** The Election Oversight Commission (Election Oversight Commission) is responsible for the organization and administration of elections for the Student Government Association Presidential Tickets and Senators. The Election Oversight Commission's responsibilities also include overseeing candidate campaigns, interpreting and enforcing these guidelines, and reviewing special circumstances.

> Section 1.1. **Special Circumstances.** Special circumstances are defined by the Election Oversight Commission as any circumstance that is not clearly outlined in the election guidelines. In all special circumstances, the Election Oversight Commission shall have the final authority in determining the appropriate course of action.

Section 2. **Commission Composition.** The Election Oversight Commission shall consist of the Supreme Court Justices. The Chair of the Commission will be appointed by the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice will serve as an ex-officio member of the Election Oversight Commission and only vote on Election Oversight Commission matters in the event of a tie. The Election Oversight Commission shall reserve the right to appoint members with the approval of the Chief Justice who are not members of the Court.

Section 3. **Unbiased Representation.** Election Oversight Commission members shall serve as unbiased representatives of the Student Government Association and may not be a candidate for any elected position, serve as campaign ~~staff~~ workers or in any way campaign for candidates. Members of the Election Oversight Commission, if

discovered to be colluding in any campaigning matters, will be impeached and properly removed from their position in the organization.

Section 4. **Materials.** The Election Oversight Commission shall make application materials and election rules available to the potential candidates at least three weeks before the date of the election.

Section 5. **Candidates.** The Commission shall have the discretion to approve or deny the application of candidates based on whether the candidates fulfill the criteria presented in these guidelines. ~~for office~~, The Commission shall also have the discretion to ~~and~~ schedule any special elections or events pertaining to the elections.

Section 6. **Enforcement.** The Commission is responsible for administering penalties to candidates and campaign workers who violate these guidelines. Penalties shall be imposed according to the severity of the violation and can include disqualification.

Section 7. **Promotion.** The Commission will promote the election event dates, guidelines, and all candidates through various mediums including, but not limited to, the Student Government Association website, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, and class listservs. The Election Oversight Commission will equally distribute promotions among all candidates for office.

Section 8. **Finances.** The Election Oversight Commission will operate out of the Student Government Association Judicial Branch's Election Expenditure line item but reserves the right to use the Judicial Branch's Operational Expenditure line item for unplanned expenses.

Article III. Candidate and Voter Eligibility

Section 1. **Candidate Eligibility.** All candidates must meet and maintain the criteria throughout the tenure of their candidacy and position. Candidates must intend to be on campus for the duration of the academic year that they hold office. Candidates must be full time undergraduate students in good academic and conduct standing with the University. All Student Government Association candidates are required to have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5. All candidates will have their academic and conduct records verified by a designated Student Affairs member.

> Section 1.1. **All Candidate Meeting.** All candidates must attend their respective mandatory candidate meeting to review election guidelines and University policy. The meetings will be held in unison.
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> Section 1.2. **Candidate Restrictions.** Candidates will not be eligible to run for multiple offices within the same election.

Section 2. **Senatorial Candidate Requirements.** Class senator candidates must be a member of the respective class that they are campaigning for, which is based on the class that they began their academic career ~~entered~~ with. Academic college senators must be pursuing a primary major ~~majoring~~ in the respective academic college that they are campaigning for.

> **Section 2.1 Special Circumstances for Extended Degree Programs.** In the case of an undergraduate degree program that lasts more than four years, a student that pays the Student Activity Fee will be eligible to run for the Senate seat of the class that they are graduating with. Candidates cannot run for ~~instead of~~ the Senate seat of the class they entered with.

Section 3. **Voter Eligibility.** All full-time undergraduate students of Butler University who pay the Student Activity Fee shall be eligible to vote for the Student Government Association presidential ticket ~~President and Vice President,~~ as well as the Senators representing their constituencies. ~~the Senators that they are constituents of.~~

Article IV. Election Dates

Section 1. **Election Announcement.** The Election Oversight Commission shall announce all dates for elections and election related events at the first Student Government Association Senate Meeting in the Spring, and three weeks before Election Day for Fall Semester elections. Details of the application and forms will be released in due time from the announcement of election dates.

Section 2. **Campaign Timeline.** Candidates may campaign starting seven days prior to the fall Election Day. Candidates may begin campaigning ten days before the spring semester Election Day.

Section 3. **Election Dates.** The Election Oversight Commission shall have the sole authority to determine the dates of presidential and senatorial elections.

Section 4. **Date Amendment.** The Election Oversight Commission may propose a change to any of the dates in the election timeline, which shall go into effect with majority approval of the Election Oversight Commission. Proposed date changes shall be submitted to the Chair of the Election Oversight Commission in writing and voted on no more than one Election Oversight Commission meeting later. The Election Oversight Commission shall set all specific times for all election related events.

Section 5. **Election Related Events.** The Election Oversight Commission shall have the power to create additional events that relate to the election, which can include, but are not limited to, panels, and rallies, as deemed necessary and require candidate attendance at such events, provided the candidate is given due notice.

Section 5.1. **Debate Requirement.** The Election Oversight Commission shall conduct one presidential debate within the candidacy period in the Spring semester. The attendance of the presidential tickets is required.

Article V. Candidate Registration

Section 1. **General.** To be made an official candidate, an eligible student must complete the application available on the Butler University Engage platform. The Election Oversight Commission shall maintain election information that is posted on the Student Government Association website. This election information shall include the application for candidacy, which shall consist of the following parts: ~~This application is to be maintained by the Election Oversight Commission and will consist of the following parts:~~

Section 1.1. **Declaration of Candidacy.** Each candidate must submit an application which provides the candidates intent to run for election and allows the Election Oversight Commission to verify their academic and conduct eligibility. Academic and conduct eligibility will be verified through the Butler University Student Affairs Staff.

Section 1.2. **Platform.** Each candidate must submit a statement of goals for office and how these goals will be accomplished. This statement should be less than 300 words. In addition, each candidate must submit a

picture of themselves that will be posted on the Student Government Association website with their platform.

Section 1.3. **Campaign Plan.** Each candidate must submit a campaign plan for their campaign. This should include, but is not limited to, logos, slogans, designs, marketing plan, and social media accounts. The initial plan will be approved by the Election Oversight Commission. All changes must be submitted to and approved by the Election Oversight Commission before any action is taken.

Section 1.4. **Campaign ~~Staff~~ Workers.** Each candidate must submit a list ~~of members~~ of their official campaign ~~staff~~ workers. Campaign ~~staff~~ workers cannot serve on two or more campaigns simultaneously. Candidates cannot serve as a campaign ~~staff member~~ worker on another candidate's campaign. Candidates running for a Senate seat may not exceed ten campaign workers, while a presidential ticket may not exceed twenty campaign workers. Candidates may add or subtract campaign workers with the permission of the Election Oversight Commission. Campaign workers cannot receive any sort of compensation for their work.

Section 1.4.1. **Campaign Worker Restrictions.** The Executive Cabinet, Election Oversight Commission, and all branch leaders ~~Judicial Branch, and the Speaker of the Senate~~ are all barred from being staff members on a candidate's campaign.

Section 1.5. **Official Meeting.** Each candidate must attend an information meeting on the day scheduled by the Election Oversight Commission. If the candidate is unable to make the meeting, they will be required to contact the Election Oversight Commission at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

Section 1.6. **Statement of Expenses for Campaigns.** Each candidate must submit a budget plan. The initial plan must be approved by the Election Oversight Commission. All changes must be submitted to and approved by the Election Oversight Commission. All final receipts must be turned in by the conclusion of the election. Candidates may begin spending their allotted money once their application has been approved by the Election Oversight Commission.

Article VI. Vacancies

Section 1. **Senate Vacancies.** In the event that an elected senatorial office receives no declaration of candidacy and according to the Student Government Association Constitution, the Speaker of the Senate will nominate a member of the appropriate constituency and the Senate will confirm the nominee for the unexpired balance of the term.

Section 2. **Presidential Vacancies.** In the event that there is no declaration of candidacy in the spring presidential election, the Election Oversight Commission will hold a second election during the fall semester to fill the vacancy.

Article VII. Campaign Expenses

Section 1. **Campaigns.** Senatorial campaigns shall receive the stated financial resources from the Election Oversight Commission only in contested races. Expenses for each Senate campaign shall not exceed $100.00 per candidate. Expenses for each presidential campaign shall not exceed $1,000.00 per ticket. Campaign expenses shall be funded through the Judicial Branch's Campaign Expenses and Promotions line item.

Section 1.1 **Financing.** If the cost of candidate campaign expenses exceed 60% of the total amount budgeted for the Judicial Branch's Campaign Expenses and Promotions line item for either Senatorial or Presidential

candidates over the course of the academic year, costs above that threshold shall be moved to the Legislative Branch or Executive Branch budget, respectively.

Section 2. **Budget.** In conjunction with the Election Oversight Commission Advisor, the Election Oversight Commission will track all expenses and reimbursements through Butler University. ~~Reusable items may be kept by the Student Government Association at the discretion of the Election Oversight Commission.~~ General office supplies may be used without approval by the Election Oversight Commission. All receipts must be turned into the Department of Student Involvement and Leadership office (AU 101) by the closing of the polls on election day.

Section 3. **Non-Student Government Association Budget.** Non-Student Government Association budgets may not be used for any campaign efforts. External funding from outside individuals and organizations, including donations of supplies for campaigning, is strictly prohibited.

Section 4. **Campaign Budget.** Campaign budget money is to be used for campaigning for the election of the candidate and not used for the candidate's personal gain. The Election Oversight Commission has the right to deny items on a candidate's budget plan that have not received prior approval.

Section 5. **Financial transactions.** All candidates are responsible for all financial transactions. Campaign workers and external entities may not spend money on behalf of the candidate or campaign. Candidates can take out cash advances or have the Office of Student Activities make the purchase. ~~be reimbursed for expenditures and budgetary expenses.~~ This process may not be done by a campaign worker on behalf of the candidate.

Article VIII. Campaigning

Section 1. **Preparation.** Candidates may discuss and coordinate meetings with relevant student organizations only during the campaign period. ~~Candidates may contact relevant student organizations to discuss and coordinate meetings in regards to campaign organization only during the defined campaign timeline.~~ Public campaigning prior to the specified campaigning time is strictly prohibited. Candidates may discreetly identify and connect with individuals that may be willing to serve on their respective campaign team prior to the start of public campaigning. Confidentiality must be explicitly versed.

Section 2. **Campaign Worker Regulations.** All campaign workers shall represent the campaign of their candidate and shall be held responsible to these rules and regulations. A campaign worker is anyone serving in conjunction with a candidate to further the efforts of the campaign. A campaign worker may only serve on the staff for a single senate or presidential campaign each election cycle. This includes, but is not limited to: distributing, designing, creating campaign materials and creating, managing, and maintaining online accounts. Each candidate shall be responsible for their campaign ~~staff~~ workers. ~~Candidates may add or subtract campaign staff with the permission of the Election Oversight Commission~~. The Election Oversight Commission reserves the right to investigate any member working alongside a candidate that could be deemed an unregistered campaign worker. ~~All campaign workers, registered and unregistered, that fail to cooperate with the Election Oversight Commission will be submitted to the Dean of Students for conduct. Further, any action taken may negatively impact the campaign.~~ ~~Campaign workers cannot receive any sort of compensation for their work.~~

Section 3. **Campaigning Activities.** Candidates may engage in activities including, but not limited to, tabling, hosting candidate outreach events, distributing candidate materials, and other ~~candidates~~ events. If necessary, candidates may begin reserving rooms for campaign activities once their application has been approved by the Election Oversight Commission. Candidates must notify the Election Oversight Commission of any events, outside of campaign worker meetings, prior to the start of the event. There is to be no door-to-door solicitation.

Section 4. **Public Posting Regulations.** All campaign materials must follow ~~university rules and regulations~~ ~~the~~ Office of Student Activities' Sign Posting Guidelines, which stipulates that all signs, flyers, banners, etc must be pre-approved and stamped by the Office of Student Activities. The Election Oversight Commission will provide these regulations to candidates. ~~Additionally, senators are restricted to campaign to their respective area of constituents (i.e. senator candidates of the College of Communication may only hang posters in the Fairbanks Building). All signs, flyers, banners, etc must be pre-approved and stamped by the Department of Student Involvement and Leadership office. All posting must follow the Department of Student Involvement and Leadership posting regulations.~~ ~~No Exceptions.~~ There shall be no more than one ~~11x17~~ posting per candidate on each public bulletin board. This posting may not exceed 11x17. ~~No posting~~ Candidates may not post inside any classroom. This includes notes left on chalk and dry erase boards. ~~No table tents of any kind are to be permitted.~~ Candidates may not post on doors, windows, and other outward facing surfaces other than their own. Chalking may only occur on surfaces able to be walked on and in areas reasonably believed to be exposed to rainwater. Liquid chalk and/or any type of paint are strictly forbidden. Candidates are responsible for removing any materials that are improperly placed during the campaign period. All campaign materials should be removed in a timely manner following Election Day.

Section 5. **Campaign Endorsements.** Candidates may receive endorsements from other candidates, campaign workers, or members of the student body. However, no organization, department, class, or academic college can support, endorse, or aid a candidate. Members of the Executive Cabinet, ~~Judicial Branch~~ Election Oversight Commission, and branch leaders ~~Speaker of the Senate~~ may not endorse candidates. Candidates from separate campaigns may appear with one another at campaign events, but will campaign as separate tickets, with the exception of presidential and vice presidential candidates. Endorsements need to be approved and validated by the Election Oversight Commission, prior to the endorsement being advertised by the campaign or candidate. Information on how to achieve this approval will be discussed and given to candidates at the Candidate meeting.

> Section 5.1 **Online Endorsement Regulations and Communications.** No official Butler account, student organization, department, class or academic college can use public channels (e.g. public Facebook, Twitter, Instagram page) to support, endorse or aid a candidate. Candidates may not be featured on these accounts, even for non-campaigning purposes, during the campaigning period. Private channels (e.g. an organization GroupMe or private Facebook page where students must opt-in or be specially added) can be used to support, endorse or aid a candidate. ~~No candidate can operate outside these campaign guidelines without explicit approval of the Election Oversight Commission.~~ If a candidate learns that an official Butler account, student organization, department, class or academic college is using public channels to support them, the candidate must notify the Election Oversight Commission and contact that organization and request that the organization take down their post. ~~that include likes, comments, retweets, and shares.~~
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> Section 5.2 **Examples of Opt-in and Opt-out Text Services.** Class, Housing, Residential Assistant, and any other text streams that are being used to send top-down, streamlined information specific to that organization is forbidden. Casual, unofficial , opt-in text streams are permissible for a campaign space. ~~This subsection provides rough guidelines as to what are opt-in and opt-out text services.~~ Final decision on the status of a text service lies at the sole discretion of the Election Oversight Commission.

Section 6. **Candidate Communication Regulations.** Candidates may not use their personal channels (e.g @JoeSmith) but may create public channels directly affiliated to their campaign (e.g. Joe Smith for President) to market their platform. Candidates must delete any prior social media accounts associated with their Student Government Association campaigns . ~~Writing on walls or~~ ~~Tagging students on social media is strictly prohibited.~~It is highly recommended that candidates request permission to tag another account on social media. ~~Pxosting on individuals' social media platforms including but not limited to walls, or tagging by the candidate is not allowed.~~ All

social media posts must originate from the candidate's newly-created campaign account. Candidates may ~~not~~ repost campaign content on their personal social media accounts. If a candidate uses social media to market their platform, they must follow the appropriate Butler Student Government Association media accounts.This includes the individual accounts that the Election Oversight Commission dictates.

~~Section 7. **Personal Relations Regulations.** There is to be no door to door solicitation. Candidates may not post on doors, windows, and other outward facing surfaces other than their own. Posting on individuals' doors by the candidate is not allowed. Students may personally post campaign material on their own door. This includes windows and all outward facing surfaces. All individual residence hall policies apply.~~

Section 7. **Conduct.** Candidates and campaign workers must adhere to all Butler University rules and regulations regarding conduct and any other actions. Failure to do so will result in the Election Oversight Commission making a conduct referral to the Office of the Dean of Students, as well as organizational repercussions, as determined by the Judicial Branch ~~Judiciary~~ ~~Election Oversight Commission~~.

Section 8. **Joint Ticket.** The Student Government Association President and Vice President candidates must campaign on a joint ticket and will appear together on the ballot. Candidates for senate are not to campaign on a joint ticket and will not formally appear as a part of a ticket on the ballot.

Section 9. **Personal Gains.** No candidate is allowed to use resources that are not accessible to all students. This includes, but is not limited to, the Student Government Association official communications channels, Student Government Association offices, the Student Involvement and Leadership office, class listservs, Resident Assistant resources, or other communication methods and resources that could provide an unfair advantage to the campaign. ~~be accessed and used as a member of Student Government Association.~~

Article IX. Elections Staff

Section 1. **Staff.** The Election Oversight Commission may appoint students or utilize the Student Government Association Public Relations Board to assist them in carrying out the election as needed. These students will be official election staff members. ~~Any~~ Election staff members ~~may not~~ cannot be ~~a member of any~~ campaign ~~staffers~~ workers or running for office themselves.

Article X. Voting Procedures

Section 1. **Information Technology.** All elections shall be administered electronically~~,~~ through the Butler University Engage platform.

Section 2. **Determination of Winners.** The candidates who receive the most votes from full time undergraduate students shall be elected to their respective positions to serve in the upcoming leadership year. In the event that no candidate receives more than 15 percent of the total vote, a runoff election shall be scheduled no later than five school days following the conclusion and verification of the General Election Results. This is ~~prior to~~ after election violation calculations.

Section 3. **Joint Tickets and Slating.** The Student Government Association President and Vice President candidates will appear on a ticket on the ballot. Candidates for Senate will not formally appear as a part of a ticket on the ballot.

Section 4. **Election Verification.** The Election Oversight Commission shall verify all election results no later than 5 ~~business~~ school days following the election.

Section 5. **Benedict Election Results Clause.** At the conclusion of each election, the Election Oversight Commission shall release the vote counts for each Presidential ticket contending for office. Senate results shall be made available to a respective candidate at their request, or released at the discretion of the Election Oversight Commission.

Section 6. **Announcements.** Overall winners of elections shall be announced following the verification of the election by the Election Oversight Commission unless a appeal process has been initiated.

Article XI. Violations

Section 1. **Submission.** Any student, faculty member, or staff member of Butler University may report violations made by candidates or Election Oversight Commission members no later than 12 hours after the closing of polls on election day ~~in question.~~

Section 2. **Violation Levels for the Ticket.** Violations shall be divided into three categories: Minor, Major, and Severe.

Section 2.1. **Minor Violations.** Minor violations shall include, but will not be limited to, organizational, departmental, or faculty and staff endorsement of a candidate (including but not limited to organization bulletin boards and monetary support), violating flyer posting rules, violating online posting rules, failing to delete prior social media campaign accounts, working with unregistered campaign workers, and amending election registration materials including budget and campaign plan without the permission of the Election Oversight Commission. The candidate shall receive a minor violation if any of these rules are broken.

Section 2.2. **Major Violations.** Major violations shall include, but will not be limited to, violating University solicitation rules, ~~violating online posting rules,~~ and violating campus rules and regulations not previously defined as a violation.~~, and representing Student Government Association while campaigning~~. ~~Current Student Government Association members who are candidates cannot use their current capacity as an advantage to their campaign.~~ Both the ticket and candidate will receive a major violation if any of these rules are broken.

Section 2.3. **Severe Violations.** Severe violations shall include, but will not be limited to, personal attacks, harassment, or intimidation on individuals or groups having a negative impact on one's physical, mental, or emotional wellbeing. Severe violations also include candidates that have exceeded their allotted budget. Both the ticket and candidate will receive a severe violation if any of these rules are broken.

~~Section 2.4. **Ticket Violations Versus Individual Violations.** The Election Oversight Commission will be responsible for determining if a violation was committed on behalf of/while representing the ticket or if it was committed as an individual.~~

Section 2.4. **Applying Violations to the Ticket.** Any violations committed by the candidates for the offices of the presidential ticket ~~President or the Vice President~~ individually will reflect upon the ticket, versus the individual, and the ticket will receive the respective violation and consequence.

Section 2.5. **Violations by Campaign ~~Staff~~ Workers.** Any violations committed by a campaign ~~staff~~ worker ~~member~~ will be investigated by the Election Oversight Commission, which may include a review of the candidate's relation to the violation. If the Election Oversight Commission finds that there is a valid violation committed by a campaign worker, the Election Oversight Commission will award a violation to the campaign according to the severity of the action. Campaign ~~staff~~ workers will be held to the same standards as their respective candidates.

Section 2.6. **Special Circumstances.** Other concerns or violations reported to the Election Oversight Commission that do not fall within the above stated violations will be reviewed by the Commission, and appropriate consequences will be filed determined by a majority vote of the Commission no later than 24 business hours following the complaint.

~~Section 2.7.1. **Special Circumstances for Presidential Campaigns.** There may be special circumstances where the Election Oversight Commission has the authority to deem the individual subject to ramifications, instead of the ticket.~~

~~Section 2.8. **Additional Violations.** Other concerns or violations reported to the Election Oversight Commission that do not fall within the above-stated violations will be reviewed by the Commission, and appropriate consequences will be filed determined by a majority vote of the Commission no later than 24 business hours following the complaint.~~

Section 3. **Election Oversight Commission Violations.** All violation reports ~~on~~ regarding Election Oversight Commission members shall go to the Student Government Association Executive ~~Branch~~ Cabinet. Any member of the Executive Cabinet that is a candidate in the election in question must recuse themselves from discussing and voting on the violation. After review, the Student Government Association Executive ~~Branch~~ Cabinet shall make a recommendation to the Student Government Association Chief Justice to censure the member in question, impeach the member in question, or to disregard the report.

Section 4. **Materials.** Any material that is deemed in violation of the ~~e~~Election ~~o~~Oversight guidelines needs to be turned into the Commission within 24 business hours of the Election Oversight Commission's final decision.

Article XII. Rules of Enforcement

Section 1. **General.** The Election Oversight Commission shall initially assess what level of violation has been breached and shall call hearings as they see fit. The Election Oversight Commission will communicate all final decisions regarding violations to the affected candidate ~~every candidate or ticket in that respective race~~ by email. Candidates or a ticket have the right to hold a meeting ~~meet~~ with the Commission to discuss the decision made by the Commission on campaign violations. Any violation decisions made by the Election Oversight Commission must be overruled by a two-thirds vote of the Election Oversight Commission at a hearing. ~~but the ruling must be followed until said meeting.~~ Each infringement is individual; as such, similar punishments may be imposed on more than one occasion.

Section 2. **Enforcement.** In the case of minor violations in both Senate and Presidential elections, ~~two~~ one percent of the ~~ticket's~~ total vote count for that office shall be deducted. Major violations will result in a ~~five~~ three percent deduction from the ~~ticket's~~ total vote count for that office. These deductions are cumulative and will be applied to the vote tally once polls close. The accumulation of two minor violations equals one major violation. Tickets and candidates who accumulate more than two major violations will be disqualified from the election. For severe violations, tickets and candidates will be disqualified from the election, even in cases where they have won their office.

Section 3. **Decisions.** All decisions of the Election Oversight Commission shall be decided no sooner than 24 hours after the submission of the issue. Minor violations shall be decided by a majority vote of the Election Oversight Commission Chairs ~~and Vice-Chairs~~. Major and severe violations shall be decided by a majority vote of the Election Oversight Commission. The remainder of the Election Oversight Commission may appeal any minor violation decision made by the Election Oversight Commission Chairs and Vice-Chairs. All candidates will be considered innocent until proven otherwise. There must be sufficient evidence to administer a violation.

Article XIII. Amendments

Section 1. **Amendment.** Amendments to these guidelines, once approved by a simple majority of the Senate, shall be submitted to the Election Oversight Commission Chair in writing. Amendments are subject to a simple majority affirmation vote by the Election Oversight Commission and shall take effect immediately upon adoption. This amendment process is an addition to the amendment process already outlined in the Constitution.

Section 2. **Suspension.** An article or section of these guidelines may be suspended by a ⅔ vote of the Election Oversight Commission, provided that the suspension of the article or section does not cause conflict with the rules and regulations of Butler University or the Student Government Association Constitution. Suspension of the Elections Guidelines shall otherwise be considered as a motion to suspend the rules. Any suspension of the rules may be reversed by a simple majority vote of the Student Body Senate, provided that a member of the Election Oversight Commission be invited before the body to explain the reasoning behind the suspension.

Section 3. **Commission Revision.** The Election Guidelines shall be reviewed by the Election Oversight Commission each year. The Commission may make recommendations to the Senate but is not obligated to.

Article XIV. Appeals

Section 1. **Appeals Process.** If any party wishes to submit an appeal regarding a decision made by the Election Oversight Commission, including but not limited to decisions regarding any level of violation, they have the right to appeal to the Student Government Association Election Oversight Commission Chair. A recommendation will be ratified if confirmed by a majority vote of the ~~Student Body Supreme Court~~ Election Oversight Commission.

> Section 1.2 **Secondary Appeal.** If the ticket is unsatisfied with the second decision of the Election Oversight Commission, the Student Government Association Executive Cabinet will then gather evidence and testimonies from all parties involved and make their decision absent from influence of the Court. Any member of the Executive Cabinet that is a candidate in the election in question must recuse themselves from the discussing and voting on the appeal. The Executive Cabinet is required to inform the Election Oversight Commission of their decision ~~imminently~~ immediately. Upon presentation of substantial new evidence, the party will be allowed back before the Executive Cabinet.

Section 2. **Appeals Timeline.** The candidate(s) has 24 hours to submit an appeal after the original decision made by the Election Oversight Commission to the ruling body that is reviewing the violation in question.

Section 3. **Opposing Party Process.** If applicable, the opposing party may have the opportunity to also present to the Election Oversight Commission or Student Government Association Executive Cabinet pertaining to the appeal submitted.

Section 4. **Dismissal.** All violations of Election Guidelines are subject to the opinion of the Election Oversight Commission and can be dismissed with due process and cause once a sufficient investigation has taken place.