

Fall 2024 First-Year Elections
Election Supervisory Board Advisory Opinion 2024-004
(Issued: September 10, 2024)

Subject: Recruitment of Campaign Workers and Agents

The Election Supervisory Board (ESB) is issuing an advisory opinion clarifying recruitment of campaign workers and agents during the period before campaigning to aid in avoiding potential early campaigning as outlined in ESB AO FYE 2024-003 – Prohibition of Early Campaigning (candidates should review this AO before continuing).

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

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

The Student Government Election Code does not provide guidance for requirements for recruitment of campaign staff (workers and agents) so candidates do not potentially engage in early campaigning. 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. Thus, ESB seeks to provide general tips that have been shared with candidates during Campus-Wide Elections with for candidates for First-Year Elections.

Below are two helpful tips candidates and campaign agents can use to potentially avoid early campaigning when recruiting campaign workers or agents:

1. **Avoid sending mass messages/group messages.** Such messages include Facebook group messages, group messages through GroupMe, and mass emails to recruit workers and/or supporters which could be construed as campaigning. It is recommended that you reach out to people individually regarding joining your campaign staff. If an individual has agreed to be an agent of your campaign, it is recommended that they too should individually solicit campaign workers and recruit the individual in a manner that is clearly not a solicitation of a vote and make a clear distinction that they will be fulfilling the role of a campaign staff.
2. **Avoid being ambiguous.** Refrain from using vague language when recruiting campaign workers. Simply asking for “support” may be construed as campaigning. Recruiting individuals to be agents and workers should be done in a manner that clearly is not solicitation of a vote such as but not limited to asking them if they would like to be a campaign worker, be a member of the campaign, work for the campaign, join the campaign staff, etc.

Opinion Authorized by:
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