

## **Spring 2020 SBA EXTENDED ELECTION RULES**

The following are a synopsis of the extended election rules. Candidates must also read and abide by the requirements of the SBA Constitution and By-Laws. You may also view these rules on the SBA Website.

### **1. Elected Positions.**

- a. Please refer to the Student Bar Association Constitution Articles IV. If there are any discrepancies between these rules and the Constitution and By-Laws, the ruling law will be first the Constitution and secondly the By-Laws.

### **2. Presidential Petition.**

- a. The Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates for Student Bar Association shall be nominated as a team by petition carrying the signatures of at least fifty (50) students. Teams may choose to endorse any treasurer or secretary as part of their race but may not violate the advertising parameters set forth in this document.
- b. Both members of the President/Vice President team must be returning, degree-seeking law students during the following full academic year to be eligible to run for the positions and must meet membership requirements as per the Student Bar Association Constitution.
- c. Only official petitions using the Microsoft Forms application, as provided by the Election Committee, may be used. The Election Committee will establish deadlines for the submission of petitions. No petitions will be accepted after the deadline without prior written approval of the Election Committee. The Election Committee may extend the petition deadline as necessary.
  - i. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, all petitions must be created using the Microsoft Forms application and electronically signed. Each student signing a candidate petition must have a valid Mitchell Hamline email address in order to sign a petition.
  - ii. Candidates may use Mitchell Hamline email to send out a link to the signature form but are only permitted to do so a maximum of two times.

- d. Potential candidates may request at any time from the Election Commissioner the following information:
  - i. Announcement of all dates pertaining to the election;
  - ii. Announcement of all election rules;
  - iii. Announcement of the members and chair of the Election Committee, Board of Governors, and pertinent contact information;
  - iv. Announcement of the date(s) and location of the election.
- e. Once the deadline for petitions is reached, an official list of candidates shall be posted either on the Student Bar Association website, on the Docket, or made available at request.
- f. Rights of official “Candidate Teams”<sup>1</sup>:
  - i. Platforms may be distributed and posted in accordance with the Law School Catalog<sup>2</sup> posting rules;
  - ii. Candidates shall not run campaign activities from within the Student Leadership Office;
  - iii. Candidate Teams may participate in the Student Bar Association sponsored candidate forum.
  - iv. Candidate Teams must abide by all guidelines established by the By-Laws and by the Election Committee.

### **3. General Election.**

- a. The General Election shall be conducted electronically, with at least one weekend day and two adjacent weekdays.

### **4. Eligibility Requirements of Representative Candidates.<sup>3</sup>**

- a. Class representatives must meet the following criteria for the position they are seeking.

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<sup>1</sup> Candidate Teams” shall consist of a Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidate.

<sup>2</sup> The Law School Catalog can be found on the Mitchell Hamline website.

<sup>3</sup> Additional specific rules can be found in the SBA Constitution and By-Laws.

- i. First Year Representative candidates must meet at least one of the following requirements:
  - 1. Mitchell Hamline School of Law must be the first law school that the student has been enrolled in after graduation of college, regardless of current credit status; or
  - 2. If the student has attended another law school, the student must have under 31.99 credits with the other law school as reported by the office of the registrar.
- ii. 2L and 3L representative candidates must run for the class that they will have earned credit by the first semester of the academic year in which they begin their term as representative.
- b. All applications for elective offices shall be evaluated by the Election Committee chair to ensure that the candidates meet the requirements set forth in the SBA Constitution. Those applicants who do not fulfill the said requirements will neither be placed on the ballot nor eligible to hold the office in question.
- c. Students may only run for one (1) position during the election.

## **5. Election Rules**

- a. These rules are to be enforced upon all candidates, and those engaging in campaign activity from their publishing date.
- b. Candidates may campaign during the “Election Period.” The “Election Period” means the period of during which the election is taking place.
- c. Due to the current crisis with the COVID-19 virus and the subsequent closure of the physical campus to students, in person campaign activities are prohibited. Campaigning for elective office must be performed using virtual methods, such as social media, web conferencing, or email. In all cases the candidates must comply with these rules, the Law School Catalog, and any other rules and regulations.

- d. No candidates may campaign in any classroom or online classroom equivalent<sup>4</sup> whether before, during, or after the class period. This includes unspoken campaigning, such as buttons and tee-shirts. Candidates may campaign in the lobby areas outside the classrooms.
- e. Candidates shall be held responsible for the behavior of any one in their campaign organization as determined by the Election Committee.
- f. Candidates shall abide by the following campaign posting policy.
  - i. No campaign literature, posters, or any other form of advertisement from a Presidential team or Representative candidate may be posted anywhere on campus prior to receipt of a confirmation from the election committee that all requirements for appearing on the ballot have been completed.
    - 1. No literature, posters, or any other form of advertisement will be allowed to be posted on any wall of MHSL with the lone exception of the SBA Bulletin Boards located adjacent to the cafeteria. Candidates who would like an advertisement posted but are unable to do so themselves may send their advertisement to the SBA President and they will post it.
  - ii. Each candidate or candidate team is expressly responsible for the removal of their campaign material, and the failure to remove this material shall be considered a breach of campaign rules.
  - iii. Flyers, banners, brochures, etc. may be posted on Mitchell Hamline School of Law but are subject to the Law School Catalog posting policy.
  - iv. Chalk and/or other substances will not be permitted on the exterior or interior walls of buildings.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> This would include synchronous class meetings held via Zoom or a similar tool.

<sup>5</sup> Chalk is not allowed on exterior sidewalks.

- v. Candidates shall have the opportunity to submit a candidacy statement that will be electronically mailed to students upon the opening of the balloting period. Any other targeted electronic mail contact by candidates to students in any form is limited and must be coordinated with Student Services.
- vi. Social media posting of campaign material within MHSL administered Facebook pages shall be done solely by the Dean of Students and shall be limited to links to external campaign pages. All other posting of campaign material within MHSL administered Facebook pages is strictly prohibited.
- vii. Candidates are encouraged to create their own web pages or social media accounts for their candidacy in accordance with these rules and the Law School Catalog.
- viii. Campaign materials shall not contain depictions of guns or other violence, drugs, alcohol, or other substances, and shall not directly or indirectly threaten any current or former student.
- ix. Candidates shall not advertise their campaigns inside the Student Leadership Office nor on the outside of the walls of the Student Leadership Office.
- x. Candidates are responsible for removing all campaign materials within twenty-four (24) hours following the notification of election results.
  - 1. Other sanctions deemed necessary by the Election Committee, including forfeiture of candidacy, will be enforced for any Candidate who does not remove campaign materials.
- xi. Candidates may campaign through email but will be limited to sending two (2) campaign emails. Student Services will coordinate with the candidates to send email in a way that prevents the possibility of email storms.

- xii. Absolutely no campaigning through campus mail, law school boxes, law monitors, or broadcast voicemail will be allowed.
- g. The Election Commissioner shall be the arbitrator of all penalties extolled on candidates that have been found to be in violation of these rules. The Election Commissioner's discretion as to what remedy, and/or punishment to be provided or extolled shall be unlimited, up to and including the disqualification of a candidate.<sup>6</sup>
- h. Candidates are expected to behave ethically and professionally<sup>7</sup> at all times and shall not interfere with the campaign activities of any other candidate. The Election Committee will review unethical behavior or interference upon written complaint. Violations include, but are not limited to: monopolization of space, covering or defaming of any other candidates' posters, insulting or defaming other candidates, and harassment or misconduct towards any election officials or voters. Penalty for misconduct may result in forfeiture of candidacy.

## **6. Eligible Voters**

- a. Any student who has paid the SBA student fee for the current year shall be eligible to vote in the election.
  - i. No proxy ballots will be made available for the election.

## **7. Official Ballots**

- a. Official ballots will be distributed electronically by the MHSL administration on the day the election period opens.
- b. The position of names on the ballot shall be determined alphabetically.

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<sup>6</sup> Any dispute over the interpretation of these rules shall be made in the form of an appeal to the Judicial Council.

<sup>7</sup> Please campaign in a professional, positive and appropriate manner, avoid disparaging or negative comments against opposing candidates. Campaigning must conform to Mitchell Hamline Student Conduct. Let your work speak for itself; there is no need to compare or impugn other candidates in your campaign.

- c. Write-in votes are valid votes if, and only if, the person or candidate team for which the vote is cast meets the membership and eligibility requirements as determined by the Student Bar Association Constitution and By-Laws. In the Presidential/Vice Presidential race, the write-in team(s) will be ranked in the same manner as recognized teams and votes formal teams will be considered in accordance with all applicable rules and procedures of these By-Laws.
- d. All candidates may request a recount in all elections.
- e. No officially recognized candidate may be present when votes are counted.

Please print, sign and date declaring that you have read with full understanding and will comply with the ALL election rules.

Print Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_