



JOHN JAY COLLEGE
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Office of Student Activities
Student Government Elections 2008

IMPORTANT DATES

- Petitions Available:** Friday February 1st, 2008 – Student Activities, Room 1106 North Hall, 9:30am
- Petition Due Date:** Thursday, February 22, 2008 – Student Activities, Room 1106 North Hall, 5:00pm
Petition received after 5pm on this date may be deemed invalid.
- Certification and Announcement of candidate's ballot position:**
Friday, March 7, 2008
- Candidate Eligibility Appeals & Complaints submitted to Judicial Board:**
Wednesday March 12th, 2008
All appeals must be submitted no later than 7:00 pm on this date
- Judicial Board Actions on Candidate Eligibility Appeals & Complaints:**
Friday March 14, 2008 at 5:00 pm
- Student Election Review Committee Appeals deadline:**
Monday March 17th 2008 at 5:00 pm
- Election Dates:** Saturday, March 29th, 2008
Monday, March 31st, 2008
Tuesday, April 1st, 2008
- Election Results announced in North Hall Lobby,**
April 1, 2008 (Pending Certification by President).
- Election Appeals & Complaints submitted to Judicial Board:**
Friday April 4th, 2008
- Judicial Board Actions on Election Appeals & Complaints:**
Tuesday April 8th, 2008
- Student Election Review Committee (SERC) action deadline for all appeals:**
Thursday April 17th, 2008
- Mandatory New Student Council Transition Workshop**
Friday April 18th, 2008
- Elected Officers swearing ceremony:**
Friday June 6, 2008

IMPORTANT DATES MUST READ

Please pick up and drop off ALL petitions at the Office of Student Activities, Room 1106N, located in the North Hall Building



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JUDICIAL BOARD GUIDELINES For the 2008-2009 STUDENT COUNCIL GENERAL ELECTIONS

According to Section XV.ii, Provision D of the Bylaws of the City University of New York and the Election Guidelines approved by the University and the John Jay College Charter of the Student Government, Article V, Section IIA, it is the responsibility of the Judicial Board to establish election procedures with the confirmation of the Student Election Review Committee (SERC). The following guidelines were formulated by the Judicial Board and confirmed by SERC for the Student Council Elections which will take place on the following days during the 2008 Spring semester:

Saturday, March 29th, 2008

Monday, March 31st, 2008

Tuesday, April 1st, 2008

The members of the 2007-2008 Judicial Board are:

- ❖ Jasmine Paul
- ❖ Alet Brown

Contact Information
judicialboard@jjay.cuny.edu
(212) 237-2179
Room 1110N

ARTICLE I

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

In the interest of involving as many students as possible in Student Government, the Judicial Board has created the following guidelines for special elections. These guidelines were collated with the expectation to expedite the process of creating a full Student Council, while maintaining the integrity and high standards that are demanded within a democratic process.

SECTION 1.0 **General Qualifications for Eligibility for Student Council General Elections.**

In accordance with the Student Government Charter, Article V Section III:

Any matriculated student, undergraduate or graduate, full-time or part-time, currently enrolled at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, who is in good academic standing and meets the other requirements stated in these guidelines, is eligible for election to the Student Council.

Undergraduate students **must have** a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.50, and graduate students **must have** a minimum GPA of 3.00 on the date that petitions are due and at the time of the elections.

CUNY Board of Trustees Eligibility Guidelines effective January 1, 2007.

The following guidelines apply to each semester a student is running for and/or holding office, whether by election, appointment, or ex-officio status, in student governments, [and] the University Student Senate and other bodies. The positions subject to these guidelines are the members (senators, representatives, delegates, etc.) and officers of student governments, members of faculty-student disciplinary committees, members of the governing boards of college associations and auxiliary enterprise boards, members of allocating bodies of student activity fees, members of college governance bodies including college councils and senates, editors of student publications and officers and directors of radio and television stations, members of student elections review committees, members of personnel and search committees, members and alternate members of Board committees, and the chair, vice-chairs, the delegates, the alternates, and any other officers established by the University Student Senate. In these guidelines, credit hours refer to actual credit hours, and not equivalent or contact hours.

1. *Students must be matriculated in a degree or credit-bearing certificate program at the college in which they serve or which they represent.*
 - a. *Full-time undergraduate students must carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.*
 - b. *Part-time undergraduate students must carry a minimum of 6 credit hours.*
 - c. *Graduate students must carry a minimum of 3 credit hours.*
 - d. *In order to serve each semester, a student must have completed and earned passing grades in at least 50% of the credits for which they registered the prior semester, but in no event less than 3 credits.*
 - e. *Full-time doctoral students at level II or III shall be making satisfactory progress and shall not be subject to subdivisions c and d hereof.*

2. **Undergraduate [and professional school] students must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 and be in good standing to participate in students government [and], the University Student Senate and the other student leadership positions covered by these guidelines. Chief executive officers and the Chairperson of*

- the University Student Senate must have a minimum GPA of 2.5. Colleges may continue to administer or adopt higher academic standards for services in their campus student government and the other student leadership positions covered by the Guidelines, subject to approval by the Chancellor.*
3. *Graduate students must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0. Law school students must be in good standing.*
 4. *Undergraduate students may not serve in any one of the following student leadership positions: as officers of student government, as members of the governing boards of college associations and auxiliary enterprise boards, as members of allocating bodies of student activity fees, as members of college governance bodies including college councils and senates, and editors of student publications and officers and directors of radio and television stations for more than a total of five years, to include no more than three years at community colleges. Students shall be permitted to serve in the same executive office in a student government, [or] the University Student Senate, or other student leadership position for a maximum of two years, except that co-chairs of the Doctoral Student Council shall be limited to a maximum of three years.*
 5. *In order to participate in campus student governments or serve in the other student leadership positions covered by these Guidelines, students must be certified as being in compliance with these Guidelines by the college's chief Student Affairs Officer, to the College President.*
 6. *In order to participate in the University Student Senate or on Board Committees, students must be certified as being in compliance with these Guidelines by the college president, or his/her designee, to the Vice Chancellor for Student Development.*
**John Jay College Student Government Charter requires a minimum GPA of 2.5 for Undergraduate Representatives.*

SECTION 2.0 Eligibility Restrictions

In accordance with the Student Government Charter, Article IV, Section IV:

Any student who held office previously and was impeached, is not eligible to be a candidate in any Student Government Election.

The charter reads:

No student, once so convicted, shall again be eligible to hold any office or position within Student Government.

Transfer and Freshman Students:

Student falling within this category are ineligible to seek candidacy as they do not have a GPA with the institution which, is a necessary component of eligibility as stipulated in Article I Section I.0

SECTION 3.0 Class Representation Requirements

At the time of a student's nomination for the Office of Class Representative, **each candidate shall have sufficient credits**, including the credits registered for during the current semester, to be a member of the class he or she will represent. A student's status shall be determined and certified by the Vice President of Enrollment Management, the criteria of which are as follows:

Freshman	1.0 -- 29.9 Credits
Sophomore	30.0 -- 59.9 Credits
Junior	60.0 -- 89.9 Credits
Senior	90 or more Credits
Graduate [1]	currently enrolled in a graduate program at the College.

Seniors graduating prior to or within their terms of office will immediately vacate their position.

Note [1]: First semester graduate students are not eligible for office, unless their Undergraduate studies were done at this institution. BA/MA students are classified according to their undergraduate class codes.

SECTION 4.0 College Council At-Large Representative and Judicial Committee Member Requirements.

Candidates must meet the requirements specified in Sections 2.0 and 3.0.

SECTION 5.0 Conflicts in Class Standing.

In cases involving conflicts in class standing, the class standing as certified by the Vice President for Enrollment Management shall be the class standing accepted and heard by the Judicial Board.

SECTION 6.0 Vacancies

Vacancies may occur during the course of the year through resignation, graduation, or many other possibilities. Vacancies as a result of the above reasons provided shall be handled as follows:

A special election may occur in the spring semester to fulfill any such vacancies subject to a majority vote of the Student Council. Once a special election has been confirmed by the Student Council, all prior procedures listed in this document for special elections shall thenceforth be called into effect. Should a majority of Student Council vote to oppose a special election, the vacancies on Student Council shall remain open.

ARTICLE II POSITIONS TO BE FILLED

SECTION 1.0 **Class Representative Positions**

The Class Representative positions to be filled are:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Freshman Representatives*
- Sophomore Representatives*
- Junior Representatives*
- Senior Representatives*
- Council at Large

Note: The two class representatives with the highest number of votes for each class will also serve as College Council Representatives. **Should these class representatives choose not to serve as College Council representatives; Student Council will hold separate elections from among the other representatives of that class in order to fill the vacancy. The Junior and Senior Representatives with the highest number of votes will also serve on the Board of Directors of the Student Activities Corporation.*

No Class Representative candidate may run for a position as College Council at Large representative.

SECTION 2.0 **Multiple Positions**

No student shall be an eligible candidate for, or hold, more than one of the positions contained within this article concurrently; except for the Faculty-Student Judicial Committee.

ARTICLE III PETITIONS

SECTION 1.0 **Availability**

“Petitions shall be standard for all offices and may be obtained on the first floor of 445 West 59th Street from the Office of Student Activities (1106N) open Tuesday and Wednesday 9:30a.m.-7:00p.m., on Monday, Thursday, and Friday from 9:30a.m.-5:00p.m., on days classes are being held. No student may have more than one petition for any office at the same time. Candidates may receive a second petition upon return of the first complete petition. A complete petition with the exact number of pages signed out from the Office of Student Activities (1106N) consisting of either four (4) pages for Non-Executives or seventeen (17) pages for Executives.”

Petitions will be available beginning Friday, 1st, 2008 at 9:30am in the Office of Student Activities (Room 1106N)

SECTION 2.0 Period of Submission (Petition Deadline)

Petitions for all offices must be submitted by the candidates on or before **5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 22, 2008 at the Office of Student Activities (1106N).** **PETITIONS OR PLATFORMS WILL BE CONSIDERED INVALID BY THE JUDICIAL BOARD AFTER 5:00 P.M. OF FRIDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2008.** The petition will be timed-and-date-stamped on the time clock in the Office of Student Activities (1106N), which shall be the official clock for the purpose of petition submission. If a candidate wishes a copy of his/her petition to be stamped at the time of submission, the candidate must present a copy of the petition to the Office of Student Activities (1106N). Only original petitions will be accepted.

SECTION 3.0 Class Representative Positions

Petitions for Class Representative must include at least twenty-five signatures which have the printed names of students (and the last four digits of the Social Security numbers) who are currently members of the official class which the candidate will represent.

SECTION 4.0 Executive Officer Positions

Petitions for any Executive Office must include either:

[1] At least one hundred and fifty (150) signatures from students of any class, with their printed names and the last four digits of their Social Security number; or

[2] At least seven (7) signatures from current members of the Student Council who are in good standing.

****Each candidate for Executive Office must participate in the debate sessions, to be held by the Judicial Board. There will be one session during the day and one session in the evening. Failure to attend both sessions will result in automatic disqualification of the candidate, allowing exception for “valid” reasons of absence (medical, school, family emergency, examination, etc).***

Date of debate tentatively March 25th for the afternoon debate and March 26th for the evening debate.

“Preference for a “valid” reason will be given first to documented reasons. However, SERC reserves the right to consider undocumented reasons as valid.”

No student may sign more than one petition for each Executive Office candidate. In the case where a student signs more than one petition for an executive office candidate, that student's signature will be disqualified on all executive office candidate petitions. However, the candidate's petition will not be disqualified.

SECTION 5.0 College Council Representative & Judicial Committee Members

Petitions for College Council at Large Representative and Judicial Committee members must include at least twenty-five (25) signatures which have the printed names of students (and the last four digits of their Social Security numbers) who are currently enrolled at the college.

SECTION 6.0 Verification of Signatures

The Office of Student Activities will verify all signatures on petitions to assure that the signatories are members of the appropriate class. Signatures from students who do not meet the qualifications for the representative position that a candidate is seeking shall be disqualified on that petition. This will not disqualify the petition itself. **Duplicate signatures will only count once.**

SECTION 7.0 Platforms

Every candidate at the time of submission of the petition must submit a typed platform at least two hundred and fifty (250) words, (*calculations confirming the word count will be done utilizing MS Word.*) **A 3.5" diskette, or a CD, containing the platform must also be included.** Platforms cannot be edited after submission. If a candidate wishes the platform to be date-stamped along with his/her petition, the candidate must provide two copies of the platform for this purpose at the time of submission.

Candidates running for multiple positions (Judicial Committee and a Student Council position) may not use the same platform for multiple positions. Each candidacy must be run independently of one another.

ARTICLE IV CERTIFICATION OF CANDIDATES

SECTION 1.0 Certification of Eligibility

After consulting with the Vice President for Enrollment Services and the Dean of Students, the Judicial Board shall meet no later than Friday, March 7, 2008 at 5:00 p.m., to announce the certified candidates for the Spring 2008 Student Council General Elections.

SECTION 2.0 Appeals

Any Candidate wishing to appeal the decision of the Judicial Board regarding the certification process shall have five (5) days from the date of the decision to file an appeal in writing with the Judicial Board. **This date is Wednesday March 12th, 2008 at 7:00pm.** This appeal must be time stamped in the Office of Student Activities then submitted to the Judicial Board office (Room 1110N). Appeals not submitted within this period of time will not be considered. The Judicial Board will issue a written opinion regarding the appeal within two (2) business days. Appeals of the decision of the Judicial Board must be submitted in writing to the Student Election Review Committee (SERC) within three (3) days from the date of the Judicial Board's decision. **This date is Monday, March 17th, 2008 by 5:00pm.** Guidelines for the SERC appeal process are available from the Office of Student Activities Room 1106N.

SECTION 3.0 **Ballot Position**

Ballot position will be determined by random selection at the certification meeting of the Judicial Board. Candidates may be present during this selection process.

SECTION 4.0 **Uncontested Seats**

The Judicial Board will certify as elected those candidates who meet the specific eligibility requirements for the position sought if:

- 1 There is only one candidate for the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, or the At-Large College Council Representative position.
- 2 There are no more than two candidates for Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior and Graduate positions.
- 3 That candidate meets all other aforementioned certification requirements.

ARTICLE V CAMPAIGNING

SECTION 1.0 **Campaigning**

As a microcosm of the United States Government, electioneering of candidates for Student Government shall be governed by the standards set forth by The New York Times v. Sullivan (84S. CT 710) governing slander and libel. The New York Times v. Sullivan standard states that the debate on public issues must be uninhibited, robust and wide open, and that this may sometimes include vehemently sharp attacks upon public officials (provided that such allegations or claims are true). The standard also states that in order for public officials to recover damages, they must show that the defamatory statements were false and made with malice aforethought—that is, “with knowledge that it was false or with reckless disregard of whether it was false or not”—in which case, the accuser shall be summarily disqualified. The Judicial Board will use section 1.2, *infra*, as the working definition of sections 1.0 and 1.1.

SECTION 1.1 **Improper Conduct**

Any candidate who (or if any member of his/her campaign term) knowingly or negligently engages in an improper conduct, by maliciously* inhibiting the campaign efforts of his/her opponent[s] shall be disqualified from the election process subsequent to Judicial Board review and decision that such charges brought against him/her has in fact taken place.

SECTION 1.2 ***Definition of “Malicious”**

For the purpose of all Student Council Elections, the word “malicious” shall mean any act/conduct, or condemnation thereof, resulting in adverse consequence[s], based on **malice** by any candidate (or member of his/her campaign team). Malice is defined as, “A desire to harm others or to see others suffer....The intent....to commit an unlawful act that will result in injury to another or others” (The American Heritage Dictionary, [2nd. College ed.], 1991, p. 759). Examples of such conduct (if maliciously motivated) include, but are not limited to: falsehood, misrepresentation, slander, libel, and/or defamation of character—any of which has caused a definite harm to the target individual[s].

SECTION 2.0 Posters, Flyers and Campaign Materials

Any campaign materials not posted in the designated areas (bulletin boards) will be removed by the Office of Student Activities or its designee. All campaign materials which are posted must bear the stamp of the Office of Student Activities.

SECTION 3.0 Classroom Presentations

Candidates may address classes in session only with the expressed permission of the instructor of the class.

SECTION 4.0 Distribution of Campaign Materials

Student Activity fees and official college mails/email shall not be used for campaign purposes. Any candidate who violates this rule may be disqualified from the electoral process.

SECTION 5.0 Election Day Campaigning

All candidates are prohibited from electioneering within the proximity of the designated polling stations while elections are being conducted. **Masking tape will be used to designate the PLANE beyond which candidates (and those campaigning for them) must not cross.** No campaign material will be allowed in those designated areas.

***NOTE:** Faculty, staff and college officials of the college will not be allowed to take part in the election campaigning process while acting as agents of the college. They will not be allowed to support or campaign explicitly on the school campus. Non enrolled individuals of the college will be prohibited in the election process. This includes but not limited to, the distribution of campaign material or promotion of such on school grounds.

ARTICLE VI ELECTIONS

SECTION 1.0 Period of Elections

The elections will be held on **Saturday, March 29th, 2008** in the **Tenth Avenue Building on the second floor 11am-3pm**, **Monday, March 31st, 2008**, and **Tuesday, April 1st, 2008**. Voting will take place in North Hall Lobby, in the Tenth Avenue Building on the second floor, and in the Westport Cafeteria, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

SECTION 2.0 Voting Eligibility

All students who are currently enrolled shall be eligible to vote for candidates for Executive Office. For Class Representatives, students may vote for those candidates whose class status is the same as their own based on the criteria for class representatives in Article I, Section III, above.

SECTION 3.0 Staffing of Elections

The polls will be staffed at all times by members of the Division of Student Development and other volunteers from the college's staff. College employees who are also students may not participate.

SECTION 4.0 Inspection of the Polling Area

At the opening and closing of the polls each day, candidates may inspect the polls. The voting machines will be placed in a secured area each night.

ARTICLE VII RESULTS

SECTION 1.0 Results

The results of the balloting will be announced as soon as feasible after the polls close at 7:30pm on Wednesday, April 1, 2008. The results will be announced in the North Hall Lobby. The results will not become official until certified by the College President.

ARTICLE VIII DISQUALIFICATION, APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS

SECTION 1.0 Disqualification

The Judicial Board reserves the right to disqualify any candidate who is proven to violate any of the provisions of these guidelines.

SECTION 2.0 Appeals and Complaints

All appeals regarding the Spring 2008 Student Government General Elections must be submitted in writing no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, April 4th, 2008 to the Judicial Board. Documentation must accompany all complaints.

NOTE: To facilitate this process, the said complaints must be submitted to the Office of Student Activities where they will be time-and-date-stamped. The Official clock shall be the clock in the Office of Student Activities.

The Judicial Board will act on the complaint by 7:00 pm on Tuesday, April 8th, 2008. Anyone who believes, and can provide concrete and convincing evidence, that the decision of the Judicial Board was made in error may **submit an appeal in writing to the Student Elections Review Committee (SERC) no later than 7:00pm on Thursday, April 17th, 2008.** The appeal should be hand delivered to the Office of the Vice President for Student Development where it will be time-and-date-stamped. The SERC, through the Office of the Vice President for Student Development, shall provide the Judicial Board and each candidate for the office in question with a copy of the appeal by hand delivery, certified mail or mailgram within five business days from the date the appeal was received. All persons concerned with the appeal shall have the right to submit such written statements to the Office of the Vice President for Student Development.