

E L E C T I O N R E P O R T  
*Spring 2013*

GENERAL ELECTION



ELECTION AND DISPUTES COMMISSION

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# Pre-Election Preparations

## Advertising

The commission put more emphasis on advertising the packet pick-up date for this election. Candidacy packets became available on Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup> 2013 at 12 Noon at the Office of Student Involvement. We sent notification to department heads via e-mail and put in announcements at various student organizations. In addition, we advertised on social networking sites and painted a cube. We also made them available at a kiosk on February 21<sup>st</sup> and February 26<sup>th</sup> 2013. This year, packets were due on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 at 12 Noon. We used the same methods to advertise for the election itself, as well as providing a kiosk at which students could vote on both days of the election (April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 2013).

## Campaign Procedures

### Timeline

- Candidacy packets available: Monday, February 18 2013 at 12 noon in the Office of Student Involvement
- Completed Candidacy Packets due: Friday, March 1 2013 at 12 noon in the Office of Student Involvement
- Candidacy Notifications emailed: Wednesday, March 6 2013
- Mandatory Candidate Meeting: Thursday, March 7 2013 at 6pm in the Edwin Meese Conference Room
- Campaign Period begins: Monday, March 18 2013 at 12:01am
- Executive Debate: Thursday, March 28 2013 at 7pm in the JC Atrium
- Voting Period begins: Tuesday, April 2 2013 at 12:00am

- Voting Period ends: Thursday, April 4 2013 at 12:00am
- Public Announcement and Certification of Results: Thursday, April 4 2013 at 12noon

### **Candidate Meeting**

The Candidate Meeting was held on March 7<sup>th</sup> 2013 and all candidates were informed of the meeting in advance. The purpose of the meeting was to review the contents of the Election Code. Several students failed to attend the meeting and were asked to appear at a commissioner's office hours. Most of these candidates complied and those who did not were issued an e-mail notification of the ramifications. All candidates who were issued a warning did schedule a meeting with the exception of the Garrett/Noyes campaign.

### **Candidate Debate**

A date was set and preparations were made for a debate, however since there was only one executive ticket we felt that it was unnecessary to provide a public forum. We also made preparations for a rally but we did not execute these plans for reasons previously mentioned.

### **Grievance**

During the election process, the EDC heard one case concerning a punishment for failure to attend either the candidate meeting or a subsequent make-up meeting with a commissioner. Neither Donald Garrett nor David Noyes did so, resulting in 3 points being levied against their campaign. Mr. Garrett requested a hearing on the matter, which was held on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Garrett asserted that the EDC did not have the authority to apply this punishment. The EDC issued a decision on the matter, asserting that they did have such power, based on sections 9.5 and 9.5.1, and offered the possibility of an appeal to the Faculty Review Board. No such appeal was filed.

## Moving Forward

The Elections and Disputes Commission plans to introduce a more interactive kiosk during the fall and spring elections. The EDC plans to offer free give aways for people that voted in the student government elections. Students will be able to receive “I just voted” sticker and other items at the Kiosk for voting. To encourage participation we would like to give away an expensive prize in a random raffle. We suggest a I pad or other highly ticketed item. The EDC plans to actively engage students to run in the student government elections and be more active during the voting days to encourage students to vote. The EDC hopes to have at least 2 executive tickets and 40 senate candidates in the next spring election. The EDC plans to reform the code of elections to reduce any conflicting clauses and to clean up the language. The EDC also plan to re-evaluate or candidacy meeting, and to determine if the candidacy meeting is still effective, even though we hold office hours and require candidates to sign and say they have read the code. An idea the EDC purposes is the candidacy meeting The EDC will host info sessions about student government elections. Info sessions can be hosted in the student government office, Hanover Hall, Eisenhower, or even White Top Lobby. The EDC also would like to work closer with the Student Government Attorney General. This partnership would provide a great opportunity for the EDC to write an election code that keeps the students voice in mind. The EDC plans to be a more active branch during the next school year and will maintain its neutrality towards candidates and decisions made by Student Government, but will be actively engage in the election process.