

Article I: Elections Commission**Section I. Membership**

The Elections Commission shall comprise of:

- A. Executive Director, appointed by the President with approval of the Senate;
- B. Assistant Director, appointed by the President with approval of the Senate;
- C. Six (6) Elections Commissioners, appointed by the Executive Director;
- D. Between two (2) or three (3) ASUNM Senators, appointed by the Vice President.

Section 2. Qualifications

In order for a student to be a member of the Elections Commission, they must:

- A. Be a member of ASUNM;
- B. Not be an official candidate for any ASUNM elected office;
- C. Not be an Associate Justice, the Chief Justice, President, Vice President, Chief of Staff, Deputy Chief of Staff, or the Attorney General.

Section 3. Duties

The Elections Commission will be responsible for:

- A. Maintaining uniformity in the application and operation of the Election Code;
- B. Developing a uniform format for all proposed referenda, constitutional amendments, and opinion polls;
- C. Conducting a combined endorsement meeting and public candidate forum to be held five (5) to seven (7) days prior to the voting period;
- D. Presiding over elections by handling all violations of the Election Code, assessing fines, certifying the results, and carrying out all other duties necessary for conducting elections;
- E. Retaining their powers and responsibilities until the final resolution of all contests of election;
- F. Hiring Poll Workers for any polling station and any election they deem fit;
 1. Poll Workers must meet the same qualifications as Elections Commissioners;
 2. Poll Workers will serve for a period of time determined by the Elections Commission.
- G. Conducting themselves at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the election process;
 1. At no time during their term serving on the Elections Commission will any member be permitted to publicly support or campaign for any official candidate.
- H. Establishing polling stations on Tuesday from 10:00am to 4:00pm and Wednesday from 9:00am to 5:00pm of the Voting Period and any other subsequent elections;
- I. Assisting Lobo Spirit in conducting the Homecoming Election as outlined by the procedures in the Lobo Spirit Code;
- J. Hiring on a temporary basis and paying individuals to be Election Staff during times of Election, as necessary.

1. This Election Staff must meet the same requirements for office as the Commissioners.

Section 4. Voting

- A. All members of the Elections Commission shall be full voting members with the exception of the Executive Director who can only vote in the case of a tie.
- B. Quorum will be met when a majority of the appointed voting members are present.

Section 5. Terms of Payment

- A. Elections Commissioners will be salaried at a rate to be determined by the Finance Committee and approved by the Senate.
- B. Poll Workers will receive an hourly wage. Time sheets indicating hours worked will be turned in to the Elections Commission.
- C. Senators appointed as members of the Elections Commission are forbidden from accepting any wage(s) or salary for their duties as part of the Elections Commission.

Article II: Elections Commission Executive Director

The Elections Commission Executive Director will be responsible for:

- A. Supervising all elections;
- B. Maintaining uniformity in the application and operation of the Election Code;
- C. Verifying that all official candidates are qualified to run for elected offices;
- D. Preparing and providing instructions for the proper conduct of each election in accordance with the ASUNM Law Book and Constitution;
- E. Appointing all Elections Commissioners;
 1. The Executive Director will also be responsible for instructing Poll Workers and Elections Commissioners of the proper methods of performing their duties as prescribed in the Election Code.
- F. Investigating any violation(s) of the Election Code and reporting the violation(s) to the Elections Commission;
- G. Preparing and furnishing each polling station with sufficient materials, including all necessary items for voters to cast their ballots;
- H. Providing identification badges to all Poll Workers and members of the Elections Commission;
 1. Identification badges must indicate the wearer's authority in the election, the wearer's name, and be worn at all times while performing duties.
- I. Publicizing the location and hours of operation of all polling stations;
- J. Voting only in the event of a tie in Elections Commission meetings;
- K. Ensuring methods of voting are highly secured to protect the integrity of the elections.

Article III: Elections Commission Assistant Director

The Elections Commission Assistant Director will be responsible for:

- A. Assisting the Executive Director in fulfilling their duties;

- B. Presiding over the Elections Commission in the absence of the Executive Director;
 C. Assuming the duties of the Elections Commission Executive Director should the office of the Executive Director becomes vacant, until the time when the office is filled.

Article IV: Polling Stations

Section 1. Location

The following will be considered the minimum number of polling stations for a fair and accurate election:

- A. On the Tuesday of the voting period:
1. There will be one (1) polling station located on or near the mall level of the Student Union Building between the hours of 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.
- B. On the Wednesday of the voting period:
1. There will be one (1) polling station located on or near the mall level of the Student Union Building between the hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm;
 2. There will be one (1) polling station located in Zimmerman Library between the hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm;
 3. There will be one (1) polling station located in the Student Residence Center Commons between the hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Section 2. Polling Operation

Each poll will be operated at all times by at least two (2) Poll Workers or members of the Elections Commission.

Section 3 – Universal Online Ballot

The link to the online ballot will be accessible through MyUNM during the voting period, beginning at 9:00 am on Monday and ending at 5:00 pm on Wednesday.

Article V: Notice of Elections

Section 1

- A. To ensure that every ASUNM member has the opportunity to see election notifications, the Elections Commission must use the NM Daily Lobo's available advertising opportunities to provide notice of elections.
1. Notice of elections may be in the print edition of the NM Daily Lobo or through the NM Daily Lobo's digital advertising methods at the Elections Commission's discretion, except where specifically mandated below.
 2. All notices will be written in a format to be determined by the Elections Commission based on the available advertising opportunities.
- B. All dates must be published to the Elections Commission's own digital locations and presence, including but not limited to the Elections Commission website.

Section 2 – Open Offices

The Elections Commission will give written notice of all open offices, on which to be voted, a minimum of twenty-five (25) days prior to the Wednesday of the voting period:

- A. This notice appear for at least two (2) consecutive print issues in the NM Daily Lobo and if published to the NM Daily Lobo website will appear for a minimum period of seven (7) days. Once published, this information may not be changed or altered, except to correct any errors in printing.
- B. Any corrections will be published for two (2) print issues in the NM Daily Lobo newspaper and/or seven (7) days on the NM Daily Lobo website as soon as available advertising opportunities allow.

Section 3 – Endorsements and the Voting Period

The Elections Commission will publish at least one (1) full-page advertisement in the NM Daily Lobo newspaper and/or website that carries the organizational endorsements of each official candidate. The locations and hours of all polling stations during the election voting period shall also be included in the advertisement.

- A. This notice will be published in the print issue of the NM Daily Lobo newspaper and/or for three (3) days on the NM Daily Lobo website as early as available advertising opportunities allow following the Endorsement Forum.
- B. If appearing in the print edition of the NM Daily Lobo, the printed advertisement will be at least one (1) full page in length.

Section 4 – Physical Polling Station Notices

- A. The Elections Commission will publicize when polling stations are open by placing at least one (1) sign at each location on Tuesday from 10:00am to 4:00 pm and Wednesday from 9:00am to 5:00pm during the voting period.
 1. The sign(s) must clearly state "Polls Open Today" and "Vote Here" as well as stating the type of election being held.
- B. The Elections Commission will advertise the Presidential and Senatorial General Elections in the following manners from twelve (12) days prior during the voting period:
 1. Approved electronic displays in the Student Union Building.
 2. Approved outdoor displays will clearly display a banner no smaller than six (6) feet long by three (3) feet wide at the discretion of the Elections Commission.

Section 5 – Poll Worker Hiring

Notification for hiring Poll Workers will be placed in the NM Daily Lobo for at least two (2) consecutive issues and/or the NM Daily Lobo website for at least seven (7) days and no less than fourteen (14) days prior to the Wednesday of the voting period. Notifications must include procedures for applying.

Section 6 – Referenda, Polls, Amendments

Upon receipt of proposed referenda, constitutional amendments, and opinion polls, the Elections Commission will publish the full text in the NM Daily Lobo print edition at least two (2)

consecutive issues and/or the NM Daily Lobo website at least seven (7) days prior to the Wednesday of the voting period. If the text is larger than one-quarter (1/4) page in size or other available advertising opportunities presented by the NM Daily Lobo, then a summary, written by the Attorney General, may be substituted. The completed text must be available for review at the ASUNM office and on the ASUNM or Elections Commission website.

Section 7 – Endorsement Forum

The Endorsement Forum shall be advertised as provided by the Election Code, Article X, Section 1, Sub-section C.

Article VI: Referenda, Constitutional Amendments and Opinion Polls

Section 1.

Proposed referenda, constitutional amendments, and opinion polls must be received by the Elections Commission no later than 5:00 PM of the twelfth (12) day prior to the Wednesday of the voting period in order to appear on the ballot.

Section 2.

The Elections Commission will visibly post the full text of any proposed referenda, constitutional amendments, and opinion polls at all polling stations.

Section 3.

The Elections Commission is responsible for placing all proposed referenda, constitutional amendments, and opinion polls in the proper format for the ballot.

Section 4.

Opinion polls may be placed on the ballot by an executive order of the President, by resolution of the Senate, or by petition of one third (1/3) of the number of students voting in the previous general election.

Article VII: Candidate Filing

Section 1.

While candidates may choose to organize into a group for campaign purposes, ASUNM and its affiliates recognize candidates as individuals, though they may run collectively.

Section 2.

- A. Election packets consisting of all forms necessary to file for candidacy will be available at the ASUNM office and ASUNM website the twenty-fifth (25) to the twelfth (12) day prior to the Wednesday of the voting period.
- B. The Elections Commission may not charge candidates for the printing cost of the packet.

Section 3.

In order for a candidate's name to appear on the ballot, an affidavit acknowledging candidacy must be filed in the ASUNM office by 5:00 PM of the twelfth (12) day prior to the Wednesday of the voting period. The candidate must be certified by the Elections Commission as meeting all of the qualifications necessary to run for and hold elected office.

- A. The candidate will print or type their full name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address for the position for which they intend to be a candidate for, their name as they wish it to appear on the ballot and will sign the following statement on the affidavit: "I, (name of candidate), acknowledge my candidacy for the office of (title of office), and will if elected accept the duties and responsibilities of the office. I am a member of the ASUNM in good standing and am qualified as prescribed by the ASUNM Election Code to accept and run for the office for which I intend to be a candidate."

- B. The person accepting the election packet will issue a receipt to the candidate, noting date and time and will provide pertinent information about the candidate's meeting.

Section 4.

No member of the Office of the Attorney General, the Student Court, or the Elections Commission may file for candidacy for any elected office while retaining their appointed office.

Article VIII: Candidate Meeting

Section 1.

The Elections Commission will hold a Candidate Meeting for all candidates at least nine (9) days, but no more than eleven (11) days prior to the scheduled election.

- A. In order for a candidate's name to appear on the ballot, the candidate must attend the Candidate Meeting that will be called by the Elections Commission Executive Director.
- B. If a candidate is unable to attend the Candidate Meeting, their designated legal representative may represent the candidate provided that the Legal Representative Form was presented to the Elections Commission prior to the start of the Candidate Meeting.
 1. Even in the case of absence, candidates shall be held accountable for all information presented and distributed at the Candidate Meeting.

Section 2.

At the Candidate Meeting the following will occur:

- A. The members of the Elections Commission will be introduced to the candidates;
- B. A roll-call will be taken of all candidates or their designated legal representative at the beginning of the meeting; all candidates or their designated legal representative must be present for the entire meeting in order to be eligible for official candidacy status. Appeals may be made to the Election Commission under extreme conditions.
- C. The Election Commission will inform each candidate of the time of the combined endorsement meeting and candidate forum.

- D. Candidates will be briefed on all sections of the Elections Code that the Elections Commission deems necessary.
- E. Ballot positions will be determined by the use of a double-blind draw to be conducted as follows:
1. Each candidate's name will be printed on a slip of paper provided by the Election Commission. Each slip of paper will be the same size and color. These name slips will then be placed in a common container.
 2. A separate set of uniform slips of paper will be consecutively numbered starting with one (1) until there is a numbered slip for each of the candidates running for the office in question. The numbers six (6) and nine (9) will be underlined to differentiate them. The number slips will be placed in a second common container.
 3. Three (3) members of the Election Commission will be responsible for drawing these slips from their common containers. One (1) will draw name slips and announce the name written on the slip, one (1) will draw the number slips and announce the number written on the slip, and one (1) will serve as a verifier.
 4. One (1) slip will be drawn at a time from each of the common containers, and the number drawn with each name will be the official ballot position of the candidate. This procedure will be repeated until all candidates for an office have been assigned a ballot position.
 5. Once all the candidates for an office have been assigned a ballot position, the procedure will be repeated for each office on the ballot.
- F. After ballot positions have been assigned, the Election Commission will answer any questions that the candidates may have regarding the election and campaign process.
- G. If any questions of the candidates cannot be answered at the meeting, or the Elections Commission fails to give out all the necessary information, the Elections Commission will e-mail all candidates as soon as possible.

Article IX: Campaign Regulations

Section 1. Election Code

- A. Any amendments made to the Election Code must become law at least twenty five (25) days prior to the voting period in order to apply to that election.
1. Approved changes made to the Election Code within twenty five (25) of an election will apply to the next election.

Section 2. Campaigning and Posting Materials

Campaign posting shall be in accordance with university policy as outlined in the UNM Pathfinder under the section titled "Main Campus Rules for Outdoor Events, Sound, and Posting" or in accordance with its successor's policy.

- A. Campaign materials include, but are not limited to:
1. Advertisements in any printed publication;
 2. Advertisements on any radio or television station;

3. Handbills, flyers, posters, placards, buttons, stickers, banners, chalking, shirts, paid websites, social networking sites, or the like;
4. Any items and/or services reasonably perceived as being used with the purpose of soliciting votes for an ASUNM elected office by any person or organization that aids a candidate or group of candidates.
 - a. Campaign attire worn without campaign language, logos or names is excluded from being taken into consideration as campaign expenditures as outlined in the Elections Code, Article IX Campaign Regulations, Section 3 of the ASUNM Lawbook.
- B. No one (1) candidate or group may post more than one (1) item of campaign material on the same face of any posting area. Each side of a kiosk may display one (1) item of campaign material for each candidate. A cylindrical kiosk may have three (3) items affixed to its exterior face.
- C. No person will mark, deface, or otherwise tamper with the posted campaign material or chalking of any candidate, nor may any other individual or group of individuals remove the posted campaign material of any candidate.
- D. The Elections Commission will have the sole right to remove any illegally posted or displayed materials.
- E. No person will campaign or post materials within twenty-five (25) feet of the doors to a building containing a polling station or public computer access on Election Day or Early Voting Day. Any person or material within this area will be removed by the Elections Commission or otherwise authorized personnel.
- F. Candidates shall be expected to abide by the rules outlined in the "University of New Mexico Residence Hall Community Living Guide" and all other rules distributed at the candidates meeting.
- G. All candidates are responsible for the actions of any and all of their campaign workers and may be penalized accordingly.
- H. No candidate, or campaign worker shall be allowed to campaign at or within twenty five (25) feet of an ASUNM Town Hall Meeting.
- I. Candidates must submit a letter of permission from the proprietor of a business establishment to the Elections Commission in order to campaign in or around said establishment.
- J. No candidate or campaign worker shall use an internet-enabled device to physically solicit votes from students via the Universal Online Ballot. This includes any device owned by the candidate, campaign worker, and potential voter.

Section 3. Campaign Expenditures

All expenses incurred as part of a campaign by any individual or group must be reported to the Elections Commission. The Elections Commission will determine the format of all forms to be used to report campaign expenditures.

- A. All campaign materials used in a campaign effort will be assessed at a fair market value by the Elections Commission, and this value will be included as part of the expenditures of a candidate.
- B. All money spent on behalf of a candidate will be included as part of the expenditures of the candidate. Campaign material carrying more than one candidate's name shall be

reported at the full price of the material on each of the candidate's campaign expenditure forms.

- C. Campaign expenditures will not exceed the following limits:
1. No candidate for the office of President will exceed two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250).
 2. No candidate for the office of Vice-President will exceed two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250).
 3. No candidate for the office of Senator will exceed two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250).

Section 4. Campaign Violation Fines

- A. Expenditure Fines.
1. Any candidate who exceeds the legal campaign expenditure limits will automatically be fined according to the following:
 - a. For an excess up to, and including, ten percent (10%), the assessment will be the actual amount of the excess.
 - b. For excesses greater than ten percent (10%) and up to, and including, twenty-five percent (25%), the assessment will be one-and-one-half times (1 1/2) the excess.
 - c. For excesses greater than twenty-five percent (25%), the Elections Commission may impose disciplinary actions as provided by the Election Code, Article XIV, Section 1, Sub-sections A through D if the over-expenditures are of a deliberate or intentional nature.
 - d. The specific fine for overspending will not exceed one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) per candidate.

B. Financial Statement Fines:

1. Financial statements of all candidates must be turned in to the Elections Commission at the ASUNM office no later than 5:00 PM one (1) day following the end of the voting period. Each financial statement submitted by the candidate will be signed and dated by the candidate. In addition, all receipts relating to expenditures shall be attached to the financial statement or a memorandum stating the fair market value of goods/services received by the candidate. If a candidate fails to meet the deadline, the following fines will be imposed:
 - a. Five dollars (\$5) per day, for a maximum of ten (10) days and fifty dollars (\$50), with each day concluding at 5:00 PM.
 - b. If the statement is delinquent by more than ten (10) days, then the Elections Commission may impose disciplinary actions as provided in the Election Code, Article XIV, Section 1, Sub-sections A through D.

C. Use of Fines:

1. All fines resulting from campaign violations will be deposited into the ASUNM General Fund. They should not be treated or used as a source of self-generated funds for an executive agency.

Section 5. Restrictions

- A. The use of ASUNM offices and/or resources by candidates, potential candidates, and/or supporters of candidates for any Election for campaign purposes, campaign preparation, and/or any other campaign activity is prohibited.

Article X: Candidate Endorsements

Section 1.

There will be only one endorsement forum for each branch of government in an election, and all candidates will be allowed to participate.

- A. The endorsement forum will be scheduled by the Elections Commission.
- B. The endorsement forum will be held five (5) to seven (7) days prior to the Wednesday voting period.
- C. The Elections Commission will advertise the endorsement forum's location and time in the NM Daily Lobo and/or website at least three (3) days prior to the event.
- D. The results of the endorsement forum must be delivered to the ASUNM office by 5:00 PM on the day of the endorsement forum in order to be published by the Elections Commission.
- E. Chartered student organizations may endorse one candidate for President, one candidate for Vice President, and up to ten (10) candidates for Senate. Chartered student organizations may also endorse or oppose any number of constitutional amendments or referendum appearing on the ballot. Only those chartered student organizations that have registered with the Elections Commission at the forum will be able to publish their endorsements on the official endorsement page in the NM Daily Lobo.
- F. The Elections Commission shall make available to all student groups attending the endorsement forum copies of all constitutional amendments and referendum items which are to be placed on the ballot.

Article XI: Voting

Each student, as defined by the ASUNM Constitution, wishing to vote may cast their ballot via MyUNM or at a polling district by using their UNM Net ID and password to access an on-line ballot.

Section 1. Polling Stations

- A. In no case may any individual be allowed to cast a ballot at a polling station before polling stations have officially opened or after polling stations have officially closed.
- B. Once a polling station has been opened, it may not be closed prior to the regularly scheduled closing time unless an unforeseeable occurrence mandates the Elections Commission to close it.
 1. The polling stations will close at 4:00 p.m. on the Tuesday of the voting period, and at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday of the voting period.

Section 2. Voting

All students may, at their own discretion:

- A. Cast their ballot no more than once per election;
- B. Cast up to ten (10) total votes for Senators in a Senatorial Election and up to one (1) vote for President and one (1) vote for Vice President during the Presidential/Vice Presidential Spring General Election;
- C. The following agreement shall precede the ballot page on the Universal Online Ballot: I hereby agree that my vote is confidential and entirely my own. I understand that I may exercise my right to report misbehavior or harassment regarding the elections process to the Elections Commission at election@unm.edu or 505-277-5528.

Section 3. Early Voting Period

- A. The voting period will be defined as beginning on Monday at 9:00 am and ending on Wednesday at 5:00pm.
1. The Universal Online Ballot will remain open during the entirety of the voting period.
 2. The polling station on the Tuesday of the voting period will be open in the Student Union building from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
 3. The polling station on the Wednesday of the voting period will be open in the Student Union Building, Zimmerman Library, and the Student Resident Center Commons from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
 4. The homecoming elections will follow the procedure outline in Article 1, Section 3, Subsection 1.
- B. The Election Voting Period will take place as follows:
1. The Universal Online Ballot will open on the Monday of the voting period at 9:00 a.m. and remain open until the Wednesday of the voting period at 5:00 p.m.
 2. Polling stations will open on Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Student Union Building, and Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Student Union Building, Zimmerman Library, and the Student Residence Center Commons.
- C. The voting period will follow the above outlined procedures in Article XI Section 1 and Section 2.

Article XII: Results

Section 1.

The Elections Commission will determine the time and place where the results of an election will be announced.

- A. The announcement of results will be open to the public.
- B. The announcement of results will be no more than one (1) day following the election.

Section 2.

No ballots may be counted or tallied until after the voting period has been closed.

- A. ASUNM elected positions will be filled in order of candidates receiving the greatest number of votes.

- B. The results of this will be displayed in the ASUNM office and provided to the NM Daily Lobo. Only after the final resolution of all challenges to an election will the results be certified and deemed official.

Section 3.

The final results of any election will include:

- A. The total number of students voting;
- B. The names of all candidates elected to offices;
- C. The total number of votes cast for each candidate;
- D. The total number of votes cast for and against any referendum or constitutional amendment, and/or opinion polls;
- E. Which referenda and/or constitutional amendments have passed and which have failed.

Section 4.

Once certified and deemed official, the results will be kept on record for five (5) years from the date of certification.

Section 5.

An election will be certified and deemed official after all contests have been resolved and the written results of the election have been signed by at least three-quarters (3/4) of the Elections Commission.

Section 6.

In the event of a tie, the following procedure will apply in the order outlined:

- A. All candidates involved in the tie for the contested seat(s) will be asked if any of them will concede the contested seat(s) to the other candidate(s).
- B. If neither candidate concedes the procedures outlined below will be followed:
 1. For the positions of President or Vice President, if the results are certified no less than three (3) days before the Spring Senatorial Election's voting periods a runoff election will be held during the Spring Senatorial Election voting period. If the results are not certified by that time, a runoff election will be organized by the Elections Commission following the same procedures as the voting period and to be held seven (7) to twelve (12) days following the day when results were certified and deemed official.
 2. For the position of Senator when the tie determines the final available position to assume office:
 - a. The outcome shall be decided by a coin toss overseen by the Elections Commission.
 - b. A runoff election only if there is also a tie for President or Vice President as outlined in Section 6.B.1. and the Presidential or Vice Presidential runoff was not held during the Spring Senatorial Election.

- C. Should a runoff election fail to produce a victor, the outcome shall be decided by way of a coin toss overseen by the Elections Commission.

Article XIII: Contest of Elections

Section 1.

Any candidate or member of the Elections Commission may request a canvass/recount of votes by filing a request with the Elections Commission Executive Director no later than 5:00 PM one (1) day following the election.

Section 2.

Any candidate or member of the Elections Commission may file a contest of election in writing with the Elections Commission Executive Director no later than to 5:00 PM one (1) day following the election voting period. If the election is contested on the grounds of improprieties concerning the Elections Commission or Attorney General, the contest will be immediately appealed to the Student Court. If an Elections Commissioner contests the election, they shall not be allowed to vote when the Elections Commission rules on the contest.

Section 3.

A. Any candidate or member of the Elections Commission may file a contest of a candidate in writing with the Elections Commission Executive Director no later than 5:00 PM one (1) day following the election. If an Elections Commissioner contests the election, they shall not be allowed to vote when the Elections Commission rules on the contest. The contest will only affect the race in which the candidate was registered.

B. It will be the duty of the Elections Commission to hear and rule on contests of a candidate by 5:00 PM of the third (3) day following the election. At such a time the Elections Commission will issue a ruling regarding the contest.

Section 4.

Notification of contest of election or candidate will be relayed by the Elections Commission to the Student Court, the Attorney General, and other concerned parties no later than one (1) day following the filing of contest of election.

Section 5.

A contest of election must specify if the entire election is being contested or if only a specific race is being contested. If a specific race is being contested, the contest must state which race. The contest of election must specify the grounds on which the contest of election is being filed.

Section 6.

It will be the duty of the Elections Commission to hear and issue a ruling regarding contests of election by 5:00 PM within three (3) days of the voting period.

Section 7.

The ruling of the Elections Commission may be appealed to the Court which will have the power to declare any results of the election or Elections Commission's hearing invalid, remand down to the Elections Commission, or to order a new election. The election appeals are an accelerated process as outlined below:

- A. Any appeal to the Court must be made in writing by 5:00 PM of the fifth (5) day following the end of the voting period.
- B. The Court will start hearings on any contest no later than 5:00 PM of the tenth (10) day following the end of the voting period.
- C. The Court will have five (5) days to render a decision.
- D. As stated in the ASUNM Constitution, Student Court decisions may be appealed to the Student Conduct Committee. Any appeal to the Student Conduct Committee must be made in writing by 5:00PM on the fifth (5) day following the Student Court's decision.

Section 8.

The Contest of Election Form shall be in a format determined by the Elections Commission Executive Director, and must specify the following:

- A. The name of the candidate or member of the Elections Commission contesting the election;
- B. A written explanation of the nature of the contest, which should include the specific section of the ASUNM Constitution and/or Law Book that has been allegedly violated, along with all supporting evidence.

Article XIV: Violations of the Election Code

Section 1.

Any person or persons who violate(s), aid(s), or abet(s) the violation of this Election Code may be:

- A. Prohibited from having their name(s) appear on the official ballot;
- B. Disqualified as official candidate(s);
- C. Disqualified from assuming office(s);
- D. Subjected to such other penalties as may be imposed by the Elections Commission, the Student Court, or any other disciplinary body or official of UNM having the jurisdiction and authority to impose such penalties.

Section 2.

The Elections Commission will post all fines assessed to any candidate(s) on the door of the ASUNM office by 5:00 PM of the day following the assessment. The posting will remain up until the fine(s) has been paid or reversed. Each posting will include the following:

- A. The date the fine is assessed;

- B. The candidate's name;
- C. The type of fine that is assessed;
- D. The amount of the assessed fine;
- E. Any recommendations from the Elections Commission.

Section 3.

No candidate may assume office until all fines assessed against them have been paid. Fines shall be paid within ten (10) days after an Elections Commission's and/or Student Court's final decision and further appeals per Article IV, Section 2, Subsection G of the ASUNM Constitution if the assessment is challenged. Failures to pay said fines when due will disqualify the candidates from assuming office and make them ineligible to run for ASUNM office for one (1) semester. If a candidate fails to pay fines in more than one election, they shall be ineligible to run in future ASUNM elections.

Article XV: Assumption of Office

Section 1.

No candidate(s) will be allowed to assume office until all decisions and/or judgments regarding the elected office for which they ran have been satisfied.

Section 2.

All elected candidates will be sworn-in by a Justice of the Court. This will occur after the election results are certified and deemed official, and by the administration of an Oath of Office.

Section 3.

In the event that election results for President and/or Vice President have not been certified and deemed official prior to the end of the semester in which an election was held, the succession of office for President and Vice President will be as follows:

- A. President Pro Tempore
- B. Appointed Chair of Steering and Rules
- C. Appointed Chair of Finance
- D. Appointed Chair of Outreach and Appointments
- E. Seniority of Senators

Section 4.

Once election results have been certified and deemed official or a new election has been held, the succession of office listed in Section 3 will be null and void and newly elected officers shall assume office.