



Article VI

Elections

Section 1: Election Committee

I. Election Committee

- A. The Election Committee shall be formed no later than the first week of May following Bylaw 6.1.1 and serve until the second Wednesday of February. At this time a new Election Committee will be formed if needed to allow serving senators to run for reelection.
- B. If at any time a student on the Election committee runs for a position on the Senate they must step down and a new student shall take their spot on the committee with a two thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the Senate.

Section 2: Date

I. Spring Election

- A. All officers, college representatives, and general senators except for the First-year shall be elected at an annual election to be held on the second Wednesday of April. Voting shall be done by secret ballot whether online or offline by the student body.

II. Fall Election

- A. All open officer, college representatives, and general senator's positions that are vacant at the start of the fall semester along with the first-year position shall be elected at an election to be held on the second Wednesday of October. Voting shall be done by secret ballot whether online or offline by the student body.

Section 3: Petitions

I. Availability & Creation

- A. The election committee shall be in charge of creating & distributing all petitions available before a vote in a timely manner.
- B. Spring Election
 - 1. Petitions for all positions on the ballot open by the last Wednesday of February at 8 pm.
- C. Fall Election
 - 1. Petitions for all positions on the ballot open by the last Wednesday of August at 8 pm.

II. Requirements

- A. Refer to Bylaw 6.3.1 for requirements of Petitions

III. Submission

- A. Spring Election



1. Petitions for all positions on the ballot are due by the last Wednesday of March at 5 pm
- B. Fall Election
 1. Petitions for all positions on the ballot are due by the last Wednesday of September at 5 pm.
- C. Election following Article 4 Subsection C
 1. Petitions for all positions open shall be due on a date set by the election committee.
- D. If the committee finds a petition to be invalid, they shall immediately notify the candidate who shall then have up to one week to make any necessary corrections.

Section 4: Voting

I. Voting Rights

- A. All members of the Student Body at the time of the election shall be eligible to vote for the Senate candidates.

II. Plurality Vote

- A. Senate candidates that receive the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. Alternates shall be those candidates who receive the highest number of votes but do not win a seat

III. Ties

- A. Ties in Senate elections shall be broken at the first session of the new Senate at a special session called and chaired by the current President. If the current President is seeking the office in question, it will be chaired by the current Advisor. The Chair shall not vote unless the Senate is equally divided.

Section 5: Public Relations Chair, Finance Chair, and Administrative Assistant

I. Election Process for Spring Election

- A. The Public Relations Chair, Finance Chair, and Administrative Assistant shall not be on the ballot. With the addition of two general senators on the ballot, the President on the third week of April shall nominate a General Senator for each position. The Senate will then confirm or deny that nomination for the position with a 2/3 majority vote.

Section 6: Term of Office

- I. All voting members of the Senate shall hold office for a single term beginning when they take office and ending when the next term of elected students take office on the second Wednesday of April at the normally scheduled session. The previous Executive Council shall remain on Senate for one week following the election of the new Executive Council to assist in the transition process. The transition process is defined in the Transition Document. Refer to Bylaw 3.6.1 for the management and implementation of this document.



- II. During the transition process, the previous Executive Council shall have no voting powers in any matters of the Senate, unless they are re-elected to a position within the Senate.

Section 7: Senator Eligibility

- I. Any member of the Student Body who meets and maintains the following requirements is eligible for candidacy for Student Senator.
 - A. A cumulative institutional GPA of 2.60 or greater for all non-executive Officers.
 - B. In good standing at the Dakota State University (not on disciplinary probation).
 - C. In good standing with the Senate (having not been removed from their position either by dereliction of duty or by their own volition).
 - D. Completed at least one semester at Dakota State University with the exception of the First-year who shall not have attended any institution of higher learning or be in their first year out of high school.
 - E. Available to serve a full term in office.
 - F. Must complete the application process.
 - G. Candidates must be full-time on-campus students during the election and while serving the term in office.
 - 1. Exceptions are made for students who will no longer meet full-time requirements due to graduation or course rotation.
 - H. No former Senator who has been removed from their position may hold a Senate seat again unless pardoned. A pardon requires sponsorship of no fewer than three (3) Senators, endorsement by a majority of the Executive Council, and confirmation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.

Section 8: Officer Eligibility

- I. Any members of the Student Senate who meet the requirements put forth in the above section are eligible for candidacy for Senate Officer with two differences. First, officers must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater at the time of election. Second, the Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates must have been members of the Senate for one term prior to running for office or are currently serving their first term.