

MARIST COLLEGE

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Document of Campaign Regulation: Spring 2018 Elections

Election Events Information:

- **Mandatory Candidate Information Sessions:** Monday, February 12th, Tuesday, February 13th, Thursday, February 15th at 8:00 pm and 9:00 pm, SC3102 (Attend One)
- **Petition Signatures & Biographies Due:** Sunday, February 18th at 11:59 PM, SGA Office
- **Speech Night:** Monday, February 19th at 9:00 PM in SC 3104
- **Meet the Candidates:** Wednesday, February 21st at 12 PM in the Cafeteria
- **Debate Night:** Thursday, February 22nd at 9:30 pm in SC3101
- **Online Voting:** Monday, February 26th at 8:00 AM to Wednesday, February 28th at 3:00 PM
- **Announcement Party:** Thursday, March 1st at 9:30 pm in the Cabaret

Election/Appointment Qualification:

- Any full time, undergraduate student with no less than a 2.5 cumulative index, who is not on academic probation, may hold an elected or appointed position within the Marist College Student Government Association.
- All candidates wishing to run must attend one of six mandatory information sessions, where the Director of Elections Commission will distribute this “Document of Campaign Regulations” along with any other pertinent information.
- Make-up information sessions may be held by a member of the Marist College Elections Commission at the discretion of the Elections Commission. The decision to hold such meeting will only be approved by a majority vote of the MCEC.

Election Events Information:

- All candidates must submit a “Declaration of Candidacy Form” to the Elections Commission to obtain petition forms.
- Upon filing Declaration of Candidacy, each candidate will be given “Petition Forms” on which signatures of their constituency must be attained by no later than 11:59 PM the Sunday before the start of Speech Night. After this time petitions can no longer be submitted.
- While gathering signatures, candidates are not permitted to speak of their positions on issues related to their candidacy or hand out campaign materials. The same signature may not appear on the same petition twice, but an individual may sign more than one petition. No candidate may declare candidacy for more than one (1) petitions.

- Signature requirements for the Spring 2018 Election are as follows:
 - Student Body President and Vice- President: **400 signatures**
 - Class President: **150 signatures**
 - Class Vice-Presidents, Treasurers, Secretary's, and Historians: **100 Signatures**
 - Resident Senators: **250 Signatures**
 - Commuter Senators: **100 Signatures**
- When the petitions are due, candidates will also submit a four-sentence biography that will be featured on the Student Government Association Website and the online ballot.
 - This biography should include the student's name, year, major, position he/she is running for, reason for running, and any additional campus involvement.
 - Please email candidate biographies to MaristSGAElections@gmail.com

Campaigning/ Campaign Materials:

The following rules of campaigning are followed with the level of censure or penalty that they warrant for the breaking of said rule.

- Active Campaigning may begin at 12:01 AM on Monday, February 19th if a candidate's petition has been received and verified by the MCEC (**Class A**).
- Candidates are allowed to post campaign material on only MCEC approved accounts on the following social media sites. These sites are as follows: Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. All postings on these platforms must be made public to all. Direct Messaging such as "Direct Messaging" and "Messenger" is prohibited.
- Any postings on websites beyond those listed above will be met with repercussions. All accounts/ pages must friend/ be followed by a representative of the MCEC (**Class C**).
- You may post on class pages or pages other than your own once every other day during the elections cycle. During the voting period you may post once a day (**Class C**).
- All candidates are expected to abide by the "Spirit Clause for Online Campaigning", which is provided below for your reference:

Online Campaigning Spirit Clause

"Candidates must not engage in any activity that is in conflict with the mission of the Student Government Association or Marist College. This includes items such as cyber bullying, lying about another candidate, name calling, etc. Candidates must remain civil to their opponents to make and attempt to have any negative post that was made to on their behalf removed from online if they have knowledge of it's existence. Failure to adhere to this clause is grounds for immediate disqualification from the election. The Director of the Elections Commission will use his/her discretion should a candidate be found not complying with the Spirit Clause."

- All campaign materials must be approved by first the MCEC and then by the Office of Student Government Activities. Campaign materials may be approved after petition

signatures have been turned in and before campaigning has begun, and continue to be approved after campaigning has begun **(Class C)**.

- **Notice:** The MCEC will do its best to ensure the expedient approval of all campaign materials that are submitted before the campaign process has begun, but any materials submitted after 5:00 PM on Sunday, February 18th are subject to the timetable of Student Activities.
- All flyers must include the following information in order to be approved:
 - Online Voting at <http://www.marist.edu/webapps/sgavote/>, Monday, February 26th at 8:00 AM to Wednesday, February 28th at 3:00 PM.
 - Your contact information (Marist College Email Address)
- Flyers may only be placed on approved announcement venues (bulletin boards) and must receive Resident Director/ Resident Assistant approval to be displayed in any residence areas. There is a strict limit of one (1) flyer per floor **(Class C)**.
- Harassment in any form (via cyber bullying, in-person intimidation, or any other form) will NOT be tolerated **(Class A and immediate expulsion pending review)**.
- Inappropriate campaign materials that uses provocative imagery, sexually suggestive wording or pictures, or promotes illegal behaviors will be immediately removed if possible by the MCEC and the candidate that they are promoting will be censured on their connection to the campaign materials **(Varying Class)**.
- You may Not use any logos associated with Marist College or Marist College Student Government Association on campaign materials **(Class C)**.
- Campaigning at any social or athletic function at Marist College is permitted only when all candidates are given the equal opportunity to attend **(Class B)**.
- Candidates are required to attend all election-related events sponsored by the Student Government Association. The Director of the Elections Commission reserves the right to disqualify those who do not attend **(Class B)**.
- Voting and solicitation is not permitted to take place in, or the immediate areas surrounding, the Student Government Association Office **(Class B)**.

Campaign Finance Regulations:

- Each Candidate, regardless of election, is required to keep track of any and all spending that take place in or for their campaign.
- Candidates and their Campaign Staff are required to submit an itemized report of any and all expenditures from the campaign, on behalf of the campaign, or from donations.
- Violation of the spending limits or the failure to report spending is grounds for immediate disqualification from the race. Any materials that hold the name or likeness of a candidate must be counted towards their budget.

- Campaign spending limits are as follows:
 - Student Body President and Vice-President: **\$500.00**
 - Class Presidents and Class Officers: **\$150.00**
 - Senators: **\$250.00**
- **Note:** Candidates will NOT be reimbursed for expenditures.

For More Information:

- Student conduct involving slander and libel can and may be subject to review by the Office of Student Conduct and may be met with litigation.
- The Director of the Elections Commission, Nicholas Bills, will be available to meet with you in the Student Government Office during his Office Hours on Tuesdays from 2 pm to 4 pm, Wednesdays from 1 pm to 3 pm, and Thursdays from 10 am to 12 am.
- If you cannot come during these hours you may leave any materials that you need to have approved in the Director of the Elections Commission mailbox labeled “Nicholas Bills”
- If you have any questions or concerns and need to directly contact the Director of the Elections Commission, you may do so at 845-802-6185 or at my e-mail Nicholas.bills1@marist.edu.

Happy Campaigning!

Appendix Excerpt from the Bylaws of the Marist College Elections Commission

Section 3.5.2 CLASS C Censure

Class C is the lowest order of the censure handed out by the MCEC. The MCEC can decide to limit or hold the approval of campaign documents for the candidate at the advisory of the complaint council. This is the only level of censure that can be adjusted in severity at the discretion of the MCEC. *Carries weight 1.*

Section 3.5.3 CLASS B Censure

Class B is the second magnitude of censure handed out by the MCEC. The MCEC can decide to limit or hold the approval of campaign documents for the candidate, as well as limit the candidate’s ability to appear at MCEC sanctioned events at the advisory of the council. *Carries weight 2.*

Section 3.5.4 CLASS A Censure

Class A is the highest magnitude of censure that is handed out by the MCEC. The MCEC can decide to limit or hold the approval of campaign documents for the candidate, limit the candidate’s ability to appear at MCEC sanctioned events, or expulsion from the campaign at the advisory of the council. *Carries weight 3.*