



**Student Government  
Association**

Elections Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 03/06/2024

I. Call to Order

a. 4:05 PM

II. Roll Call

Name	Position	Present/Absent	Required Attendance
Melanie Montes	Elections Commissioner	Present	Yes
Desiree Dawson	Deputy Elections Commissioner	Present	Yes
Jazmin Laughlin	Elections Board Member	Present	Yes
Grace Sancruzado	Elections Board Member	Present	Yes
Johnny Merino	Elections Board Member	Present	Yes

III. Unfinished Business

a. n/a

IV. New Business

i. Campaign Violation 1: Zachary Stangl

1. Begins by apologizing for his tone in the emails. He is dissatisfied with how the board handled the lack of a candidate party on Gabriel's ballot. Understands that the majority of people who voted was when the candidate lacked the explicitness of having their party label. Allowing for a change of election or giving the candidate an extra couple of hours where they are only on the ballot. Strangely, this candidate was the only one experiencing this problem.
2. There are two options: either this seat or the upper division MMC seat will be vacated, resulting in a special election. So that everyone has an equal amount of time to vote. The other option limits the extra two-hour time to Gabe while ending the voting period for the other seats. Because the other seats would receive unjustified additional time. Zachary believes the first choice is best. He understands that the announcement has already been sent for an additional time.

ii. Melanie Montes (Commissioner)

1. She begins by expressing her understanding of the distress and her ability to empathize. Discusses a previous election year in which a CASE



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senator was absent from the ballot, resulting in a shift in elections (special election). When comparing these situations, this present party stands out in that their candidate was on the ballot the entire time, except for their party name. The accuser responds that this has had a significant impact on his candidate and the two options he proposed should be examined.

- iii. Johnny Merino
  1. Makes a brief statement encouraging the board to have an open mind. and that he understands the party's displeasure. But the board is doing its best.
- b. Questions Period
  - i. Grace inquires the accuser as to what other options he would prefer. And if we expanded voting, who would be on the ballot? He reiterates the two options he presented, and goes on to talk about equitable decision-making
  - ii. Zachary and Johnny converse about options when considering having a special election or having just the upper division candidates on the ballot.
  - iii. Desiree asks for clarification on what two options Zachary was referring to. She also wonders why Gabriel (the Candidate) isn't here himself. Zach responds that when the party discussed it, they felt Zach represented Gabe best, whereas Gabriel responds to other pressing matters.
- c. Closing Statements:
  - i. Zach reiterates his previous statements about the proposed solutions and the fact that the candidate's party affiliation was left off during prime voting hours.
- d. Deliberation
  - i. Grace understands his frustration, but a full election would make no sense considering Gabe was present on the ballot the whole time.
  - ii. Johnny asks about the solutions Zach proposed.
  - iii. Grace asks if we would be allowed to extend voting for all positions and Mel answers with the technicality of how voting works.
  - iv. The board gets clarification on what a special election would look like.
  - v. Desiree asks if the last two hours of voting can be only for Gabriel, Mel answers this isn't possible because all candidates were already notified that they would be on the ballot during the extension.
  - vi. Most of the board thinks that special elections breeds special treatment and that the board should maintain their original decision.
  - vii. Desiree asked if an upper-division election could be held if all candidates consent. This is briefly discussed.
  - viii. Jazmin brings up the point that if there were to be a special election, the amount of voter turnout may not be the same. Desiree seconds this by saying that people might not want to vote again, which could harm the whole party while trying to aid one candidate.
  - ix. The board discusses all options and comes to a conclusion. That because Gabe remained on the ballot throughout the election, a special election would be unfair.



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Especially because voter turnout would drop dramatically, making it unfair to all of the named candidates. The two-hour extension can't be limited to only one candidate or upper division. Due to IT issues and the fact that all candidates were informed that they would be on the ballot until 9.

- x. Grace asks for the timeframe for a special elections for campaigning and voting. Mel answers that it would be Monday through Wednesday with an announcement made on Friday.
  - xi. Johnny goes over that having one candiate on the ballot seems unfair but maybe all candiates can agree.
  - xii. The board gets a consenus on the special election or to keep it the same.
- e. Voting Period
- i. Melanie's motions to move into voting preceded on weather or not the board should keep the orioginal deicision for every candidate to get an extended two hours. Seconded by Jazmin
    - 1. All Board members present
    - 2. Melanie Yes
    - 3. Desiree Yes
    - 4. Jazmin Yes
    - 5. Grace Yes
    - 6. Johnny Yes
  - ii. By unanimous vote
- f. Zacharcy feels this decision is unfair because other candiates get extra time to campaign and have votes. He notes that every other seat but the upper-divison should close and allow the extra hours for the upper division.
  - g. Melanie reittertated the three things that were voted on, keeping our decision of having only one candidate on the ballot and opening the ballot for all upper-divison seats to be voted on.
  - h. Larissa answers Zacharcy questions about IT and the details of the ballot opening. Larissa says the board can't necessarily pick and choose which candiates can go live. We would have to create a whole new ballot (nmakign a special election).
  - i. If the elections baord were to decide to extend a special election, it wouldnt be for today it would be for next week.
  - j. Zach believes it's unfair that the candiates shouldnt be forced to campiagn till 9 pm.
  - k. Johnny responds by stating that he understands Zachary's frustration. But the board made this decision out of perfect fairness; we cannot hold a special election, and the board's earlier decision was completely fair given that Gabe was on the ballot the entire time.
  - l. Zachary explains that he is quite upset with the board's decision. and requested the board to reconsider its decision and return to consideration. It's unjust that his candidate may lose because of a dumb technical glitch that had nothing to do with the candidate. Every Candiate deserves fairness, and their Candiate took a hard step back that could jeopardize their outcomes. He goes on to explain that it is extremely unfair that candidates now have to stay longer and campaign until 9 p.m. due to the extension.



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- m. Desiree requests that this call be ended so Zachary and his party have the time to devise a strategy. She points out that the board did everything in its ability to make a fair decision. When conducting a fair election, the board must consider all candidates, not just this one. Desiree insists that she will attempt to ensure that they get the information they require. However, the board has done everything possible to ensure that the conclusion is fair and just. If he has any further questions or remarks, he can email the board. But please be patient and understand that the board has been totally fair.
  - n. Zachary continues to say that he understands and thanks the board for being on the call. He is still dissatisfied with the decision and encourages the board to reconsider it. And how his party will do everything possible to plan ahead of time given their current predicament.
  - o. Melanie states that Zachary and his party have 24 hours to reach out to judicial about the decision made..
- V. Meeting Adjournment
- a. The meeting adjourned at 5:07 pm