

A RESOLUTION TO BE ENTITLED ACT TO:

**POSTPONE RESOLUTION F19-09 WHICH WAS TO IMPLEMENT A NEW
PREFERENTIAL VOTING PROCEDURE FOR THE OFFICES OF PRESIDENT
AND VICE-PRESIDENT**

Short Title: Postponement of Preferential Voting Act

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Co- Authored by: The Elections Committee, Jonathan Dalton

----- *Below for Senate Leadership* -----

Resolution Number: S20-02

First Reading: Jan 13, 2020 **Second Reading:** Jan 13, 2020

Referred to: Elections Committee

1 **WHEREAS.** Article VII Section XXI of the Student Government Association Bylaws states,
2 “If there are more than two candidates running for either President or Vice-President, then the
3 following procedures apply:

- 4 i. Voting shall be conducted via an online preferential voting ballot for the office(s)
5 With more than two candidates running.
6 ii. Voters will rank the candidates in order of preference from most to least preferred
7 with the most preferred being the voters first choice for that office.
8 iii. Voters must choose to vote for at least two candidates, but they may leave the rest
9 of the rankings blank if they so choose. If that happens, then their vote will be
10 applied to the candidates they have chosen until their vote is exhausted.” and,
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12 **WHEREAS,** this voting system cannot be done on Western Carolina University’s campus
13 because using anyone off-campus requires a contract which a contract can take up to four months
14 or more to review and approve through many staff members; and,
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16 **WHEREAS,** security issues with Information Technology such as sharing campus student
17 identification numbers to potential unreliable sources; and,
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19 **WHEREAS,** time needed for Information Technology to create an online program that will
20 require identification needed for tracking enrolled students can sometimes take up to years to
21 create then use; and,
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23 **WHEREAS,** utilizing Engage for preferential voting can be an issue causing mistakes from the
24 person or manually calculating the results thus makes it not reliable; and,
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26 **WHEREAS,** the Math Department at Western Carolina University is not capable or willing to
27 help; and,
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WHEREAS, the Coulter Faculty Commons is assisting but would not be ready on time due to finalizing spreadsheets and needing time to test out the preferential voting; and,

WHEREAS, Article VII Section VII and VIII states,

VII. Candidacy and Filing Procedures

a. All students seeking to hold an elected Student Government Association position must complete the filing process.

b. Filing is complete when a candidate returns a signed acknowledgement of receipt and comprehension of the candidate packet.

c. Confirmation of filing and eligibility shall be given to the candidate within 5 business days of receiving the candidate acknowledgement.

VIII. All candidates must file for offices during the designated filing times and dates advertised by the Elections Committee.

a. Filing period shall open on the first day of classes in the Spring semester.

i. The filing deadline shall close on the class day closest to two months before election date.

b. All candidates must meet the necessary requirements for their position as listed in the Student Government Association Constitution and Bylaws prior to filing.

WHEREAS, there is no longer a receipt to sign and acknowledge; this process does not provide enough time for eligibility checks to notify candidates; the filing deadline no longer follows our current approved elections timeline.

Therefore, Be It Resolved That: Article VII Section XXI of the Student Government Association Bylaws be written to read as follows to go into effect for the 2020 Elections,

XXI. Voting

a. All voting shall occur on-line.

b. Students are responsible for using their own resources, or those publicly available (e.g. library), to vote.

c. To be elected, a candidate must receive a plurality of the votes cast for the office for which they have filed.

d. Voters shall vote based upon the categories for which they are eligible.

e. Detailed voting instructions will be sent to students.

f. Vote totals shall be kept secret until the results are officially announced.

g. The results of the election will be certified with the signatures of the Elections Committee Chairman, Chief Judicial Justice, and SGA Advisor. These results shall be released to the campus and posted outside of the SGA office no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the conclusion of certification.

h. Any complaints regarding the election results must be filed within forty-eight (48) hours of the time at which the election results are posted. Complaints are submitted



73 to the SGA Advisor, the Chair of the Elections Committee, and the Chief Judicial
74 Justice.

75 i. If there are more than two candidates running for either President or Vice-
76 President, then the following procedures apply:

77 i. A candidate must receive a majority (anything above 50.0%) of the
78 votes cast for the office for which they have filed.

79 ii. Once all the votes are initially calculated the Elections Committee may
80 then levy any penalties that have been determined. If a candidate is
81 penalized, then the total number of vote fines will be deducted from
82 the violating candidate's total vote.

83 iii. If, once the votes are counted and penalties levied, no candidate
84 receives a majority of the votes, the candidate with the least number of
85 votes will be eliminated. A run-off election will then occur between the top
86 two candidates. Voting for the run-off election will occur the Monday after the
87 first round of voting when school is in session or after all appeals have been
88 finalized.

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90 **Be It Further Resolved:** The postponement of the date for preferential voting will go into
91 effect in the spring 2021 Elections.

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94 **Be It Further Resolved:** Bylaws Article VII Elections, to be written to read as follows:

95 **VII. Candidacy and Filing Procedures**

96 a. All students seeking to hold an elected Student Government Association position
97 must complete the filing process.

98 b. Confirmation of filing and eligibility shall be given to the candidate within 10
99 business days after the filing process closes.

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101 **VIII. All candidates must file for offices during the designated filing times and dates**
102 **advertised by the Elections Committee.**

103 a. Filing period shall open on the first day of classes in the Spring semester.

104 b. All candidates must meet the necessary requirements for their position as listed in
105 the Student Government Association Constitution and Bylaws prior to filing.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION of WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

96th SESSION, Fall 2019-Spring 2020

115

Senate Vote: Aye: 31 Nay: 0

Dawson H. Spencer January 14, 2020 Passed: Failed:
Dawson H. Spencer Date
SGA Vice-President

David Rhode 1/15/2020 Passed: Veto:
David Rhode Date
SGA President

