THE IUSA ELECTION CODE

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**Preamble:** This Election Code is enacted for the purpose of providing fair and equal opportunities for all IUSA members to run for Congressional and Executive offices and to provide fair and equal opportunities for all IUSA members to participate in the electoral process.

**TITLE I: The Election Commission and Election Timeline**

**Section 101: Election Commission Mandate.**

The IUSA Election Commission is responsible for planning and administering each IUSA election in accordance with the rules and procedures outlined in this Code. Members of the Election Commission are prohibited from serving in any other IUSA roles in the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches during their tenure on the Election Commission. Additionally, current or past members of the IUSA Election Commission are prohibited from running for any Executive or Legislative position within IUSA unless the individual who wishes to run voluntarily left or was removed from office prior to the beginning of the academic year in which said elections are to be held.
Section 102: Structure and Composition of the Election Commission

The Election Commission shall be a self-sustaining unit under the judicial branch of IUSA, subsidiary to and separate from the Supreme Court. The Election Commission shall consist of nine (9) Election Commissioners of a variety of ages, experiences, and backgrounds. One member of the group shall also serve as the Chair of the Election Commission. These nine members will serve as long as they are undergraduate students at Indiana University Bloomington unless they choose to leave or are removed from office in accordance with Section 104.

Section 103: Appointment of Election Commissioners and Chair

The Election Commission shall be responsible for self-selecting its new members in future years with Congressional approval. It is encouraged that the Commission consider candidates that encompass a wide breadth of age, experience, and backgrounds. Each spring following IUSA elections, the outgoing Election Commission shall vote to designate the Chair for the following academic year from the group of returning members. Congress shall approve the Election Chair for the academic year. The Election Commission and Chair shall be confirmed ideally the spring semester before, but no later than September 1st of the academic year in which the election overseen by that Election Commission will be held.

Section 104: Removal of Election Commissioners

It shall be grounds for dismissal from the Election Commission if any Commissioner works, speaks, or performs publicly or privately for or against any candidate or referendum. It shall further be grounds for dismissal if a Commissioner fails to perform the responsibilities stated in Section 106 or 107.

Any member of the IUSA Student Body Congress shall have the ability to petition Congress for the removal of any Election Commissioner. Once this petition has been submitted, Congress shall have the authority to remove the Election Commissioner with a two-thirds (2/3) majority of Congressional Members present and voting. Additionally, the Student Body President, at his or her discretion, shall have the authority to suspend the Election Commissioner from the point that the petition is submitted until the point that the Congress determines whether or not removal is appropriate.

Section 105: Filling a Vacancy on the Election Commission

If an Election Commissioner leaves office for any reason, the remaining members of the Election Commission shall select a replacement within a week and have the selection approved by Congress. This approval should be made at the next regularly scheduled Congress meeting.

Section 106: Responsibilities of the IUSA Election Commission

IUSA Congress will allocate appropriate funds to the Election Commission to accomplish the tasks set forth herein.

The Election Commission shall:

- Organize, plan, and publicize all IUSA Elections and referendums as per the timeline in Section 108;
- Actively seek to increase awareness of IUSA among the student body throughout the academic year and especially during election season;
- Aim to increase voter turnout;
- Publicly announce and promote all events stated in the election timeline;
- Act to enforce all rules and regulations contained within this Code;
- Act as the overseeing body of all referendum procedures;
- Issue advisory opinions to any individual or body requesting interpretation of this Code;
- Verify that all executive candidates meet the requirements for candidacy, and notify each candidate in writing of his or her candidacy status within three (3) class days after receipt of the application;
- Request from the IUSA Supreme Court certification of the IUSA Election Results;
- Hear all properly filed complaints according to the guidelines set forth in Title VIII;
- Take necessary measures to advertise both the Callout and election process in general, using means including but not limited to social media, fliers, and the Indiana Daily Student;
- Designate two (2) Commissioners to liaise with each eligible ticket to provide guidance and answer questions about the Code; and,
- Coordinate and host unbiased polling stations on campus on elections days.

Section 107: Responsibilities of the Chair of the Commission

The Chair shall:
- Oversee and coordinate the Election Commission’s proceedings;
- Execute the decisions of the Election Commission;
- Report to Congress and the Executive branch on behalf of the Commission;
- Make a sample ballot available for review by all candidates, and notify all candidates that the sample ballot is available for review no later than one (1) week prior to the election;
- Personally direct the tabulation of all ballots, and preserve the results of the tabulation until the new IUSA officers are sworn into office;
- Represent the Election Commission in all public statements;
- Address all claims of voter fraud and technical malfunction before releasing final vote counts;
- Serve as the official liaison with technology services in the management of the online voting system; and,
- Act as a voting member of the Election Commission.

Section 108: Election Timeline.

Each of the following events must occur in each election cycle with additional the inclusion of additional events being at the discretion of the Election Commission. Unless otherwise noted, the Election Commission shall publicize each event at least two weeks before its occurrence:

- **Call-Out.** There shall be one campus-wide callout for the IUSA Election that will occur no later than four (4) weeks before the election. This call-out shall serve as a general introduction to the IUSA Election, including a timeline of events for the IUSA Election. It shall also give all who are interested in becoming candidates an opportunity to ask questions about the IUSA Election.
- **Applications.** Applications shall be made available to the Student Body no later than one (1) week after the call-out meeting and shall be due no later than two (2) weeks before the election. Candidates will also be required to provide proof of residency or proof of academic eligibility in accordance with Title II of the Election Code when submitting an application.
- **All-Candidate Meeting.** There shall be at least one all-candidate meeting, and the first shall be held the week after the applications are due. Each registered ticket must have at least one representative present at the all-candidate meeting. If a ticket does not have a representative present at the All-Candidate Meeting, or does not notify the Election Commission ahead of time of their absence, the ticket will be disqualified.
- **Debate.** A debate shall occur during the campaign period. All groups of executive candidates shall be required to participate in the debate. The Election Commission will have full discretion over the planning, rules, and procedures of this debate.
• **Withdrawal of Name from Ballot.** Any candidates wishing to withdraw his or her name from the ballot must provide a written request for a withdrawal from the election to the Election Commission no later than one (1) week before the IUSA Election begins.

• **Review of Ballot.** Each candidate shall have the opportunity to review the official ballot no later than 1 week prior to the beginning of the IUSA Election and shall bring any issues of accuracy to the Election Commission within (2) days. Unless otherwise directed by the Election Commission, no other ballot review requests may be honored.

• **Testing the Election System.** The Election Commission shall verify that the online voting system works by testing the system at least 24 hours in advance of the polls opening.

• **IUSA Election.** The IUSA Election shall be held in the Spring semester, on any two consecutive days occurring on a Tuesday, Wednesday, and/or Thursday at least two weeks after the first All-Candidate Meeting. The Elections Commission shall select and publicly announce the election dates by the first day of class of the Spring semester.

**Section 109: Single Ticket Election.**

In the case that only one ticket applies to run for IUSA by the application deadline, no further applications will be accepted, and no exceptions will be made. As IUSA elections serve to raise awareness of the student government among the student body as a whole, elections will still occur according to the mandated timeline. The Election Commission will oversee these elections, and the candidates of the unopposed ticket will be required to campaign on both days of the election.

**TITLE II: Candidate Eligibility**

**Section 201: General Eligibility.**

Any undergraduate student of Indiana University shall have the option of being a candidate for any elected IUSA position, except for designated graduate student Congressional seats, provided that such a member meets the other eligibility requirements in this Code. All candidates must be undergraduate students for the duration of their term in office.

**Section 202: Filing for Candidacy.**

To properly file for candidacy, a candidate must submit to the Student Life and Learning Office a signed application listing the IUSA office the candidate is seeking. This application must be submitted prior to the deadline set by the Election Commission. Applications for candidacy shall be accepted if the candidate meets all other eligibility requirements in this Code. The candidate will be listed on the ballot by his or her first and last name. If the candidate wishes to be listed by any other name, he or she must request the use of a particular name on this application, subject to the approval of the Election Commission.

**Section 203: Receipt of Application.**

When an application is filed, the candidate shall be given a receipt that notes the date and time that the application was received. Any application received after the deadline shall not be accepted.

**Section 204: Residency Eligibility.**

Candidates for Student Senator must live in the district for which they are running during the fall and spring semesters immediately following the election. A Candidate will be required to provide proof that they will meet the residency requirement to the Election Commission no later than two (2) weeks prior to the IUSA election. Candidates who cannot or choose not to provide this proof or a written statement affirming their eligibility shall be disqualified and their names shall be removed from the
Section 205: School Membership Eligibility.

Candidates for Student Representative must be a member of the school whose students they will represent during the fall and spring semesters immediately following the election. A Candidate will be requested to provide proof that they will meet the school membership eligibility requirement to the Election Commission no later than two (2) weeks prior to the IUSA election. Candidates who cannot or chose not to provide this proof or a written statement affirming their eligibility shall be disqualified and their names shall be removed from the ballot.

Section 206: Congressional Seats.

Congressional seats shall be allocated on a yearly basis as directed by the IUSA Constitution and bylaws. The Election Commission Chair shall verify the composition of the Congress for the academic year following the IUSA election with the sitting IUSA administration and make publicly available a full list of these Congressional seats.

Section 207: Academic Requirement.

No candidate may be on academic probation or on university suspension and be a candidate for an IUSA office. All candidates must possess a college grade point average above 2.5 on a four (4) point scale.

Section 208: Candidacy for More Than One Office.

No person shall simultaneously be a candidate for more than one elected position in IUSA. No elected members of Congress shall simultaneously hold appointed positions in the IUSA executive branch or judicial branch and vice versa.

Section 209: Running Mates.

A candidate for any one of the four elected executive offices of President, Vice President, Congressional Secretary, or Treasurer must be a running mate with a candidate for each of the other three elected Executive offices, forming an executive slate. These candidates shall run as a group and state an affiliation with a candidate for each of the other three executive offices. No individual may run for an IUSA executive position without the aforementioned running mates. Executive groups must also run as a ticket (see Section 210).

Section 210: Tickets Defined.

An executive ticket shall be defined as any group of executive running mates plus a minimum of one (1) Congressional candidate that has stated an affiliation with the executive group. No group of executive candidates shall be recognized other than those that meet this requirement. Congressional candidates may state an affiliation with a ticket or run as a nonaffiliated candidate.

TITLE III: Voting and Voters

Section 301: Voter Eligibility.

All students of Indiana University shall be eligible to vote in the IUSA Election. Each voter shall cast one and only one vote, and that vote shall only be on his or her behalf. Each voter shall have the option to cast a vote for one executive slate, and for as many Congressional representatives as he or
she should so choose. No qualified elector may vote unless the elector can verify eligibility to vote as a student through an electronic or otherwise designated method of voter verification.

Section 302: Online Voting.

Voting shall be open from 10:00 AM on the first day of the IUSA Election to 10:00 PM on the second day of the IUSA Election for a total time period of thirty-six (36) hours. Online voting will be the primary medium used for casting valid votes. In order to cast an on-line vote, a voter shall only be required to use his or her IU username and network ID passphrase to access his or her individualized ballot.

Section 303: Polling Locations.

The Election Commission shall coordinate with the Student Life and Learning Office to reserve a number of highly trafficked areas on campus to serve as polling locations during the two days of the IUSA Election.

1 The Election Commission will coordinate and host a minimum of three (3) on-campus polling stations across campus. The following locations are recommended: Woodburn Clock Tower, 10th and Fee, and Dunn Meadow. A list of the finalized polling locations shall be distributed to tickets and nonaffiliated candidates at a minimum of one (1) week prior to the first election day.

2 No party affiliated with any ticket may campaign or linger for an excessive duration within a ten (10)-foot radius of any polling station, unless it is for the express purpose of casting his or her own vote.

3 Each ticket may provide a small (max 3’x 5’’) promotional material to appear at each polling station, but must be purchased at the responsibility of the ticket or nonaffiliated candidate. The primary function of this material must be to inform voters of their ticket and platforms. It is the responsibility of the ticket or nonaffiliated candidate to reclaim all tables or campaign materials from polling locations.

4 The Election Commission may provide a provisional ballot through an online or print medium to be used at the polling locations in order to maximize efficiency of the voting process. If doing so, the Election Commission must require proper identification and take adequate steps to ensure that no voter is casting more than one ballot, and that all votes adhere to the Election Code.

Section 304: Election Day Campaigning.

Informational material may be distributed by a candidate or ticket on the days of the election. Distribution of certain goods on the days of the election is limited under Section 601.

Section 305: Plausible Student Mandate for Executive Candidates.

Executive Candidates shall be elected by a simple plurality vote. In the case of a tie, the Student Body President shall call for an emergency Congressional meeting within five (5) days of the public release of the election results. Congress shall designate procedures to select a winner to be enacted by the Election Commission within five (5) calendar days following the public release of the results.

Section 306: Plurality Vote Required for Congressional Candidates.

Candidates for Congressional seats shall be elected by a simple plurality vote. In the case of a tie, the Student Body President shall call for an emergency Congress meeting within five (5) days of the public release of the election results. Congress shall select the winning candidate by a simple majority vote and immediately release the results to the Election Commission and all candidates.

Section 307: Ballots.
The ballot for the IUSA Election shall first identify all eligible tickets and provide a brief overview of each ticket’s platforms. The ballot shall include Executive candidates and Congressional candidates. The ballot shall place all Congressional candidates in alphabetical order and give the option of straight ticket voting at the top of the ballot. Each candidate shall be listed on the ballot by his or her first and last name only, unless the Election Commission has approved the use of a nickname. Each Congressional candidate shall have the option to place his or her ticket affiliation next to his or her name. Executive candidates must designate ticket affiliation.

Section 308: Alternative Voting Processes.

No voting process shall be allowed that is contrary to the provisions provided in this Code.

TITLE IV: Campaign Spending

Section 401: Campaign Expenditures Defined.

Any purchase or donation which is used for promoting any candidate or ticket shall be considered a campaign expenditure. In determining the value of an expenditure, nonaffiliated candidates or tickets shall be assessed the fair market value of the goods or services used to campaign. For the purposes of this section, fair market value shall be defined as the ability of interested parties to secure the same goods or services in question. No single candidate or ticket shall be penalized for a vendor’s inability to supply every or any candidate or ticket with goods or services used for campaigning. The Election Commission shall have the authority to determine whether any purchase is a campaign expenditure and what the fair market value of the expenditure is according to the definition of this section. Any candidate may request from the Election Commission an advisory opinion as to whether a particular purchase would constitute a campaign expenditure and what value it would be assessed. Advisory opinion requests must be answered and returned to candidates within three (3) calendar days.

Section 402: Contributions for IUSA Elections.

Candidates for IUSA Office appearing on the election ballot may contribute up to one thousand dollars ($1,000.00) of their own funds to their campaign or ticket with which they are affiliated. Any individual or organization not appearing on the ballot may contribute up to two hundred and fifty dollars ($250.00) in any one IUSA election. Total campaign expenditures may not exceed total campaign contributions. Additionally, campaign expenditures may not exceed three thousand dollars ($3,000), regardless of total campaign contributions.

Section 403: Financial Statements.

A financial statement is defined as an itemized list of all campaign expenditures, including receipts and appropriate documentation for each campaign expenditure listed, and an itemized list of all contributions. Documentation of expenditures must include the fair market value of the expenditure, appropriate vendor contact information (a minimum of vendor name, telephone number and physical address), a purchase date, and a description of the item. Documentation of contributions must include an itemized list of all contributions and the signature of each contributor, date of contribution, and the contributor’s association with the candidate or ticket. Each financial statement must be signed by the candidate for President or Treasurer for statements from tickets and by the nonaffiliated candidate for non-affiliated Congressional candidates.

Section 404: Submissions of Intermediate Financial Statement to the Election Commission.

Each nonaffiliated candidate or ticket must submit unified intermediate financial statements, along
with appropriate receipts to the Election Commission no later than 4:00 p.m. on every other Friday after applications are due, beginning the week applications are due and up to and including the last Friday before the IUSA Election. These financial statements must be cumulative and shall state all expenditures and contributions made to date. The Election Commission may grant an extension, not to exceed four (4) hours in length, provided the request for the extension is made prior to the deadline. All financial disclosure affidavits and financial statements will be made public the following Monday and can be viewed and duplicated during normal IUSA office hours.

Section 405: Submission of Final Financial Statement to the Election Commission.

Each nonaffiliated candidate, executive group, or ticket shall submit a unified final financial statement, along with appropriate receipts, to the Election Commission, no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day after the IUSA Election. A financial statement must be submitted, even if the statement reflects that no expenditures were made. This final financial statement must be cumulative and shall state all expenditures and contributions made or given after candidate applications were due and through the end of the IUSA Election. The Election Commission may grant an extension, not to exceed four (4) hours in length, provided the request for the extension is made prior to the deadline.


All financial statements of nonaffiliated candidates or tickets shall be public information, and shall be stored for no less than five years in the IUSA office.

TITLE V: General Campaign Violations

Section 501: Improper Use of Email.

The central username-specific email containing the link to the online ballot will be sent to the entire student body. The individualized link will not have extension capabilities (i.e. no party or affiliated person may email or circulate the link through any technological medium).

Any email sent to multiple voters soliciting votes that does not have all email addresses in the blind carbon copy (BCC) line shall constitute a violation of this Code. Any voter that requests to be removed from campaign emails soliciting votes must be removed from all ticket mailing lists within 36 hours.

Section 502: Improper Use of IUSA Office Space.

No ticket or nonaffiliated candidate is to use the IUSA office space for campaign purposes of any kind.

Section 503: Damage to Property.

Stealing, removing, destroying, damaging, or defacing University or private property shall constitute a violation of this Code.

Section 504: Affirmative, Deliberate Act to Cause Another’s Violation.

No candidate, ticket, or anyone acting on their behalf shall deliberately cause any candidate, executive group, or campaign ticket to be in violation of this Code.

Section 505: Interference with Campaign Materials.
No candidate, ticket, or anyone acting on their behalf shall deface, destroy, remove, alter, or otherwise change any candidate’s campaign materials without their expressed permission.

**Section 507: Additional Residence Hall Restrictions.**

Any candidate, ticket, or any person acting on behalf of any candidate or ticket found in violation of policies or guidelines established by Residential Programs and Services (RPS) and/or the Residence Halls Association (RHA) regarding conduct within a dorm, shall constitute a violation of this Code unless expressed permission contrary to standing policies is granted by officials of the aforementioned organizations.

**Section 508: Campaigning in Study Areas.**

With the exception of students at approved IUSA Election Commission polling locations on election days, campaigning inside university library or computer labs at any time shall constitute a violation of this Code with the exception of lobbies or public gathering areas inside of these buildings. For the purposes of this section, the term “campaign” is not meant to include emailing, posting material, or wearing campaign clothing. It is meant to include any activity that is disruptive to students, such as person-to-person solicitation or distribution of campaign materials.

**Section 509: Financial Disclosures.**

Any candidate or ticket failing to meet the requirements for financial disclosure laid out in Sections 402, 403, 404 and 405 shall constitute a violation of this Code.

**Section 510: Violations of University Policies.**

Any ticket, candidate, or any person acting on behalf of any ticket or candidate found to have violated a publicly disseminated university policy, including the policies of the Student Life and Learning Office, University Information Technology Services (UITS), and those found in the **Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct**, for the purpose of promoting a candidate or ticket shall constitute a violation of this Code.

**Section 511: Voting at Bars.**

No active campaigning efforts, including distribution of promotional materials and person-to-person canvassing, may occur in an establishment that requires patrons to be 21 years or older. Note that this does not include inactive or unintentional campaigning, such as wearing a ticket-affiliated shirt or paraphernalia.

**TITLE VI: Campaign Violations Eligible for Disqualification**

**Section 601: Voter Fraud.**

Voter fraud shall be defined as, but not limited to, any act that prevents a voter from casting a vote in any IUSA election, any act that attempts to remove a voter’s right to cast a vote for himself or herself, any act that attempts to purchase the ability to vote for a voter, or any act in which anyone attempts to cast a vote for another voter without their expressed consent. Examples of voter fraud include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Distributing to voters the link through which they can access the online ballot.
2. Intimidating a voter or offering a voter any amount of money or services in exchange for a vote.

Goods given to voters after a vote must be below $1.00 in value (stickers, candy, pens, etc. are
acceptable). The Election Commission has full discretion to rule on this matter, so written notification seeking the Commission’s permission is encouraged.

3 Preventing a voter from casting a vote or preventing a voter from casting a vote for the candidate he or she desires.

4 Changing a vote once it has been cast or using false information to cast a vote.

5 Pressuring a voter to vote one way or another while they are in the immediate process of voting.

6 Providing technology of any sort to a voter through personal solicitation – essentially serving as a polling station. This is independent of the number of votes gathered utilizing aforementioned technology (i.e. One vote or 100 votes collected in this manner qualifies as voter fraud).

Violations of this section by any candidate, ticket, or anyone acting on their behalf will be eligible for disqualification or ballot deductions.

Section 602: Excessive Campaign Contributions.

Any candidate, ticket, or any person acting on their behalf found in violation of campaign contribution limits as defined Section 402 shall be in violation of this Code and eligible for disqualification.

Section 603: Excessive Campaign Expenditures.

Any candidate or ticket that spends more than the total funds that they have received in contributions at any given time during the election, or any candidate or ticket that spends more than three thousand dollars ($3,000), regardless of the amount of campaign contributions received, shall be in violation of this Code and eligible for disqualification.

Section 604: Candidate Cooperation.

Any intentional attempt of a candidate or ticket to deceive or mislead the Election Commission, or an inquiry or investigation thereof, shall constitute a violation of this code. Candidate honesty is of the utmost importance in conducting a fair election, resolving election disputes, and serving IU students as elected members of IUSA. Actions contrary to this Section may provide sufficient grounds for disqualification.

Section 605: Material Violations.

The Election Commission, after compiling Complainant reports of general violations, shall decide if one or any violations by the ticket or nonaffiliated candidate could have been materially contributory to the outcome of the election. Materially contributory violations render tickets or nonaffiliated candidates eligible for disqualification.

TITLE VII: Evidentiary Standards and Procedures for Disqualifications

Section 701: Initial Complaints.

Any member of IUSA who has some credible evidence to find a ticket or nonaffiliated candidate in violation of any Title of this Code shall report the violation to the Election Commission by filing a complaint to the Election Commission as per Section 801 of this Code.

Section 702: Evidentiary Standards for the Hearings of Election Complaints.

The Chair of the Election Commission shall determine if there is a preponderance of the evidence for materiality of the violation(s) of this Code filed against a ticket or nonaffiliated candidate. Section 802 of this Code shall be followed if the violation(s) more than likely occurred.
Section 703: Selectivity of Disqualifications.

If students are running as part of a campaign ticket found to have committed violations, the Election Commission shall have the authority to determine whether penalties will be imposed upon an entire ticket or upon only one or more individual candidates. The Election Commission shall base such a determination on its judgment of whether the evidence presented indicates that a ticket conspired to commit a violation, or, conversely, that a single candidate or small group of candidates failed to adhere to this Code without the knowledge of the ticket’s leadership. A single candidate for an executive office cannot be individually disqualified. If any executive candidate is penalized with disqualification, the entire executive slate shall be disqualified. In such cases, the Election Commission may still allow Congressional candidates running with a disqualified executive slate to remain eligible for election.

Section 704: Ineligibility after Disqualification.

If a candidate is disqualified, the candidate will be ineligible for election to IUSA office during the election cycle in which the candidate was disqualified. If a ticket is disqualified, all ticket members are ineligible for election to IUSA office during the election cycle in which the candidates were disqualified. If a winning candidate or ticket is disqualified after the election, the disqualified candidate(s) shall be ineligible to take office. Candidates disqualified during one election cycle can run as candidates in future election cycles provided that they fulfill all other eligibility requirements.

TITLE VIII: Election Complaints and Appellate Procedures

Section 801: Properly Filed Complaints to the Election Commission.

1 **Technical Requirements**: Each complaint will be filed through an online submission form that will be moderated by the Elections Commission and made available to all tickets registered by the deadline.

2 **Substantive Requirements**: Each complaint must include specific allegations, the names of those allegedly involved, the dates the alleged violations occurred, citations to the specific portion of this code that the complainant(s) believes was violated, and a statement as to why disqualification is necessary. The complainant(s) may attach exhibits to the complaint that serve as documentation necessary to support the allegations stated in the complaints. However, these exhibits cannot contain new allegations or arguments to support the allegations not articulated previously.

3 **Deadline**: A complaint may be submitted to the IUSA Election Commission at any time during the election until 4:00 PM on the day following the IUSA Election. Upon submission of the online complaint, the Elections Commission will print and distribute copies of the complaint to the following entities: the Supreme Court and the Director of Student Life and Learning. A final copy shall be posted for public view on the bulletin board outside the IUSA Office.

Section 802: Accepting or Rejecting a Complaint.

After a complaint has been properly filed and received, the Election Commission shall meet in private to discuss the pending matter. If the Chair concludes that the evidentiary standard defined in Section 702 has been met, the Election Commission will move forward with evaluation procedures set forth in Section 803.

Failure to affirm a preponderance of evidence for the complaint(s) against a Respondent will result in dismissal of said complaint(s).
Section 803: Procedure for Complaints after Acceptance by the Election Commission.

After a complaint has been accepted by the Election Commission, the Commission will assess the infraction referred to by the complaint and will evaluate it according to a pre-determined list, which will set forth percentage-based deductions of votes proportional to the severity of the infraction. This pre-determined list will encompass several potential violations and their corresponding percentage loss, and will apply to all tickets in a standardized manner. If the infraction is not on said list but is similar in nature to pre-determined violations, the Election Commission will use its own discretion to determine an appropriate percentage of vote deductions applicable.

If, however, the infraction is more severe than those set forth in, or similar to, a pre-determined list, the Complaint will be formally heard according to the procedures laid out below.

The following procedure shall apply to complaints accepted by the Election Commission for hearing:

1. The Election Commission shall provide copies of the complaints to all candidates affected by the complaints immediately after acceptance. Also, a copy of the complaint shall be posted for public view on the bulletin board outside the IUSA Office.
2. Anyone wishing to submit a reply brief must do so by 4:00 PM of the first day of class following receipt of the copy of the complaint. In order to be properly filed, reply briefs must satisfy the technical requirements stated in Section 801.
3. The Election Commission shall set and advertise a date, time, and location for the complaint hearing. This complaint hearing must occur within one (1) class days of the deadline for submission of reply briefs. The complaint hearing shall be open to the public.
4. At the hearing, each person who filed a complaint or a reply brief shall have the opportunity to make an initial statement to the Election Commission. Then, the Election Commission shall have the opportunity to ask questions of the speaker(s). After the question and answer period, each person who made an initial statement shall have the opportunity to make a closing statement.
5. The Election Commission shall issue a written decision on disqualification within twenty four (24) hours of the end of the hearing, providing a copy of the written decision to the President, the Supreme Court, the complainant(s), and all those whose reply briefs were accepted. Also, a copy of the decision shall be posted for public view on the bulletin board outside the IUSA Office.

Section 804: Appeals of Decisions of the Election Commission.

All decisions of the Election Commission and Student Body Congress may be appealed to the Supreme Court. Following any decision or action of the Election Commission, any party involved in the decision or action may petition the Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari:

1. **Technical Requirements:** Each complaint will be filed through an online submission form that will be moderated by the Elections Commission and made available to all tickets registered by the deadline.
2. **Substantive Requirements:** Each appeal must contain a statement of the specific decision made by the Election Commission, reasons for why the decision should be overturned, and a specific request for relief. The appellant(s) may attach exhibits to the appeal that serve as documentation necessary to support the allegations stated in the appeal. However, these exhibits cannot independently contain arguments.
3. **Deadline:** The appellant(s) must submit the appeal no later than 4:00 p.m. on the first day of class following the day when the Election Commission posts its decision for public review. The appellant(s) must provide five (5) copies of the appeal, along with an additional copy in digital form (USB drive, email attachment, or any other form approved by the Chief Justice), to the Supreme Court. The Court shall keep one hard copy and the digital copy and then distribute one copy to each of the following individuals: the Chair of the Election Commission, the Assistant Dean of Students, and the Director of
Student Life and Learning. The remaining copy shall be posted for public view on the bulletin board outside the IUSA Office.

Section 805: Acceptance of Appeals.

The Supreme Court shall set its own guidelines for determining whether to accept an appeal, regardless of whether the appeal is filed properly or improperly. If the Supreme Court chooses not to hear an appeal, the decision of the Election Commission shall stand.

Section 806: Procedure for Appeals after Acceptance by the Supreme Court.

The following procedure shall apply to all appeals accepted by the Supreme Court. In hearing appeals, the Supreme Court shall be confined to the evidence presented in front of the Election Commission when it made its determination, the petition submitted by the appellant(s), the reply briefs, and the statements made during the appeal hearing:

1. The Supreme Court shall provide copies of the appeal to the Election Commission within one class day of granting a writ of certiorari. Also, a copy of the appeal shall be posted for public view on the bulletin board outside the IUSA Office.
2. Anyone wishing to submit a reply brief must do so by 4:00 p.m. of the first class day following receipt of the copy of the complaint. In order to be properly filed, reply briefs must satisfy the technical requirements stated in Section 902 and must be submitted in digital form.
3. The Supreme Court shall set, and then advertise, a date, time, and location for the appeal hearing. This appeal hearing must occur within four (4) class days of the deadline for submission of reply briefs. The appeal hearing shall be open to the public and conducted as governed by the internal rules of the Supreme Court.
4. The Supreme Court shall issue a written decision within forty-eight (48) hours of the end of the hearing and provide a copy of the written decision to the President, the Election Commission, and all other parties to the dispute. Also, a copy of the decision shall be posted on the bulletin board outside the IUSA Office.

Section 807: Procedure for Appeals of a Disqualification.

In the event that the Election Commission disqualifies an individual candidate or ticket, an appeal to the Student Body Supreme Court may be filed, consistent with the guidelines established in Section 803. If the appeal is accepted, the Student Body Supreme Court shall follow guidelines under Section 805 for procedures in hearing disqualification appeals. The decision of the Student Body Supreme Court will be final.

TITLE IX: Responsibilities of the Supreme Court

Section 901: General Authority.

No IUSA Election shall be considered valid until the Supreme Court certifies the results of the IUSA Election. The Supreme Court shall have the final authority over all properly appealed IUSA Election and referendum disputes.

Section 902: Authority to Reverse Decisions of the Election Commission.

The Supreme Court shall have the full and final authority over all accepted appeals of Election Commission decisions and any subsequent action by the Congress.

Section 903: Certification of the IUSA Election.

The Election Commission shall publicly post the unofficial vote totals of the election once it is
reasonably certain of the accuracy of the count. The Election Commission shall submit to the Supreme Court, once all financial statements have been verified, the results of the IUSA Election. The Supreme Court shall then certify the results of the IUSA Election. If the results of the Election Commission’s decisions, hearings, etc. are properly appealed to the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court shall certify the results of the IUSA Election only after these complaints and appeals have been heard and resolved. Certification of the results shall not occur until at least 24 hours (24) have passed following the final deadline for properly filed complaints (Sections 801 and 803).

Section 904: Installation of new IUSA Officers.

The Supreme Court shall install new IUSA officers as set forth in the IUSA Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 905: New Elections.

The Supreme Court shall have the authority to invalidate an entire IUSA Election, or a portion thereof, and order a new election of what has been invalidated. This shall occur only after the Supreme Court has reviewed a complaint, on appeal from the Election Commission, which requests an entirely new IUSA Election, or a portion thereof, and the petitioner has demonstrated that either a serious violation of this Code has occurred, or that other rules and regulations grossly influenced the outcome of the results he or she is contesting.

TITLE X: Responsibilities of Congress

Section 1001: General Authority.

Congress shall have the authority to amend this Code consistent with the dictates of the IUSA Constitution and Bylaws. Congress shall not have the authority to restrict any voter’s right to endorse or assist any candidate, except for those voters who sit on the Election Commission, the Supreme Court, or any individuals involved in conducting electoral procedures.

Section 1002: Annual Congressional Evaluation of Election Code.

The IUSA Congress shall evaluate this Election Code on an annual basis no later than February 1 in order to address any inconsistencies, confusion, or undesirable effects caused by the Election Code in the previous IUSA Election.