



Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada

88th Session, 2020-2021

AN ACT REMOVING THE ELECTIONS DEPOSIT FROM ASUN ELECTIONS

Bill Number: 17

Authored By: Senator Supple and Senator Stanfill

Sponsored By: The Committee on Government Operations

Whereas, the Elections Code creates financial barriers for students who are interested in campaigning for president, vice president, or for a senator position;

Whereas, the Elections Code requires a student filing for candidacy to put down a fifty (50) dollar deposit in order to run for elections;

Whereas, the purpose of the Elections Code is to “provide for the conduct of all Association elections” which includes punishments for violations against the Elections Code;

Whereas, not all students may have fifty (50) dollars to put towards a campaign deposit on top of other campaign finances and personal finances;

Whereas, having students put down a deposit is punitive and automatically assumes that they will be in violation of the elections fee;

Whereas, based on a University assessment of climate for learning, living, and working in July 2019 reports that low-income students were significantly less comfortable and feel less valued on campus than students who were not low-income;¹

Whereas, low-income students are at a greater disadvantage in participating on campus and “became increasingly disengaged and disconnected, their participation rates plummeting;”²

¹ <https://www.unr.edu/main/pdfs/verified-accessible/divisions-offices/president/truth/climate-study-final-report.pdf>

² <http://vue.annenberginstitute.org/issues/40/inequity-outside-classroom-growing-class-differences-participation-extracurricular>

Whereas, according to *No Walls 2025: A Student Vision for the University of Nevada*, “additional efforts should be made to increase the number of clubs and amount of students involved in them, and should also assist in club development to improve their quality;”³

Whereas, the deposit discourages students interested in campaigning for representative positions from doing so;

Whereas, removing the elections fee will make ASUN elections more equitable to financially insecure students;

Be it enacted, Title VII, Chapter 702, Section 07, subsections d and e be removed from the Statutes of the Associated Students;

Be it further enacted, the Statutes of the Associated Students reflects the changes in Addendum A and Addendum B.

Adopted in Senate on December 2nd, 2020

Attest:

Keegan Murphy, Speaker of the Senate

Dominique Hall, President of the Associated Students

I certify that this Act originated in the Senate.

Hope Cronan, Senate Secretary

³ <https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/nevadaasun/2015/01/No-Walls-2025-AStudentVisOnForTheUniversityOfNevadaReno.pdf>

Addendum A

Title VII Chapter 702

SECTION 07: CANDIDATE FILING PERIOD

d) ELECTIONS FEE

- 1) By filing for candidacy, the candidate consents to have a hold placed onto their account in the chance that the candidate violates the election code and is charged by the Judicial Council.
- 2) A hold will not be placed on a candidates account if they do not allocate any charges due to noncompliance with the Elections Code.
- 3) If a candidate is found to violate the Elections Code by the Judicial Council, there will be a hold placed onto their account until they pay the fee (determined by the Judicial Council) to the Center of Student Engagement.
- 4) Any candidate that allocates charges totaling to fifty (50) dollars will be disqualified from ASUN elections due to noncompliance of the Elections Code. The student will have a hold placed onto their account and will have to pay fifty (50) dollars' worth of charges to the Center of Student Engagement to remove the hold on their account.

Addendum B

Title VII Chapter 702

SECTION 14: PUNISHMENT FOR VIOLATIONS OF CAMPAIGN

c) A finding of violation of the conduct prohibited by this Election Code shall be punishable by ~~withholding a portion of the Candidate's deposit~~ charging a candidate no less than five dollars to be payable to the Center of Student Engagement. A hold will be placed onto the candidate's account until the charge is paid in full.