

**Fall 2024 First-Year Elections**  
**Election Supervisory Board Advisory Opinion 2024-002**  
**(Issued: September 10, 2024)**

Subject: Candidate Seminar Information and Attendance Requirements

The Election Supervisory Board (ESB) is issuing an advisory opinion regarding the First-Year Election candidate seminar and attendance requirements.

The ESB is authorized to oversee and decide on cases for first-year elections. Student Government Constitution §6.7 states:

“The Election Supervisory Board shall oversee the annual fall first year student elections of the first-year representatives.”

The Student Government Specific Election Code §3.15 states:

“At the time of filing, candidates shall be informed of the candidate seminar and the advantages and requirements of attending.”

The Student Government Specific Election Code does not provide guidance for requirements, benefits and the consequences of first-year candidates not attending the Candidate Seminars. Furthermore, since First-Year Elections are different from that of Campus-Wide elections, First-Year Elections do not fall under the authority of the Campus-Wide Election Code. Therefore, the ESB has the authority to determine the date, time and location of the candidate seminar, the benefits and consequences of not attending the candidate seminar.

### **Candidate Seminar**

The candidate seminar for First-Year Elections **will be held at 6 PM CST on Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in WCP 2.302 (Legislative Assembly Room).**

Attendance at the seminar is required. Absence is not an unacceptable excuse for ignorance and violation of election rules.

If the candidate has an excused absence as determined by the Election Supervisory Board, then they may send an authorized agent in his or her place” but that the “Election Supervisory Board must be notified of the substitution at least eight (8) hours in advance of the Candidate Seminar.

The 2024 ESB is providing the following rules regarding Candidate Seminar attendance:

1. All candidates, or an authorized agent, must attend the Candidate Seminar.
2. Those unable to attend due to valid conflict (e.g. family emergency, illness) **must notify the ESB by Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 by 10 AM CST** (8 hours before the Candidate Seminar) and must send an authorized agent in their place. The agent's name, phone number, UTEID, and email must be emailed to [esb@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:esb@austin.utexas.edu) no later than 10 AM CST Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in these cases.
3. Any candidate encountering an extenuating circumstance (e.g. family emergency, illness) within the 8-hour window should notify the ESB as soon as possible at [esb@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:esb@austin.utexas.edu). The Board will grant exceptions at their discretion. An agent should still be sent in place of the candidate where possible in this case.

4. To verify attendance, ESB members will conduct roll call at the start and end of the Candidate Seminar. All candidates and/or authorized agents must be in attendance through the duration of the entire seminar.

Finally, the ESB would like to inform candidates of the following:

1. By attending the candidate seminar, candidates will have the opportunity to meet members of the Election Supervisory Board, learn about election rules, important dates and times, campus resources, training on Institutional Rules and Policies, and ask questions related to the elections.
2. Candidates who attend the candidate seminar and are present for the Institutional Rules and Policy training are eligible to become a member of temporary campus elections organization.
3. The purpose of the campus elections organization is to simplify candidate organizing and ensure that candidates understand their responsibilities according to the Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities. Eligible candidates who join the organization are able to reserve space, banners, a-frames and tables on campus in accordance with university policy and guidelines. Members of the organization may also use and display certain protected marks on campaign materials. To learn more, visit the [Campaign Organization and Protected Marks Agreement page](#) and follow the directions outlined on the page.

Opinion Authorized By:

Ty Gribble (Chair)

Riya Gantla

Sydney Baker

Lauren Guerra-Flores