Election Packets Released
October 22, 2014

Election Packets Due
October 29, 2014

Mandatory Candidate’s Meeting
October 29, 2014

Campaign Period
Date of Meeting-November 4, 2014
**Begins after Candidate’s Meeting**

Fall Elections
November 4, 2014

Expenditure Reports Due
November 7, 2014
A message from the election commissioner:

Thank you for your interest in joining Student Union! As a Washington University student, you have undoubtedly found many ways to grow and push yourself. We are delighted that you are considering joining Student Union, and hope that this page may serve as a resource as you navigate the election process. Student Union is an organization that serves the 300+ student groups on campus, passes legislation that affects all students, plans campus wide programming, and distributes a $2.6 million budget. As a member of Student Union, you will be in charge of representing the school and working with your peers to serve the entire Washington University community. Beyond that, you will be able to make a difference by dealing with issues that directly relate to you and your classmates. You will meet and work with many wonderful leaders, both students and administrators, throughout your term and watch yourself grow into a wonderful leader as well. Additionally, we hope that you will have fun every step of the way (with a few challenges, of course).

Before officially committing yourself, be sure to consider your other obligations. Being a Student Union Officer is a commitment - to you, your fellow officers, your peers, and your school. If you feel you are up to the time, work, and thought this demands, then please continue. For more information about any of the positions, please feel free to contact me, the Election Commissioner, and I will ensure a full response from the appropriate SU Officer.

If you have any questions or comments, I would be more than happy to talk to you, either in person or via email at elections@su.wustl.edu. Thank you for your interest in becoming a Student Union Officer and best of luck with elections!

Savannah Rush

SU Election Commissioner
Information about Block Funding:

According to the Student Union Constitution, the constituency of the Student Union (undergraduate students of Washington University in St. Louis) shall have the power to initiate the allocation of funds to any student initiative or Student Union student group, provided that fifteen percent (15%) of the constituents sign a petition calling for an election on the allocation, which shall be submitted in writing to the Election Commissioner for approval no less than ten (10) days before the fall election.

Block Funding petitions shall only appear on fall election ballots. These allocations will replace all other sources of funding from the Students Activities Fee for a period specified in the petition of either one (1) or two (2) fiscal years, to be allocated evenly on an annual basis. The vote requires two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast.

In addition, all those seeking Block Funding must receive the approval of the Vice President of Finance to be on the ballot. Approval will be based on the conditions of good financial standing, defined as having an amount greater than or equal to zero in all accounts, and a budget proposal or process in which the fund shall determine the allocation of its resources in accordance with Student Union policies. Please email the VP of Finance at finance@su.wustl.edu to schedule a time to meet and receive approval.

Any election petition for block funding must include a mission statement detailing the purpose of the funding request as well as a budget proposal providing an outline of the planned expenses of the fund or the process by which the fund shall determine the use of its requested funding. Fraternities and sororities are ineligible to receive block funding. A fund may not submit a budget request to the Budget Committee or an appeal to the Treasury or the Executive Council for additional funding.
Description of Senators:

The Student Union Senate is comprised of students representing the five undergraduate academic divisions of Washington University; it constitutes one house of the Legislative Branch of Student Union and makes many official Student Union decisions. Each senator represents approximately 325 students from his/her academic division and serves a one-year term; approximately half of the Senate seats are elected beginning in the fall, the other half are elected in the spring.

Senators strive to better the Washington University community by serving as a channel for student opinions and concerns. In past years, one of the Senate's goals was to increase communication between students and Student Union and between students and the University Administration. Some of the Senate’s work included working to improve late night transportation to off-campus apartments, recycling improvements, online course evaluations, the creation of a Task Force to evaluate resources for GLBT students, improvements to the Freshmen Residential Life Questionnaire, and surveying the student body to determine what kinds of food should be in the new Danforth University Center Dining Hall. Each year, the Senate strives to continue to improve campus life and advocate for issues concerning their fellow students.

Each Senator is required to work on a senate project, and to serve on one of the three standing committees. Projects range in size and scope: from increasing student voter turnout, to getting the school to increase the use of recycled paper, to rerouting the shuttle system. Senators work with student groups, school administrators and the local community to find the best solution to students’ concerns. The standing committees of the Senate include the Academic Affairs Committee, the Campus Services Committee, and the University Initiatives Committee. The committees serve to guide senate projects and act as a sounding board for potential resolutions.
The term of office for Senate spans one year. If you intend to run for a seat on Senate, you must be present for an entire mandatory meeting.

For more information, please contact the Speaker of the Senate at senate@su.wustl.edu.

Description of Treasury Representatives:

The Student Union Treasury is the primary body responsible for the allocating the student activity fee, as well as all additional Student Union monies and resources. Treasury’s main tasks include approving the Student Union General Budget, approving new student groups, funding the budgets of SU-recognized student groups, and hearing appeals from student groups. As one of the two houses in the Legislative Branch, it consists of students representing the entire undergraduate student body.

There are two standing committees in Treasury; each Treasury Representative is required to serve on one of the two committees. Budget Committee is in charge of the allocation of funds each semester to student groups. The Student Groups Activities Committee serves as Student Union’s liaison to student groups, and is responsible for approving and deregistering student groups. They are charged with receiving new group applications and providing resources for groups on campus.

Every school from which candidates are running will be guaranteed one seat on Treasury for their candidate. The term of office for Treasury spans one year. If you intend to run for a seat on Treasury, you must be present for an entire mandatory meeting.

For more information about Treasury, please contact the Speaker of the Treasury at treasury@su.wustl.edu.
Election Rules

GENERAL RULES

1. While collecting signatures, the completed Petition for Candidacy (at the top of the signature page) must be visible so students understand the meaning of their signatures.

2. Undergraduate Election Petitions for Executive Offices must include the names and ID numbers of at least one hundred and fifty (150) full-time undergraduate students who are members of the class for which the candidate is seeking to represent.

3. Undergraduate Election Petitions for Treasury Positions must include the names and signatures of at least seventy-five (75) full-time undergraduate students.

4. Undergraduate Election Petitions for Senators from the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Engineering, and the Olin Business School must include the names and signatures of at least fifty (50) full-time undergraduate students who are members of the school for which the candidate is seeking to represent.

5. Undergraduate Election Petitions for Senators from the College of Architecture and the College of Art must include the names and signatures of at least twenty (20) full-time undergraduate students who are members of the school for which the candidate is seeking to represent.

6. Undergraduate Election Petitions for Class or School Council must include the names and ID numbers of at least seventy-five (75) full-time undergraduate students who are members of the class for which the candidate is seeking to represent.
7. All materials must be turned into the Election Commissioner’s mailbox in the Student Union offices on the second floor of the Danforth University Center.

8. Candidate Qualifications: (a) All candidates for office must have paid the Student Activities Fee. (b) Class Council candidates may run from abroad. The ballot will explicitly state such condition. A winning candidate must be sworn in no later than five (5) days after the start of the next academic year. (c) Candidates for legislative office must be available to complete a minimum of one academic semester of the term of office for which they are running. If a legislative candidate will graduate or study abroad before the completion of his entire term of office, the ballot will explicitly state such condition.

CAMPAIGN RULES

1. Herein “candidates” refers to all the campaign members of all candidates for office and all student groups petitioning for block funding.

2. Candidates must place their name on any advertisements used by their campaign.

3. No form of campaign advertising as listed in the Posting Rules, nor any form of direct solicitation of votes, may be published, posted or distributed prior to the official campaign period. This clause does not limit the free speech of any individual to discuss issues concerning this campus.

4. Candidates may hold information forums prior to the official campaign period. However, no campaign materials may be distributed at that forum. All information meetings and forums must be registered with the Election Commissioner.
5. Candidates may not paint the underpass.

6. No logo or brand that has ever been or is now adopted by Student Union or Washington University may be used in any campaign-related material.

7. No candidate may use the Student Union office or any of its equipment (including computers and photocopier) for any campaign-related activities.

8. No student group operating funds may be used for any campaign-related activities.

9. No baked goods (University policy).

10. Any fraudulent activity on the part of one candidate to discredit or incriminate another candidate or in any way circumvent the spirit of the election shall result in the immediate disqualification of that candidate. If the candidate is part of a slate, the other members of that slate are liable for fine or disqualification at the discretion of the Election Commission.

EXPENSES AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

1. Candidates for office may spend up to $100 in support of their candidacy.

2. Any candidate for office who exceeds the maximum expenditure limit will be disqualified.

3. All candidates for office must submit an expenditure report by the date determined by the Election Commissioner. If the expenditure report is not submitted by the determined time, the candidate can be disqualified from the election.
4. The expenditure report shall itemize all expenditures, including those for advertisements, posters, paid staff, parties, supplies (paper, markers, paint, etc.) and all other expenses. Original itemized receipts are required for all expenditures.

5. In the event that goods or services are donated to a candidate, the estimated value of the goods or services shall be included in the expenditure report. All materials and services shall be valued at fair market price. No value shall be placed on donated unskilled labor, but all other labor shall be valued at fair market price. If you have any questions about this provision, contact the Election Commissioner.

6. Endorsements by students, faculty, or staff of Washington University shall have no monetary value.

7. Print media and radio messages that are not paid for, as well as word-of-mouth have no monetary value, are not considered campaigning or advertising, and are not subject to the posting rules specified elsewhere in the packet information.

8. Submitting a fraudulent or incomplete expenditure report will result in disqualification.

POSTING RULES

1. A maximum of one flyer per public posting bulletin board or kiosk is allowed on the South 40.

2. A maximum of two flyers per public posting bulletin board or kiosk is allowed on main campus.

3. All postings must be attached with tacks or staples. Tape is strictly prohibited.

4. No posting may be attached to, hung, or written on, outer building walls, classroom walls, beams, glass, trees, hallways,
printed surfaces, floors, ceilings, RA and other designated bulletin boards, lamp posts, sidewalks, elevators, bathrooms, mirrors, etc.

5. No posting over other flyers.

6. No stickers are allowed.

7. No permanent adhesives may be used on any surface.

8. Nothing may be placed under the doors of residents.

9. No painting school property.

10. No form of advertisement may be placed on or in the grounds of the University.

11. Advertisements may not promote nor advertise drugs or alcoholic beverages.

12. When going to dorms, you may talk to people who have their doors open, but you may not knock on closed doors.

13. The maximum size for all postings is 8.5 inches by 14 inches.

14. Table tents may be placed on tables in dining areas only with the permission of the management of Bon Appétit.

15. Chalking is only allowed on uncovered sidewalks. No other surfaces including trees, sculptures, barriers, ledges, or sidewalks covered by any form of roof or overhang may be chalked. Only dry (talc) chalk may be used. Chalking on any prohibited surface or with any other form of chalk may be subject to serious fines or penalty from a university administrator.
16. The dignity of all individuals and parties must be respected. This includes the prohibition of any sexual or discriminating depictions of individuals.

17. The Election Commissioner must be made aware of any online resources used to campaign and must be invited to any internet social-networking groups or events used to campaign (i.e. Facebook, Google Groups, Twitter). All groups and events must be open to all undergraduate students.

Any additional publicity, event, or space reservation rules imposed by any department of the University, including Residential Life, Campus Life, or school administrations must be followed. Websites to consult include, but are not limited to, reslife.wustl.edu & getinvolved.wustl.edu. Please report violations (individual, position campaigning for, location or violation, and date) to the Election Commissioner’s mailbox in the SU Office, or to elections@su.wustl.edu. Do not remove any posting violations; the Election Commission will determine the appropriate action after viewing the complaint.

VIOLATIONS

If any violation by a candidate or students involved in the campaign are observed by the election commission, this will result in a verbal warning to the candidate. If the infraction is not remedied within 1 hour of the first warning, a penalty ranging from 1-25 votes (at the discretion of the Election Commissioner) will be applied. If a second infraction occurs, the infraction will be removed immediately and a second and more significant penalty (not to exceed 50 votes) will be applied. After the 2nd infraction, it will be up to the judgment of the Election Commissioner if the violators can continue to run for office. In the event of an egregious violation, the Election Commission reserves the right to fine or disqualify a candidate regardless of the number of prior infractions. Infractions involving multiple posting violations will be considered together or in parts at the Election Commission’s
discretion. The Election Commission is empowered to interpret these rules and their applicability to any specific situation before, during, or after the campaign period.

VOTING AND BALLOTS

1. No person may cast more than one (1) ballot per election.
2. There shall be no proxy voting.
3. Write-in candidates are permitted.
4. Elections will be completed on Big Pulse and tabulated by computer.

If there are any questions about elections, rules, or SU, please contact the Election Commissioner at elections@su.wustl.edu.
Petition for Candidacy

Name: ___________________________________
Grade: ___________________________________
School: _________________________________
Residence Hall, Floor:________________________
Phone: ___________________________________
E-mail: _________________________________
Body Running For: _________________________
Student ID Number: _______________________

Signature of Current Office Holder:_____________
(Speaker signature needed if running for Senate or Treasury)

I have read, understand, and agree to adhere to the SU Election Rules and procedures for Student Union Elections.

Signed:_____________________________________
Date:_______________________________________
Petition for Block Funding

Group Name: ______________________________

Contact Person: ___________________________

Position: _________________________________

Phone: ________________________________

E-mail: _________________________________

Block Funding Time: _____________________

I have read, understand, and agree to adhere to the SU Election Rules and procedures for Student Union Elections. I have included the mission statement of my student group as well as the budget for the constituents to read while obtaining signatures.

Signed: __________________________________

Date: ____________________________________
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