

University of Minnesota School of Public Health
Election Rules

3/1/2020

Chapter 1 - Definitions
1.01 ELECTION RULES shall be defined as the rules established by the SPH Student Senate that govern the process and regulations of UMN School of Public Health elections. All provisions in this document are considered part of the election rules.

1.02 CANDIDATE shall be defined as a full-time, fee-paying SPH student and will be a full-time, fee-paying student the term for which they are campaigning.

1.03 SPH STUDENT SENATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT shall be defined as a duly proposed amendment to the organizing documents of the SPH Student Senate at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, which requires an affirmative vote by the student body to pass.

1.04 CANDIDATE FILING shall be defined as the period during which a student applies to become a candidate in the SPH Student Senate Election by filling out the appropriate forms with the current SPH Student Senate President.

1.05 CAMPAIGNING shall be defined as any public release of materials supporting a candidate’s race for a particular position; it is also defined as any public release of materials regarding a Constitutional Amendment certified by the SPH Student Senate. Materials include – but are not limited to – posters, banners, buttons, clothing, booths, flyers, social media posts or connections, website creation or posts or publications, use of other online platforms to support a candidate, promotion of a candidate in campus buildings, or promotion of a candidate on campus signage.

1.06 VOTING shall be defined as the time when current SPH students can begin submitting ballots to the time when SPH students can no longer submit ballots.

1.07 COMPLAINT shall be defined as a report to the current SPH Student Senate President from any individual, detailing possible violation(s) of the election rules. A complaint may include violation(s) of University Policy, election rules, or both.

Chapter 2 - Candidacy
2.01 In order to file for any office, each candidate must fill out an application provided by the current SPH Student Senate President.

2.02 Elected positions to the SPH Student Senate include:
   A. President - Must have been a member of the SPH Student Senate for at least one academic year.
   B. Vice President - Open to any full-time, fee-paying SPH student.
   C. Communications Director - Open to any full-time, fee-paying SPH student.
   D. Finance Director - Open to any full-time, fee-paying SPH student.
   E. Secretary - Open to any full-time, fee-paying SPH student.
2.03 Any candidate who wishes to withdraw from a race may do so by presenting the current SPH Student Senate President with a signed letter of withdrawal from the race no later than two (2) days before the start date of elections. Emails from the candidate's official University-provided email account (x500) shall be accepted as a signed Letter.

2.04 The current SPH Student Senate President shall certify each candidate within three (3) business days after the end of candidate filing; certification shall include determination of a candidate's eligibility. The current SPH Student Senate President shall notify all those who filed for candidacy of their certification or lack thereof.

2.05 Candidates who have met all filing and eligibility requirements shall be included on the ballot and in any other voting resources provided by the SPH Student Senate.

Chapter 3 - Campaigning

5.01 All candidates, campaigning groups, and referendum sponsors are responsible for and shall abide by all University Policies and all SPH election rules. Violation of this rule may result in the removal from the official ballot.

5.05 General Restrictions on campaigning
   A. No campaigning, including the disbursement of campaign literature, will be allowed within twenty-five (25) feet of an on- or off-campus event that is not related to elections, unless written permission is acquired from the event organizer(s).
   B. Use of the University of Minnesota logos and wordmarks, including the block “M” or Goldy Gopher logo, in campaign materials is strictly prohibited.
   C. No campaigning in the entryways or within 25 feet of a University building's entrance will be allowed. Campaigning inside a University building shall be permissible under the policies governing the building in question.
      a. Enforcement of building specific policies shall be the purview of the building manager, provided the actions do not violate election rules.
   D. All materials, electronic or physical, related to campaigning must be removed from public view within ten (10) business days after voting.
   E. Violation of this rule may result in the removal from the official ballot.

Chapter 4 - Voting

4.01 To be eligible to vote in SPH Elections, students must be currently registered as a certificate or degree seeking student at the UMN School of Public Health.

4.02 The student’s eligibility to vote in specific elections will be verified by the automated voting system; the student’s University of Minnesota Internet ID and/or password shall provide the necessary identification. In cases in which the automation process fails to verify the student’s eligibility, the student can present to the current SPH Student Senate President a valid photo ID and proof of enrollment for the academic semester during which the election shall occur.

4.03 Once a student submits a ballot, the submitted ballot may not be changed.

Chapter 5 - Complaints
5.01 Any individual may submit a complaint by emailing the current SPH Student Senate President. Complaints must be submitted no later than one (1) business day after voting.

5.02 Complaints must include at a minimum:
   A. a citation of the election rule(s) alleged to have been violated;
   B. the person(s) alleged to have committed the violation(s); and
   C. the act(s) or behavior constituting the alleged violation(s).

5.03 Complaint Review Process:
   A. Complaints shall be directed to the SPH Student Senate Advisor. The review of the complaint will follow the student group conduct process and note if the complaint includes alleged violation(s) of University Policy, SPH election rules, or both.
   B. The submitted complaint and the initial findings of the SPH Student Senate Advisor shall be reviewed by the SPH Senate Executive Board using the following criteria and may use additional criteria depending on the situation:
      a. Nature and severity of the violation;
      b. Submitter’s and/or accused attempt to prevent and/or remedy the violation; and
      c. A more-likely-than-not burden of proof.
   C. The SPH Student Senate Advisor may take any of the following actions when reviewing complaints:
      a. Forward the complaint to the Office for Community Standards and/or Student Unions and Activities for review of an alleged violation of University Policy;
      b. Return the complaint to the submitter for a more complete report;
      c. Meet with parties associated with the complaint to gather more information;
      d. Determine that the allegations, even if accurate, do not constitute a violation of the election rules;
   D. Should the SPH Student Senate Advisor find an election rule has been violated, the SPH Senate Executive Board may take any of the following actions. Once the SPH Senate Executive Board has taken any of the following actions, the complaint, as it pertains to the SPH Senate Elections, shall be considered complete. There may be additional University sanctions from Office of Community Standards and/or Student Unions and Activities in the cases where a University Policy has been violated:
      a. Take no action;
      b. Direct certain parties to make corrective statements;
      c. Remove candidate from the ballot;
   E. Appeals of the decisions of the SPH Senate Advisor and SPH Senate Executive Board should be made to the Associate Dean of Education and Student Engagement.