Homecoming King and Queen Nomination and Election Procedures

Nomination Process
To run for Homecoming King, the student must be currently enrolled at Midland College as a full time student. The student must have at least a 2.5 MC grade point average and cannot be on disciplinary probation.

To run for Homecoming Queen, the student must be currently enrolled at Midland College as a full time student. The student must have at least a 2.5 MC grade point average and cannot be on disciplinary probation.

Candidate applications and verification forms shall be available in the Student Activities office. The application must be signed by the candidate, and must state:

1. The full name of the candidate
2. The candidate’s MC identification number
3. The candidate’s GPA
4. The candidate’s classification and the number of hours they have completed at MC

After the application filing deadline has passed, a representative of the Election Committee shall take the applications to the Dean of Students’ Office, whom shall verify the GPA’s of each of the applicants. The Election Committee shall disqualify all candidates that do not meet the criteria. Within one class day after the filing deadline, the Election Committee shall place the final candidate list in the window of the Student Life office.

All candidates whose name shall appear on the ballot shall be required to submit a letter of recommendation from a faculty member by a date specified by the Election Committee. Any candidate failing to submit proper election materials shall be disqualified; and their name will not appear on the official ballot.

Campaign Regulations
A. Campaigning shall be defined as any public soliciting of votes for a particular candidate, slate of candidates, or issues involved in the election concerned.

B. Campaigning shall be open once candidates’ names have been posted and shall extend until 8:00am the morning of the election. After 8:00am, campaign signs and social media pages may remain in place, but no campaigning can be done from or through them, and no new campaign items may be added.

C. Campaigning shall not be permitted in any MC computer labs.

D. Campaigning shall be limited to:
   1. Speeches
   2. Signs
   3. Handbills
   4. Personal solicitation
   5. Mass media through the use of televisions, radio, Internet or newsprint, with the exception of mass emails
   6. Other campaign items not listed subject to the approval by the Election Commission

E. Campaigning items shall be restricted by the following:
   1. Signs
   a. Each candidate for King or Queen shall be limited to twenty (20) signs. Two sides may be used and considered a sign, and slates of candidates may pool their sign quota if all the names appear on each side of each sign.
b. Maximum size of signs shall be six (6) square feet

c. All items affixed to public or private dwellings shall be labeled a sign.

d. The candidate is responsible for campaign debris remaining after the polls have closed; this includes all handbills and signs. This debris must be removed within two class days to avoid election sanctions.

e. All University posting guidelines shall be adhered to.

2. Handbills

a. No limit on number.

b. Maximum size: Eleven (11) by seventeen (17) inches.

c. Handbills may not be affixed to permanent objects

F. Each candidate is responsible for keeping accurate records as to how much money they have spent on their campaign, and for turning in a financial disclosure report to the Election Commission before the conclusion of the campaigning period.

1. All receipts for campaigning materials must be kept.

2. Donated items must be given a monetary value and documentation must be signed by the individual or business making the donation.

3. Candidates are allowed to use up to $500 on campaigns.

4. Campaign funds may be pooled, so long as all candidates’ names appear on all campaign items.

G. All candidates are liable for the actions and remarks of their manager and campaign staff.

H. Candidates, campaign managers, campaign workers, and any individuals will refrain from actions and remarks that will be in any way detrimental, defamatory, ridiculing, or embarrass any individual, including but not limited to reference to race, color, creed, religious background, sexual orientation, or national origin. Violators shall be subject to penalties as provided by this Election Code. References can be made to a candidate record so long as it is in regards to actions within Sam Houston State University Student Organizations. The Election Commission reserves the right to refer any violators to the Office of Student Life for disciplinary action.

I. In all SGA sponsored elections, usage of the SGA Office for purposes of printing out or designing campaign materials, signs, or handbills and any other campaigning is strictly prohibited.

J. No candidate or individual representing such may campaign in any classroom or academic event in which they have the power to alter, mark or assign any sort of grade, including extra credit.

K. Destruction of campaign materials shall be a direct violation of this Code for any candidate or agents thereof to willfully destroy, deface, move, or remove signs or campaign literature of any other candidate.

L. Alcohol and illegal substances are not permitted in campaigning, and shall not be allowed to influence a student to vote or have his or her vote swayed. Campaigning at establishments that make more than fifty percent of their revenue from the sale and consumption of alcohol, or that are commonly known as bars, is prohibited. Candidates are not permitted to provide, or have provided on their behalf, a discount or receded rate of admission or cover to themselves or their supporters at any establishment that serves alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption.

M. At the discretion of the Election Commission, violating the campaign regulations shall result in the disqualification of the offending candidate from the election. Candidates disqualified in this manner may appeal the decision to the SGA Supreme Court within two class days. Once a candidate or slate of candidates is disqualified, they must discontinue campaigning immediately and remove all campaign materials within forty-eight hours.
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N. If, in any race with a single candidate, the candidate has withdrawn his or her name, or if the candidate has been declared ineligible, the Election Commission shall re-open that position for filing for one (1) class day.

Elections
A. The Election shall be held under the procedures and regulations found in the SGA Election Code.

B. If the polls go down during the course of the election, the poll time shall be extended by the number of hours the polls were down.

C. In order to vote, students shall have a valid MC computer account/email and shall be currently enrolled in classes at the time of voting.

D. Voting by proxy (letting someone else vote for you) is strictly prohibited and any persons who are found to have been in violation of this rule shall be subject to immediate penalties by the Dean of Students Office.

E. The following guidelines shall govern election ballots:
   1. All ballots shall contain the following information:
      1. The designation of the “Student Government Official Ballot.”
      2. Date of election.
      3. Specific balloting instructions pertaining to the manner in which candidates are to be chosen.
   2. In all elections, listing of the candidate’s name on all ballots shall be in alphabetical order by the student’s last name, as determined on the campaign application form.

Election Results
A. The tabulation of votes shall be computerized and overseen by the Election Committee with assistance from Computer Services.

B. Phase I
The 5 male candidates and the 5 female with the most votes will make up the Homecoming Court.

Phase II
A final vote of these 10 individuals, to be held three days after the initial vote, will determine the King and Queen. The male candidate with the most votes will be declared the Homecoming King. The female candidate with the most votes will be declared the Homecoming Queen. If there is a tie for King or Queen, a runoff election shall be held between the tied candidates.

C. Abstentions shall not be counted in any election.

D. After the election closes, the Election Committee shall publish a preliminary result report online, but that report shall not be final until after a 2 class day protest period.

E. After the election results become final, the Election Committee shall publish the final results in the campus media and online.

Runoff Elections
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A. If a runoff election is necessary, the Election Committee shall designate a date for the runoff to take place, no more than 5 class days from the date of the original election.

B. Campaigning for runoff elections shall last from the time the runoff is declared until the 8:00am the morning of the Election.

C. All Campaign regulations shall be in effect during campaigning for runoff elections.

D. For a runoff election, candidates are allowed to utilize an additional $100 for their campaigns.

Protests
A. In all general and runoff elections there shall be a protest period that shall begin as soon as campaigning begins and last until (2) class days after polls close.

B. The results shall not be official until the end of this period.

C. Any student or candidate wishing to protest the results must file a protest during this period with the Election Committee and their grounds for protest.

D. The Election Committee is required notify any candidate via the Midland College Email System of any petition filed against them within twelve (12) hours.

E. The Election Committee must call a hearing with the petitioner and the candidates listed in the petition within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving the petition and must allow testimony from both sides. The committee must do one of the following:
   1. Reject the protest and state why it is being rejected. Such rejection must be in writing.
   2. Disqualify a candidate, and provide reasons for the disqualification in writing.

F. Any Election Committee protest decision may be appealed to the SGA Supreme Court and must be done within twenty-four (24) hours after the Election Committee meeting. The Court must call a hearing with the petitioner and any candidate or candidates listed in the petition within seventy-two (72) hours and must allow testimony from both sides. The Court shall decide if the Election Committee acted fairly and properly and if they interpreted the rules correctly. The Supreme Court shall not decide guilt or innocence. The court has the power to do any of the following:
   1. Accept the decision of the committee
   2. Overturn the decision of the committee

Revision of Codes
A. The Rules and Regulations Committee of the SGA shall be the only entity authorized to revise the Homecoming Election Code if and when such revisions are warranted at any time.

B. Any revisions to this code must progress through the Rules and Regulations Committee in the form of a bill that must be passed by majority vote of the Student Senate.

C. The Election Commission shall have no power to revise the Codes, or ban any actions not banned by this code.

D. Upon revision of these codes all previous versions of the Homecoming Election Code shall become null and void.

Ratification
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A. This document may be ratified by an approval of 2/3 of the Senate present and voting.

B. Upon ratification, all other Homecoming Election Codes become null and void.