

SPRING 2021 STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS

Filing procedures:

1. Candidates may file for a position by turning in their completed application via BBNvolved between **Monday, January 25th at 9 am** and **Monday, February 8th by 12 pm**. All applications must be completed on the Student Government Association BBNvolved page. No late applications will be accepted.

2. Signatures must be submitted before **Monday, February 9th at 12 pm** for candidacy to be valid. Attached in this packet are the rules outlining the number of signatures required per position. It is highly recommended you obtain 10% more signatures than needed to ensure candidate eligibility.

2.1. President/Vice-President need 500 signatures; can be from any current UK student

2.2. Undergraduate Senator-at-Large candidates need 200 signatures; can be from any current undergraduate UK student

2.3. Graduate/Professional Senator-at-Large candidates need 100 signatures; can be from any current graduate or professional UK student

2.4. College Senators need to obtain signatures for 2% of their college or 25 signatures, whichever is higher; can be from any current UK student enrolled in the college (grad or undergrad) that the candidate is running. Signature information can be found later in the document.

3. All candidates must attend or send a representative to the Candidate's Meeting on Monday, February 8th via zoom at 7:00 pm

3.1 Candidates will receive the Election Rules and Regulations (appropriate election legislation) at this time. These rules can also be printed off the SGA website (www.uksga.org) under the Legislation/Election section.

4. Platform statements (optional): All platform statements are due by Monday, February 8th at 12 pm. These statements will be available to voters on the Student Government website, in the SGA office, and at the polling locations. All statements must be 250 words or less, cannot be edited by the candidate after submission, and must be emailed to sga.elections@uky.edu All platform statements must be submitted individually (i.e. cannot submit statements for another student).

5. Candidates must complete an expenditure form that will be available on BBNvovled. All forms and original receipts must be submitted by Wednesday, March 10th, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

6. All claim submissions must be submitted to the Election Commissioner via email. Please send all claims to sga.elections@uky.edu. All claims must be received by Wednesday, March 10th, 2020 by 6:00 pm. No late submissions will be accepted.

7. For any questions, please contact the Elections Commissioner; Gabe Savage at sga.elections@uky.edu

ELECTION TIMELINE

Filing Period -

January 25th - February 8th by 12:00 pm

Spring elections info session -

February 2nd at 7:00 pm via zoom

Platform statements due -

February 8th by 12:00 pm

Platform statements will be posted within two days of eligibility verification

Mandatory Candidates meeting -

February 9th at 7:00 pm via zoom

Write-In Period -

February 8th - March 7th by 4:00 pm

Elections Stamping -

February 26th, 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Location: SGA office

Presidential/VP Debate-

March 4th at 7:00 pm

- Location: TBD

Official election dates -

March 8th & 9th

Polls open 9:00 am - 4:00 pm on the 8th and 9:00 am - 6:00 pm on the 9th

- The majority of voting will take place via BBNvovled
- If a student has an issue with virtual voting, there will be an in-person polling location available in the SGA Office

Unofficial results -

March 9th at 9:00 pm via social media

Claims & expenditure forms due -

March 10th by 6:00 pm

Claims review meeting with Elections Board -

March 10th at 6:00 pm

Candidates will attend Supreme Court if the Elections Board determines their claim has merit, or file a claim with the Supreme Court if Elections Board determines their claim does not have merit but they still wish to pursue it before March 11th at 7 pm

Supreme Court hearing -

March 11th, 8:00 pm

Final results announced within 24 hours after Supreme Court hearing (unless there is a need for a runoff)

Runoff (if necessary) will be held

March 12th 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Runoff claims and expenditure forms due

March 15th by 6:00 pm

Runoff claims and vote counting Elections Board meeting

March 15th at 6:01 pm

Supreme court hearing for runoff

March 16th at 8:00 pm

Final results announced within 24 hours after Supreme Court hearing

ELECTIONS RULES AND REGULATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

All candidates are expected to read the full Election legislation, which will be available on the Student Government website (www.uksga.org) The full legislation includes the election-related portions of the Constitution, the Election Act, Election Expenditure Act, and the Election Emergency Clauses.

A. EXPENDITURE LIMITS:

- A ticket composed of a candidate for President and Vice President is limited to a total expenditure of one thousand (1000) dollars. In the case of a runoff, a ticket may spend an additional one hundred fifty (150) dollars
- Senatorial candidates are limited to a total expenditure of four hundred (400) dollars. In the case of a runoff, senatorial candidates may spend an additional one hundred dollars (100).
- All candidates are responsible for the payments on all of their campaign materials, there will be no reimbursement distribution.

B. TICKETS:

- A ticket is defined as two or more candidates campaigning jointly. Senatorial campaigns should be independent of all other Senatorial Campaigns. Senatorial Candidates cannot appear on campaign materials with other candidates, including but not limited to, banners, posters, handbills, social media accounts, and other promotional materials. Senatorial Candidates may not exhibit support, electronic, verbal or written, for other candidates running in their election or candidates running in the Presidential/Vice Presidential Election.
- For more information, refer to the SGA Elections Act and the SGA Constitution.

C. EXPENDITURE FORMS:

- Each candidate shall submit the candidate's expenditure form to the Elections Commissioner or their designate at the time set by the Elections Board of Supervision following the election. Candidates are responsible for submitting original receipts and a copy of all printed material shall accompany the expenditure form.
- If a candidate fails to submit an expenditure form within 24 hours of the closing of the polls, the candidate forfeits the position.
- Candidates are responsible for getting a receipt form showing the date, time, and the chairperson's or designates signature.
- If no money was spent, a form must be returned as \$0.00

D. CAMPAIGNING:

- Interested students may begin speaking at any time as a candidate.
- Candidates must obey federal, state, local, and university rules in the conduction of their campaign.
- Candidates may not campaign in areas designated by the Elections Board as “Campaign Free Zones” (i.e. SGA office, 25 feet within polling location, etc).
- No student may set up a computer as a polling location for the purpose of soliciting votes (i.e. you can’t pass around a laptop to get people to vote for you).
- All computer labs and libraries on campus will be considered campaign-free zones on election days. Therefore, no campaigning can occur in these areas during election days. The information below is designed as a summary version of the election legislation.
- Candidates must campaign individually without collusion with other candidates. Tickets are no longer an allowed form of campaigning.
- Candidates are prohibited from tampering with any campaign materials other than their own. This includes – but is not limited to – destroying, defacing, and/or removing campaign materials.

DI. POSTER & BANNER REGULATIONS

- Campaign materials for the purposes of the UKSGA elections shall be defined as anything used to promote a candidate including but not limited to: Posters, buttons, clothing, table- tent advertisements, electronic communication, banner, web page or social media content, email document, sound or video recording, and location-based marketing material.
 - a. Banner
 - i. Campaign material larger than 13 x 19 inches.
 - b. Poster
 - i. Campaign material sized 13 x 19 inches or less that is to be posted.
 - c. Handbill
 - i. Handbills are prohibited during the election period due to covid-19.
 - d. Yard sign
 - I. Yard signs are prohibited during the election period

F. CONSTITUTION & ELECTION LEGISLATION

Disclaimer: This is not the complete SGA constitution or election legislation. If a discrepancy occurs, refer to the full legislation.

Signature Requirements

All signatures are checked for accuracy of the information, full name, Linkblue ID, date of birth, and verification of student status (grad/undergrad, college as needed). Signatures must be submitted through your personal BBNvovled signature link. Signatures that do not meet these criteria are invalidated during the eligibility determination.

College Number of Votes Needed:
Agriculture, Food & Environment – 54

Arts & Sciences- 137
Business & Economics – 81
Communication- 40
Dentistry- 25
Design- 25
Education- 49
Engineering- 73
Fine Arts – 25
Graduate School (Martin/Patterson Schools Only)- 25
Health Sciences- 25
Law- 25
Medicine- 39
Nursing- 30
Pharmacy- 25
Public Health- 25
Social Work- 25

All signatures for College Senators must be from UK students currently enrolled in that college

President/VP

- 500 signatures required
- Any current UK student may sign

Undergraduate Senator-at-Large

- 200 signatures required
- Any current UK undergraduate may sign

Graduate/Professional Senator-at-Large

- 100 signatures required
- Any current graduate or professional UK student may sign

CAMPAIGNING IN A TIME OF SOCIAL DISTANCING

Candidates are encouraged to utilize social media and other virtual platforms for the majority of their campaign.

EMERGENCY CLAUSE TO BE ADDED UKSGA GOVERNING CODES

This emergency clause is being added to the UKSGA Governing Codes in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. This addendum will specifically outline the changes to the Spring 2021 elections process that will need to occur in order to provide a safe environment for all UK students. This emergency clause shall go into effect immediately after it has been passed by Full Senate and shall remain in effect for the remainder of the Spring 2021 elections process.

The changes to Elections Procedures and Rules Codes shall be as follows:

- Code 603.3 states “All persons running for an office are required to submit an application and petition to the Elections Commissioner.” This application and petition will be found on BBNvolved and will need to be completed by each person who intends to run for office.
- Code 603.4 states “To appear on the ballot as a ticket for President and Vice-President, each ticket must obtain five hundred (500) signatures from members of the student body and submit the petition with their application. The petition must contain a linkblue ID and date of birth for each respective student who signed the document in order to allow the Elections Board of Supervision to verify their enrollment at the University of Kentucky.” After each ticket is verified and notified by the Elections Board, they will receive a link that will be specific to them. They will use this link to collect virtual signatures as well as the linkblue ID and date of birth for each respective student.
- Code 603.5 states “To appear on the ballot for Undergraduate Senator At-large, each candidate must obtain two hundred (200) signatures from members of the student body and submit the petition with their application. The petition must contain a linkblue ID and date of birth for each respective student who signed the document order to allow the

Election Board of Supervision to verify their enrollment at the University of Kentucky.” After each candidate is verified and notified by the Elections Board, they will receive a link that will be specific to them. They will use this link to collect virtual signatures as well as the linkblue ID and date of birth for each respective student.

- Code 603.6 states “To appear on the ballot for graduate/professional Senators At-large, each candidate must obtain one hundred (100) signatures from graduate/or professional students and submit the petition with their application. The petition must contain each student’s linkblue ID and date of birth to enable the Elections Board of Supervision to verify the enrollment of the person signing the petition.” After each candidate is verified and notified by the Elections Board, they will receive a link that will be specific to them. They will use this link to collect virtual signatures as well as the linkblue ID and date of birth for each respective student.
- Code 603.10 states “To appear on the ballot for Graduate School Senator (Martin and Patterson School), each candidate must obtain signatures from the greater of one-half (0.5) percent of the eligible voters for their respective seat or twenty-five (25) students and submit the petition with their application. The petition must contain a linkblue ID and date of birth for each respective student having who signed the document in order to allow the Election Board of Supervision to verify their enrollment at the University of Kentucky.” After each candidate is verified and notified by the Elections Board, they will receive a link that will be specific to them. They will use this link to collect virtual signatures as well as the linkblue ID and date of birth for each respective student.
- Code 604.1 states “The Elections Board of Supervision shall establish a meeting for all candidates at which the rules, regulations, pertinent meeting dates, and duties and responsibilities of a UKSGA Representative, as well as the goals of UKSGA, will be presented to the candidates.” Subsequently, Code 604.2 states “The candidate or agent thereof will be required to sign in and be present at the end of the meeting when the roll is called.” This meeting will be held via Zoom and each candidate or agent thereof must be on Zoom for the entirety of the meeting. Attendance will be taken at the end of the meeting.

- Code 606.11 (c.) states “There is no limit to the number of handbills a campaign may distribute.” Handbilling of any kind will not be permitted in order to decrease the likelihood of germ transmission.
- Code 608.2 states “Upon the filing of candidate petition/application, all candidates must sign a statement that they will adhere to all elections by-laws. If not signed, their nomination will be declared invalid by the Election Board of Supervision. This statement is to be turned in along with the petition/application form.” This statement will need to be electronically signed by all candidates.
- Code 612.1 states “At least four members of the Elections Board, a professional staff representative of the Office of Student Organizations and Activities, the Elections Commissioner, and the Attorney General shall be present at the vote counting. These are the only people who shall be allowed to be present at vote counting.” Vote counting shall be held virtually via Zoom.
- Code 613.3 states “No more than 24 hours after the conclusion of the claims filing deadline, the Elections Commissioner shall present all claims to the Elections Board at the Claims Reviews Meeting. The Elections Board shall review all claims and determine if a claim has merit or not based on the UKSGA Governing Codes.” This meeting shall be held virtually via Zoom.
- All Supreme Court hearings shall be held virtually via Zoom.
- Code 614.1 states “Upon completion of the Supreme Court Hearing, the Elections Commissioner shall announce the official results of the election within 24 hours and make the results public within the same time frame.” Results will be announced via Zoom and made public via social media and the UKSGA website.
- Code 615.3 states “Each candidate shall submit the candidate's expenditure form to the Elections Commissioner or their designate at the time set by the Elections Board of Supervision following the election.” This form will be on BBNvolved and will need to be completed by each candidate.

The Elections Board of Supervision reserves the right to make any necessary changes not specifically listed herein if necessary in order to protect students during the COVID-19

pandemic. Any questions regarding the elections process should be submitted via email to sga.elections@uky.edu.