



March 12, 2020

STATEMENT FROM THE AS ELECTIONS BOARD ON THE 2020 SPRING ELECTIONS

Due to recent policies enacted by Chancellor Henry Yang related to COVID-19, The AS Elections Board has decided to shift this year's AS Spring Election to a full digital campaigning cycle. The election will still occur on the original dates as mandated by the AS Constitution. The online ballot will open at vote.as.ucsb.edu on Monday, April 20 at 8am and end on Thursday, April 23 at 4pm.

All students associated with Elections – candidates, parties, liaisons – are NOT expected to be on campus for the duration of the elections period. The AS Elections Board will not sponsor any in-person events while 'remote instruction' is in effect. Everyone involved should follow all present and future guidelines set by UCSB's administration.

The following Elections events will occur with no changes in dates and deadlines:

- Candidate statement submission (soft deadline Monday, March 30 at 8pm, hard deadline Wednesday, April 1 at 8pm)
- Elections Board ballot submission to the AS Senate
- Online endorsement process and publishing of endorsements
- All specific deadlines for party liaisons and independents (plans for elections week, budget reviews via email)

The following has changed:

- Candidate forum interviews will be 'take home'. All previously scheduled on-campus recording sessions are cancelled. All AS Candidates this year have already received a list of four questions and will be expected to self-record videos of their answers at home. All videos will be compiled and distributed to the student body. More instructions on this – including submission instructions – will be sent to candidates via email.
 - Candidate forum videos are due at the same time candidate statements are due.
 - We will plan for increased distribution of forum videos via email and social media.
 - We will also attempt to include candidate forum videos directly on the ballot.
- **There will be no active (in-person) campaigning during this elections cycle.**
 - Soft (social media) campaigning begins Sunday, April 12 at 8pm and now ends when voting concludes on Thursday, April 23 at 4pm.
 - **ALL campaigning is limited to online channels**, e.g. social media & campus news outlets.
 - This includes anything related to endorsements. If you are planning to hold endorsement-related presentations for student groups – do it via email/chat/Zoom and not in-person.
 - Rule of thumb: Anything else that would normally be considered "active campaigning" is not allowed at all. No campaign literature – no posters, boards, flyers, etc. Any violations will result in disciplinary action.
 - Board Night and Board Placement Night are cancelled.
- Elections results will be released by livestream on Results Night (the evening of Thursday, April 23) Instructions on how to view the stream will be released in the future.

We understand that these changes will drastically alter this year's elections format. While we initially considered postponing the election altogether, Spring Election dates are constitutionally mandated and cannot be changed without triggering a constitutional change. Even if it were possible to delay elections, the 'remote instruction' end date is not currently known and a delay could potentially shift the elections cycle into the next school year. This contingency plan is the only viable option to maintain continuing operations. We want to honor the work that all candidates put into Elections and be mindful of reaffirmations, referenda, and constitutional changes slated to be on the ballot.

The AS Elections Board will provide all candidates and liaisons with more information via email as we gather more details from the administration. All future statements and updates will be posted on the public 'A.S. Elections Board' Facebook page.

UCSB AS Elections Board

Davis Quan, Chair

Andrew Yan, Vice Chair

Emma Xing

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