

Election Supervisory Board Advisory Opinion 2021-001
(Issued: Monday, February 8, 2021)

Subject: Candidate Seminar Information and Attendance Requirements

Section 6.10 of the Campus-Wide Election Code requires the Election Supervisory Board to publish the date of the Candidate Seminar. The Candidate Seminar will be held on the final day of the filing period, after filing closes. The filing period ends on **Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. CST**. As such, the Candidate Seminar will be held on **Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 9:00 p.m. CST via Zoom**.

Candidate Seminar

Thursday, February 11, 2021
9 p.m. CST

<https://utexas.zoom.us/j/99222969500>

Meeting ID: 992 2296 9500

(Must sign in and join from your [UTexas Zoom account](#))

The ESB sees fit to clarify the attendance requirements outlined in Sections 6.11 and 6.12:

“Attendance at the candidate seminar is required of each candidate running in a race that is part of the Campus-Wide elections process. Failure to attend the Seminar shall not be an acceptable excuse for violating this Code.”

“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 twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the Candidate Seminar.”

The 2021 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 Wednesday February 10, 2021 by 9:00 p.m. CST (24 hours before the Candidate Seminar) and must send an authorized agent¹ in their place. The agent’s name, phone number, UTEID, and email must be emailed to esb@austin.utexas.edu no later than 9:00 p.m. CST Wednesday February 10, 2021 in these cases.
3. Any candidate encountering an extenuating circumstance (e.g. family emergency, illness) *within* the 24-hour window should notify the ESB as soon as possible at 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, candidates and agents must use the rename function in Zoom. This will also ensure that ESB members can call on you by name.

¹ Sec 2.2: “AGENT” refers to any candidate-appointed worker who is authorized to speak and act on behalf of the candidate.

- a. Candidates: firstname lastname – name of position
- b. Agents: firstname lastname [agent] – name of position

Finally, as per Section 6.10(a-d), the ESB would like to inform candidates of the following:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 [Campus Elections](#) organization on HornsLink and follow the directions outlined on the page.

Opinion authorized by:

Robert Toto (Chair)

Jenny Ainsworth (Vice Chair)

Jack Bumgardner (Secretary)

CJ Ligon

Jon Bishop

Justin Gonzales

Mayson O'Brien

Serah Sadhwani

Wesley Brewer