

BACHELOR OF GLOBAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES STUDENTS' SOCIETY ELECTORAL CODE POLICY

Preamble

The BGIInS Students' Society is a democratic institution in which the Executive Council is selected on an annual basis under democratic means. All elections are to be held in an atmosphere of equity, respect and transparency.

Article I: Purpose of the Electoral Board

- a) The purpose of the Electoral Board is to organize and carry out the annual BGIInS Students' Society Executive Council elections with full impartiality. The responsibilities affiliated with this include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Formulating the logistics of the election;
 - ii. Acting as final authority in the matter of eligibility and disqualification of candidacies;
 - iii. Working in collaboration with the current Executive Council in order to generate the timeframe of election related dates and periods to occur in the month of March;
 - iv. Announcing this information to all members of the Society;
 - v. Tabulating and announcing all voting results.

Article II: Creation of the Board

- a) The Electoral Board shall be created in the month of February by a selection of the current Executive Council from a pool of self-nominated members of the Society.
 - i. Once selected, the names of the Electoral Board shall be released to all members of the Society;
 - ii. In the subsequent week of the announcement of the Electoral Board, a challenge may be raised to the Executive Council by any member of the Society whom is capable of providing adequate evidence as of why the selected Board member(s) would be bias in their decision making and interfere with the democratic and fair process of the elections;
 - iii. Should the Executive Council be in agreement of the challenge, the selected Board member(s) shall be relieved of their position and promptly replaced in the same manner .
- b) The Electoral Board shall be composed of three (3) members, one of which being the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO). The CEO holds the responsibility of heading the Board and subsequent election process.
- c) In order to be eligible for the Electoral Board, one must:
 - i. Be a member of the Society;
 - ii. Not be running in that school year's Executive Council elections;
 - iii. Not be a current Executive Council member;
 - iv. Be viewed as an individual who is neutral in terms of elections results.
- d) Should a member of the Electoral Board yield their position after having been selected, they shall still be ineligible to run as a candidate in that school year's Executive Council elections.
- e) Members of the Electoral Board are forbidden from voting in the elections.

Article III: International Experience Requirement (IER)

- a) Should it happen that an Executive Council candidate be ineligible to run in the election, citing a violation of Article VI Section c(iv) of the 'Constitution of the BGIInS Students' Society' due to completion of the IER, an official challenge may be brought to the Electoral Board by said individual.
- b) In the scenario that such a challenge is raised, a meeting shall be called consisting of the following individuals:

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- i. The Electoral Board;
- ii. The candidate whom has raised the challenge;
- iii. Two (2) members of the current Executive Council whom are not seeking re-election;
 1. Should insufficient current Executive Council members be qualified for this meeting, past Executive Council members whom are not seeking re-election shall be called.
- c) During this meeting, which is to be chaired by the CEO, the candidate shall defend their their eligibility against Article VI Section c(iv) of the 'Constitution of the BGINs Students' Society'.
- d) The Electoral Board shall deliberate the case, taking into consideration the statements made by the candidate as well as the opinion of the current or past Executive Council members present.
- e) On a vote of 2/3 majority, the candidacy of the individual in question shall either be accepted or rejected, superseding Article VI Section c(iv) of the 'Constitution of the BGINs Students' Society'.
 - i. The current and/or past Executive Council members do not have a vote in this decision.

Article IV: Elections

- a) Elections shall proceed as follows:
 - i. Any member of the Society may nominate themselves for any Executive Council position;
 - ii. Following the close of nominations there shall be a campaign period consisting of seven (7) days for those positions;
 - iii. Each position shall be elected under a first-past-the-post system. The winner of an Executive Council position or Year Representative position shall be the candidate that receives the greatest number of votes for the contested position.
 1. The Society membership shall have the option to 'Abstain' from voting for the election candidates.
 - iv. No Executive Council member seeking re-election shall be involved with the planning and execution of the elections;
 - v. Students must run independently; "slates" are expressly forbidden;
 - vi. All Society members who registered as members of the Society prior to the commencement of the election period are eligible to vote.
- b) During the course of the election period, the Electoral Board shall have within its power to disqualify any candidate whom is in violation of Article VI, Section e. of the 'Constitution of the BGINs Students' Society' or of Section a. of this Article.
 - i. Should a Society member raise a complaint against a candidate(s) for the violation of Article V, Section e. of the 'Constitution of the BGINs Students' Society' or Section a. of this Article, or should the Electoral Board feel the need without a raised complaint, a meeting shall be called consisting of the Electoral Board.
 - ii. After garnering evidence and deliberating on the matter, the Electoral Board shall pass or fail a vote of a 2/3 majority on the basis of disqualifying the individual(s) accused of violations.
- c) In the event of a draw between the candidates whom have received the highest number of votes during either the First Year Representative, Upper Year Representatives or Executive Council elections, by-elections will be called in order to establish the victor. These shall proceed in the following manner:
 - i. At the pre-designated time of election result announcements, the draw will be made known and the by-election will be called between the candidates;
 - ii. Voting will commence twenty-four (24) hours after the by-election were called;
 - iii. These shall continue until midnight of that day;
 - iv. The final results will be announced the subsequent day, at the same designated time as the first election results announcements;

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- v. Campaigning during this period will be set at the discretion of the Council in the context of First Year Representative and Upper Year Representatives elections, and at the discretion of the Electoral Board in the case of the Executive Council elections.
 - 1. Despite this discretion, 'class talks/presentation' shall be strictly prohibited.