

PRSSA 2012 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Guidelines for Candidates Running off the Floor

I. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A student running off the floor for a position on the PRSSA National Committee must be:

- A. A member in good standing of an active PRSSA Chapter;
- B. Able to maintain PRSSA membership during the term on the National Committee; and
- C. A full-time student from the time he or she is elected through the fall semester.

II. NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

- A. The presiding officer will accept nominations from the floor before the candidate speeches.
- B. Nominations will be accepted only from Assembly delegates. The nomination must be seconded by an Assembly delegate from a Chapter other than the one sponsoring the nominated candidate.
- C. Candidates nominated from the floor who are not registered as an official delegate, or non-delegate, must meet the requirements for candidate eligibility and verify those qualifications prior to the election. All nominated candidates must meet with the appointed election officials immediately following the session to verify their qualifications. They must verify their PRSSA membership by showing their membership card or a letter from their Faculty Adviser. The nominated candidate must be approved by a majority of the elections subcommittee to officially qualify as a candidate.
- D. Anyone who runs off the floor must supply copies of his/her nomination form, essay and letter of recommendation to all the delegates, usually around 125 copies.
- E. Candidates nominated from the floor shall be eligible to present speeches during the designated session and shall be treated in all respects as an official candidate.

III. ELECTION TIMETABLES

Each candidate seeking a national office position will have the opportunity to address Assembly delegates at a special session held during the Assembly.

- A. Presentations by candidates for vice president positions shall last no longer than five minutes. Presentations by candidates for national president shall last no longer than ten minutes.
- B. After the candidates' presentations, delegates may address questions to all of the candidates. This question-and-answer forum shall last fifteen minutes for each office. An extension of the Q&A can be granted only by a vote of the Assembly. The question-and-answer forum is mandatory for the election process and cannot be waived.
- C. When more than one candidate is running for a position, the order of presentations will be decided by a drawing conducted by the presiding officer at the onset of the session.

Candidates for office may remain in the rooms when speeches are being presented by other candidates. However, no question may be directed by another candidate for the same office.

Only official Assembly delegates shall be allowed to direct questions to the candidates. No delegate shall be allowed to ask a candidate a second question until all other delegates have had the opportunity to question that candidate.

IV. CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

The official nomination forms, essays, letters of recommendation, candidates' speeches and the question-and-answer forum shall be the sole basis upon which elections shall be carried out.

All candidates must make their presentation in person.

Absolutely no campaigning either before or during the National Assembly is allowed. Infringements of this ruling, either by the candidate or the candidate's supporters, shall be grounds for immediate disqualification of the candidate by the Elections Subcommittee.

For Assembly delegates:

- A. Roll call will be taken at the National Assembly meeting by the presiding officer to ensure proper Assembly delegate representation. A master list of Assembly delegates shall also be available to the Elections Subcommittee, should the authenticity of a delegate be in question.
- B. There shall be no provision for absentee ballots. Votes may be cast only by Assembly delegates present at the National Assembly meeting.
- C. Assembly delegates not able to attend either the candidate speeches or the National Assembly meeting because of an emergency must immediately notify and be excused with reason by the PRSSA Vice President of Education or National President. Absent Assembly delegates not excused shall forfeit their travel allowances.
- D. In the case of an excused emergency absence by an Assembly delegate, the elected alternate or appointed representative may substitute for the Assembly delegate, if the Elections Subcommittee is notified of such a substitution.

V. SANCTIONS

- A. In the event of alleged infractions of campaign rules and/or ethical behavior, the Elections Subcommittee shall have original jurisdiction through a majority decision.
- B. Those candidates found to have violated the rules set forth by the Elections Subcommittee shall be subject to immediate disqualification.
- C. In case of appeal, the Elections Subcommittee shall present factual reports to the PRSSA National Committee at a special meeting held at National Assembly. The accused candidate shall have the opportunity to present his or her case to the National Committee. A decision shall be made by the National Committee through a majority of those present and voting, if a quorum is present. The National Committee shall have final jurisdiction in all decisions.
- D. Any alleged infractions committed before or during the Assembly must be brought directly to the attention of the Parliamentarian. In this case, the Parliamentarian will call for a break in the Assembly procedures for discussion of this matter before an appointed committee.