RICH CAMPAIGN ACT

ARTICLE I –

Section 1. Students wishing to campaign for an Executive Board position must adhere to the Association Constitution, Article VII, Section 1, Subsection B, in addition to Article VII, Section 3.

ARTICLE II – NOMINATING PETITIONS

Section 1. The Chair of Elections Committee shall be the sole receiver and arbiter of all nominating petitions for Assembly, Executive Board, and special election candidates.

Section 2. Each valid entry on a nominating petition shall include a printed name, signature and contact information. Defaced or illegible entries shall be declared void. Altered entries must be initiated by the signatory to be considered valid.

ARTICLE III – CANDIDATE INSTRUCTIONS

Section 1. The Elections Committee shall, at such time as a candidate either submits a nominating petition or is nominated by the Assembly, provide the said candidate with a copy of Article VII of the Association Constitution and this bill, as well as a written list of all election related dates, times and deadlines as specified by the constitution or statute;

Section 2. The preparation of the above-named list shall be the responsibility of the Chair of the Elections Committee.

ARTICLE IV – FINANCE

Section 1. Executive Board candidates may spend up to and including fifty dollars ($50), as they deem necessary for the conduct of the campaigns. This figure shall include New York sales tax, where applicable;

A. These funds shall be provided, on account, to candidates by the Association.

Section 2. Executive Board candidates shall not be limited in the amount of personal funds they wish to spend on their campaigns

Section 3. In the event of a runoff election, candidates who received the most votes in the primary for each office shall be provided twenty-five dollars ($25) by the Association, on account. This figure shall include New York sales tax, where applicable.
Section 4. No candidate or associate may purchase alcohol for consumption at any campaign event with Student Government Association (SGA) funds.

Section 5. All candidates’ finances delegated by SGA shall be recorded by the Election Committee and the Election Committee alone;

A. The Election Committee shall notify the candidates when they have five dollars ($5) or less left in the campaign funds provided by the Association.

ARTICLE V – CAMPAIGN STAFF

Section 1. Candidates shall submit in writing to the Election Committee, through the SGA office only, a roster containing the names, local addresses and local phone numbers of any and all campaign staff members no later than 72 hours prior to the primary election. If a candidate is nominated after this deadline, the candidate will have until the close of the next business day to submit their staff’s information.

A. A staff member:
   a. Shall be considered an individual who is registered with the Elections Committee;
   b. Shall be anyone who the Elections Committee determines has actively aided in the campaign of a candidate;
   c. Shall be anyone listed as administrator or equivalent term on a mass median facility dedicated to the campaign of a candidate.

B. All actions to aid a candidate shall be evaluated by the Elections committee and shall be judged on a case by case basis.

C. Candidates shall update this list as necessary. If a new staff member is added to a candidate’s campaign. The candidate must notify the Election Committee about the addition within two (2) business days. Failure to do so may result in a disqualification of the candidate.

Section 2. Candidates shall be held accountable for the conduct of their staff if that conduct relates in a significant manner to the campaign. The Election Committee shall determine whether he conduct relates in a significant manner to the campaign, as well as the course of action that needs to be taken, if any exists. The candidate may appeal the Election Committee’s decision as outlined in Article VII, Section 2 of this document.
ARTICLE VI – CAMPAIGN MATERIAL

Section 1. All tangible campaign material must be submitted to the chair of Elections Committee prior to the dispersal of said material. Said material shall be kept on record for the duration of the Election/s.

A. Any tangible campaign material that is not submitted to Elections Committee may be removed by Elections Committee.

B. After the election(s) is it the responsibility of the candidate to remove all campaign material within 24 hours of the election(s).

Section 2. All mass media material published by the candidate may be subject to review by the Elections Committee.

Section 3. No inappropriate statements shall be tolerated, and all materials endorsed by the candidate shall be subject to evaluation.

A. Inappropriate statements or campaign material include, but are not limited to, slanderous or libelous statements directed as opponents. The Election Committee will determine the appropriateness of said material.

Section 4. Any candidate or campaign staff member who knowingly or purposefully causes damage to, or the removal of, another candidate’s campaign material may be disqualified.

A. Endorsed material includes, but is not limited to, tangible material that is kept on-file with the Elections Committee, Facebook or other media updates from personal accounts, or accounts that the candidate is listed as administrator.

Section 5. No new campaigning as described in the association Constitution (Article VII, Section IV) shall be permitted at a polling place after 1:00 AM on the day of the election. All approved campaign materials posted before this time shall be acceptable. An area shall be considered a polling place as of 1:00 AM on the day of elections.

Section 6. All references to candidate also apply to all appropriate staff.

ARTICLE VII – FACILITIES USAGE

Section 1. Candidates and their staff shall be allowed access to all Association-owned facilities, equipment and media outlets in fair and equitable manner;

A. Candidates or members of their staff who make improper use of any Association-owned facility, equipment or media outlets may be disqualified by the Election Committee. The candidate may appeal the Election Committee’s decision as outlined in article X, Section 2 of this document:
ARTICLE VIII – DEBATES

Section 1. There shall be at least one (1) debate prior to the general election, further debates shall be held at the discretion of the general election committee. They serve to inform the students about the candidates and their stances on issues.

A. Candidates shall be required to attend at least one (1) of the debates;
   a. Failure of a candidate to attend at least one (1) debate will result in disqualification;
      i. This shall apply to all candidates, including those running unopposed.
      ii. The candidate may appeal the Election Committee’s decision as outlined in Article X, Section One of this document.

B. The time and the place of the debates shall be decided by the Election Committee;

C. The Elections Committee reserves the right to hold a debate in the primaries;

D. The Election Committee shall be responsible for selecting a moderator for each debate.

ARTICLE IX – POLLING GUIDELINES

Section 1. All voting shall be by secret ballot.

Section 2. All votes for candidates who do not adhere to election guidelines procedures outlined in appropriate documents.

Section 3. All SUNY Potsdam SGA fee paying students during the semester in which the election is held shall be eligible to vote.

Section 4. Ballots shall be prepared subject to the following conditions:
   A. The order of candidates shall be first “no vote”, then the candidates name listed in order alphabetically by last name in the order of president, vice president, secretary and comptroller
   B. All candidates’ names are to appear in the same size font face, size and color.

Section 5. No student may vote without recording his/her name and verifying the name against a current college roster.
Section 6. If polling is to occur online:

A. Candidates have the option to submit to the election Committee a statement about their campaigns to be available as a link on the voting site on election day. Under no circumstance will an attack in the opponent(s) be allowed in this statement. All statements are subject to prior approval by the Elections Committee before posted as a link;

   a. Statements shall be submitted to the Election Committee by the close of business, five (5) business days before elections are held.

   b. The Election Committee, or appointed representative, shall return any objectionable statement to the candidate within two (2) days of receiving them.

   c. The candidate will then have one (1) day to submit an edited statement.

   d. If the Elections Committee deems the second statement inappropriate, the candidate forfeits the ability to have a statement displayed.

B. If candidates that submit a statement and have their statement approved for display for the primary election do not submit a written statement to Elections committee expressing their desire to have their statement removed for the general election, the statement will remain as originally submitted.

   a. The written statement must be submitted within 48 hours of the general election.

   b. If a different statement for the general election is submitted and accepted by Elections Committee, it will replace the primary election statement if it so existed.

C. If there is a campus wide referendum on the ballot, a statement and/link explaining the issue shall be present on the voting page. The Elections Committee or designated representative shall prepare this statement. The statement must then be approved by the Assembly.

D. All areas if campus shall be considered a polling place.

Section 7. If polling is not to occur online:

A. No student may vote without an SGA representative recording their name and verifying that name against a current college roster

B. Candidates have the option to submit to the Elections Committee a statement about their campaigns to be available, upon request, at the polling places on election days. Signs will be posted letting voters know what the information is available at the polling place. Upon no circumstance will an attack on the
opponent(s) be allowed in this statement. All statements are subject to prior approval by the Election Committee before becoming available to voters.

a. Statements shall be submitted to the Election Committee by the close of business, five (5) business days before elections are held;

b. The Election Committee, or appointed representative, shall return any objectionable statement to the candidate within two (2) days of receiving them;

c. The candidate will then have one (1) day to resubmit an edited statement;

d. If the Elections Committee deems the second statement inappropriate, the candidate forfeits the ability to have a statement displayed.

C. Candidates have the option to submit to the Elections Committee a different statement about their campaign to be available, upon request, at the polling places in the day of the general election. Statements shall be submitted within 24 hours of the primary election. Submitted statements will be subject to the same standards as the primary statements.

a. Upon submission, the election Committee or appointed representative shall return any objectionable statement to the candidate within 12 hours of receiving them;

b. The candidate will then have one (1) hour to submit an edited statement;

c. If the Elections Committee deems the second statement inappropriate, the candidate forfeits the ability to have a statement displayed;

i. If the candidate submitted an acceptable statement for the primary elections, they may opt to display this statement.

D. If candidates that submit a statement and have their statement approved for display for the primary election do not submit a written statement to Elections committee expressing their desire to have their statement removed for the general election, the statement will stay intact;

a. The written statement must be submitted within 48 hours of the general election.

b. If a different statement for the general election is submitted and accepted by Elections committee, it will replace the primary election statement if it so existed.

E. If there is a campus wide referendum on the ballot, a statement explaining the issue shall be present at all polling places. The Election Committee or
designated representative shall prepare a statement. This statement must then be approved by the Assembly.

F. The College Union shall be considered the whole of the building, extending to the entrance of the student mailroom and the entrance of thatcher. The main entrance of the Union shall be considered to begin at the curb on Barrington drive nearest the Union.

ARTICLE X – APPEALS

Section 1. If any aspect of the election has been appealed by a candidate, further election proceedings shall be halted until the matter is properly resolved by the elections Committee.

Section 2. Candidates may appeal any decision of the Election Committee to the Student Supreme Court.

Section 3. If through the Elections Committee’s decision, or the decision of the Student Supreme Court, an election must be re-held, the Election Committee shall be responsible for rescheduling said election.