

SENATE BILL 2024-03 TITLE:

University of Nebraska – Kearney 2024-03 Election Guidelines Revision Act of 2024

COMMITTEE: Rules & Ethics

SPONSOR(S): Senator Przymus

DATE: February 6, 2024

UNK Student Government Election Guidelines 2024

Wednesday and Thursday March 6 and 7, 2024

Candidates filing for the 2024 University of Nebraska – Kearney Student Government Election and who intend to run for the office of Senator, Vice President, or President must abide by the following election guidelines. Furthermore, be it known that any infringement upon the rules outlined in this act or outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Associated Students of the University of Nebraska – Kearney may result in having the candidate’s name removed from the election ballot.

SECTION ONE: Application Procedures

1. All candidates running for Student Body President/Student Regent and Student Body Vice President must fill out an application, which are located online or in the Nebraskan Student Union Engagement Office. The last day to file the said application, with all required fields completed, will be no later than February 16th at 5:00 p.m. Central Standard Time.
2. All candidates running for the office of Senator in the Student Senate must complete an application and have all required fields filled in and submitted no later than February 16th at 5:00 p.m. Central Standard Time. Please note that if you are running for the Student Senate, hereinafter referred to as the Senate, you will be running for the open seat that is associated with your college major.
4. Candidates running for positions on UNK Student Government must be in good standing with the University of Nebraska-Kearney and must meet other requirements according to the UNK Student Government application.
 - a. According to the Student Conduct Policy “good standing” is defined as: “Generally, students who violate the student code of conduct more than once or violate the code in an egregious manner (i.e., physical fight, drug dealing, etc.) will likely be sanctioned with a minimum of a probationary period and therefore would be considered not in good standing. However, for most first-time violations a sanction of a probationary period is not typically used and therefore the student would be in considered in good standing.”

5. Candidates are required to provide a detailed list of all campaign agents on the day applications are submitted. All President, Vice President, and Senate candidates will be held responsible for any of their agent's actions.

6. This list must be submitted to the Election Commissioner or the Student Government Advisors at the Nebraskan Student Union. The list may be updated but still needs the approval of either the Election Commissioner or the Student Government Advisors at the Nebraskan Student Union. Please be aware that all agent lists can be updated at any time during the campaign.

7. Candidates may be disqualified if one of the campaign agents violates any existing election and campaign regulation.

8. Violations made by campaign agents will be subjected to disciplinary action as described in the University of Nebraska – Kearney 2023 Election Guidelines Act.

9. Members of the student press may not run for Student Government. Those wishing to run for student government or serve as an agent for a candidate must first relinquish their position as a student press member prior to the start of campaigning.

10. Candidates may run on both the Presidential and Senatorial tickets, however they can only run under the rules of the presidential position while keeping their name on both ballots.

11. All Student Body President/Regent and Student Body Vice President Applicant(s) must attend a mandatory Student Government Informational Session held by the Election Commissioner. Virtual attendance must be arranged between the Applicant(s) and Election Commissioner.

a. If a Student Body President/Regent or Student Body Vice President Applicant(s) is unable to attend the Informational Sessions, he/she must make an appointment with the Election Commissioner to discuss the election process and rules prior to the application deadline.

b. Student Body President/Regent or Student Body Vice President Applicants must attend an appointment with the current Student Body/Regent or Student Government Advisors prior to the application deadline.

12. All Senator Applicant(s) must attend a mandatory Student Government Informational Session held by the Election Commissioner. Virtual attendance must be arranged between the Applicant(s) and Election Commissioner. a. If a Senator Applicant(s) is unable to attend the Informational Sessions, he/she must make an appointment with the Election Commissioner to discuss the election process and rules prior to the application deadline.

SECTION TWO: Creation and Dispersing of Campaign Materials on Campus

1. Only candidates and registered agents will be allowed to independently create and distribute any campaign materials.

Please review UNK's Policy on Posting Materials, Display of Signage of University Property.

[posting-signage-policy-draft.pdf \(unk.edu\)](#)

2. All campaign materials must be approved and signed by either the Election Commissioner or Student Government Advisors at the Nebraskan Student Union prior to the distribution of campaign materials. Any material found that is not approved by the people mentioned above will result in the taking down of material and a written warning by the Election Commissioner.
3. Candidates wishing to post campaign materials in the residence halls must comply with the procedure set by the Office of Residential Life (temporarily located in CTW).
4. All candidates wishing to advertise in the academic halls must take their signed and approved campaign material to the Dean's office/Building supervisor of the respective colleges for signatures of approval. All candidates will be responsible for hanging their own material in the academic halls, unless otherwise stated by the Dean's office/Building supervisor.
5. No candidate, agent, or staff may feature campaign materials, campaign ideas or slogans in classrooms.
6. Candidates and agents may post campaign material on university resident doors so long as permission is granted by the occupant(s).
7. Candidates may utilize lawn advertisements but must receive written permission from all occupants living at that place of residence. The advertisement cannot exceed sixteen (16) square feet.
8. Candidates may not put campaign ideas or slogans on university owned sidewalks or road surfaces.
9. If a candidate or a candidate agent is caught taking down campaign material from another camp, the candidate's name will be taken off the ballot.

SECTION THREE: Campaign Guidelines

1. Candidates, campaign agents, or others cannot for any reason place a vote for another student even if the student gives their consent. A violation of this rule will result in the loss of his or her vote.

2. Election Day campaigning by candidates or agents must be contained to a fifty (50) feet radius of Cope Memorial Fountain area with no campaigning to take place in residential, academic, or campus buildings, amphitheater, and the intramural soccer fields. The Election Commissioner holds the power to move election-day campaigning to an alternative site due to inclement weather.

3. All candidates may start campaigning at noon (12:00 p.m.) on February 20, 2024. Before campaigning, candidates must have all necessary forms filed and approved by the Election Commissioner or the Student Government Advisors at the Nebraskan Student Union.

4. All campaign materials may remain up throughout the election but must be removed twenty-four (24) hours after the final day of election.

SECTION FOUR: Online Social Groups

1. The Election Commissioner must be notified of all social accounts and websites created specifically for the campaign.

2. All groups and events designed for the use of campaigning must invite the Election Commissioner to the group to ensure that all rules and guidelines are followed. Upon accepting the invitation to the group and events, the Election Commissioner should be named as an administrator to the groups and events, if possible.

3.. Any candidate or candidate agents found in violation of these guidelines will have their name taken off the ballot.

. SECTION FIVE: Organization Support

1. An organization may support a candidate only if everyone in that organization is in favor of supporting that candidate(s). The organization must show evidence in writing to the election commissioner before any action is taken to help a candidate's campaign. Organizations can support the candidate in only these ways.

- Take out an advertisement in The Antelope
- Lawn support in the form of a poster must not exceed sixteen (16) square feet. The poster needs to be ten feet away from all university property and must be approved by the Election Commissioner of Student Government and Advisors at the Nebraskan Student Union. The poster also must be paid for with organization funds (Please note University Poster Policy).
- All candidate support must have in fine print at the bottom "Paid for by..." the name of the organization.
- Any donation made by a student organization will count toward the total budget allowed to a candidate.

2. Community assemblies cannot make a formal announcement in support of a candidate(s)
3. RHA and the NRHH may not make a formal announcement in the support of a candidate(s).
4. Resident Advisors may not make a formal announcement in the support of a candidate(s).
5. Any University of Nebraska at Kearney official office may not make a formal announcement in the support of a candidate(s), i.e., Office of Residence Life, Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, Office of Student and Family Transitions, Office for Intercultural Engagement and Leadership, etc. The Election Commissioner shall have the authority to specify additional offices as they see fit.
6. Organizations that are considered student-run must have a current and recently approved constitution. If there are any questions concerning this matter, then you may consult the Election Commissioner or the Student Government Advisor at the Nebraskan Student Union.

SECTION SIX: Candidate Finance

1. Candidates for the Student Body President/Student Regent and Student Body Vice President may receive donations from any student organization or individual. No candidate for Student Body President/Student Regent and Student Body Vice President may spend more than \$300 in campaign expenditures including purchased and non-purchased materials. (Non-purchased items are those items that have been donated). An expenditure report must be turned in by 5:00 p.m. Central Standard Time to the Election Commissioner or Student Government Advisor at the Nebraskan Student Union the Friday after the election.
2. Candidates for the Student Senate may receive donations and cannot exceed the spending limit of \$100 including purchased and non-purchased items. An expenditure report must be turned in to the Election Commissioner or Student Government Advisor at the Student Union by 5:00 p.m. Central Standard Time the Friday following the election.
3. A fair market value for a donation or discount must be determined in advance by the Election Commissioner or Student Government Advisor. (For example – a student candidate that is an employee must declare full price value for an employee discount or privilege.)

4. Only UNK students and student groups (As defined by the UNK Student Senate) can contribute to a candidate's campaign funds. UNK students may contribute a total of \$15 per student. Donations from registered student organizations cannot exceed \$50.

5. Candidates shall not receive campaign donations, either monetary or material, totaling more than the spending limit for the position.

SECTION SEVEN: Debate

1. A mandatory debate will be held between candidates running for President and Vice President. If there is only one party, an open forum will be conducted.

2. If a candidate cannot attend the mandatory debate, candidates must communicate with the Election Commissioner prior to the week of the debate. The Election Commissioner and Student Government Advisors will have the final choice as to determine what qualifies as an excused absence.

3. The debate will be hosted by the Judicial Branch of UNK Student Government no later than two nights before the first day of elections. The debate moderator will be the current Election Commissioner assisted by the Election Commissioner's Staff.

4. The questions will not be released to the candidates until the debate.

5. All questions will be compiled by the Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioner's Staff. The questions will go through a screening process conducted no later than 4:00 p.m. Central Standard Time two days before the debate by the Student Government Advisors.

6. All details of the debate will be organized by the Election Commissioner in partnership with the Judicial Branch of UNK Student Government.

SECTION EIGHT: Election Day

1. The General Elections will be held on March 6 and 7, 2024. Voting will be done electronically.

2. To win the office of Student Body President and Student Body Vice President in the general election, the candidate(s) on the same ticket must receive fifty (50) percent plus one (1) of the general election votes. If this number is not obtained, a runoff election will take place.

3. Unless disqualified for some reason, the two (2) candidates whose names are on the ticket receiving the most votes for Student Body President/Student Regent and Student Body Vice President after any recount will be certified as elected

provided the vote tally meets the special certification of election as described in Section Eight, Point Two.

4. All election week rules and guidelines outlined earlier must be followed, with special attention paid to the Section Four entitled “online social groups.”

5. Please report all discrepancies to the Election Commissioner.

SECTION NINE: Runoff Elections

1. If an executive candidate does not receive the number of votes to secure a win, a runoff election will be conducted one week after the general election. The candidates in the election will be the top two presidential candidates that received the most votes during the general election.

2. The candidates that are participating in the runoff election will be allowed an extra \$100 in campaign expenditures. This money can either come from organization donations or individuals who donated to the campaign in the general election.

3. The winner of the runoff election must receive the fifty (50) percent plus one (1) of the votes and will be awarded the position of Student Body President/Student Regent and Student Body Vice President.

4. All expenditure reports from the runoff election must be turned in by the following Friday at 5:00 p.m. Central Standard Time.

SECTION TEN: Punishments and Violations

1. All violations to these guidelines, rules and regulations of the Election Commission, Bylaws, or Constitution of the Associated Student of the University of Nebraska – Kearney may result in the immediate disqualification and name of the candidate being taken off the ballot.

2. The Election Commissioner has the power to take anyone’s name off the ballot, but only with the advice of the Student Government Advisor at the Nebraskan Student Union; as set upon in Section 12, Article 1 in the University of Nebraska – Kearney 2024 Election Guidelines Act.