THE OFFICE OF THE ASB
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Ole Miss Fall Elections Handbook
2017-18

J. Dillon Pitts

ATTORNEY GENERAL, ASSOCIATED STUDENT BODY
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I) **Purpose:** The purpose of this Elections Handbook is to provide the student body and hopeful candidates the necessary information to participate in the student election process and abide by the ASB Code & Constitution.

1. This Handbook has been adopted to update and simplify the election process by providing clear language and easy to understand rules
2. This Handbook should be used as a reference tool for all candidates, campaigners, and interested voters alike who would like to know the rules and processes associated with ASB Elections
3. The Handbook covers the qualifications for positions, voting procedure, petitions, certification, election timelines, & campaign rules.

II) **Who Can Run, Qualifications, Duties**

**Fall General Election: Positions & Qualifications**

**Positions & Qualifications:**

1. Miss Ole Miss
   
   a) Completed sixty (60) semester hours, twelve (12) hours of which shall have been completed at The University of Mississippi.
   b) Must have a minimum 3.0 GPA.
   c) Must have completed ten (10) hours of community service in the one (1) year period prior to the election.
   d) Must be a female.
   e) Must serve as a representative of The University of Mississippi, through the Office of Admissions, in two (2) or more university sponsored multiple-high school college fairs during their elected term.
   f) Must, in tandem with Mr. Ole Miss, select a local charity to partner with for the duration of their terms.
   g) Must announce their selection of a local charity at halftime of the homecoming football game.
   h) Must work in collaboration with the ASB Director of Community Service to raise campus awareness of their charity and encourage the student body to donate time and money to the selected charity.

2. Mr. Ole Miss
   
   a) Completed sixty (60) semester hours, twelve (12) hours of which shall have been completed at The University of Mississippi.
   b) Must have a minimum 3.0 GPA.
   c) Must have completed ten (10) hours of community service in the one (1) year period prior to the election.
d) Must be a male.

e) Must serve as a representative of The University of Mississippi, through the Office of Admissions, in two (2) or more university sponsored multiple-high school college fairs during their elected term.

f) Must, in tandem with Miss Ole Miss, select a local charity to partner with for the duration of their terms.

g) Must announce their selection of a local charity at halftime of the homecoming football game.

h) Must work in collaboration with the ASB Director of Community Service to raise campus awareness of their charity and encourage the student body to donate time and money to the selected charity.

3. Homecoming Queen

1. Completed sixty (60) semester hours, twelve (12) hours of which shall have been completed at The University of Mississippi.

2. Must have a minimum 3.0 GPA.

3. Must be a female.

4. Homecoming Maid

1. All nominees for Freshman Maid shall be a full-time student who is an incoming freshman in good standing, both academically and judicially.

2. All nominees for Sophomore Maid shall have successfully completed thirty (30) hours, twelve (12) hours of which shall have been completed at The University of Mississippi, and be in good standing, both academically and judicially with a minimum 2.5 GPA.

3. All nominees for Junior Maid shall have successfully completed sixty (60) hours, twelve (12) hours of which shall have been completed at The University of Mississippi, and be in good standing, both academically and judicially with a minimum 2.5 GPA.

4. All nominees for Senior Maid shall have successfully completed ninety (90) hours, twelve (12) hours of which shall have been completed at The University of Mississippi, and be in good standing, both academically and judicially with a minimum 2.5 GPA.

5. All candidates for Homecoming Maid must be female.

6. No student who has been elected Homecoming Maid in a previous election is eligible for re-nomination or re-election.
5. Campus Favorite

1. All nominees for Campus Favorite shall have completed sixty (60) semester hours, twelve (12) hours of which shall have been completed at The University of Mississippi.

2. Must have a minimum 2.5 GPA.

3. There will be five (5) male and five (5) female class favorites, unless there is a tie. In the event of a tie for the last positions available, for example a tie for the fifth favorite, then all of the tied students shall be declared class favorites.

4. No student who has been elected Campus Favorite in a previous election is eligible for re-nomination.
III. Petitions

A. Importance of Petitions: No student shall be qualified as a candidate or nominee for any office or honor provided for in the ASB Constitution, Elections Handbook or Code of Laws, except upon presentation of a petition. At the time a candidate requests his or her petition, that candidate shall receive the Elections Handbook covering his or her election. The Attorney General and the Deputy Attorneys General and/or the Elections Commission Chair(s) shall explain and answer any questions concerning these elections at the time the petition is filed. Only official petitions, signed by the candidate, may be accepted. Official Petitions can be found in the ASB office or with the ASB Attorney General

B. Who Needs Petitions: The following offices shall require the personal petition of the candidates containing the names of the twenty-five (25) qualified electors: Miss Ole Miss, Mr. Ole Miss, Homecoming Queen, Homecoming Maid, and Campus Favorite.

C. Grades: If a grade average is required for a desired position or honor, the candidates signing of the petition constitutes permission for the Associate Dean of Students Office to check the academic eligibility the candidate.

D. Where, When, and How You Submit Official Petitions: All petitions for campus offices and honors shall be received on the Friday prior to the certification meeting. Petitions must be turned into and certified as correctly filled out by the ASB Attorney General, Deputy Attorneys General, or Election Commission Chair(s). All candidates and nominees shall be required to sign their petitions and the appropriate roster sheet for the office to which they seek election. Failure to do so will result in not being certified to run for the desired position or honor. A roster notebook with a page for each office or honor shall be kept. Said roster shall on each page contain spaces for the candidates’ signatures, the date and time they were certified, the date and time their petition was filed, and the certifying official’s signature. The roster notebook shall be open to inspection at all times by the public. The petitions shall then be placed in a secured area for ultimate inspection by the Attorney General and Election Commission Chair(s).
IV. Certification Meeting

General Certification Rules.

A) To be certified, a candidate shall submit a correctly and completely filled out petition as to substance before the deadlines as set forth in this Elections Book, and shall meet all the requirements for qualifications for the office or honor as provided in this Election Book or in the ASB Constitution & Code.

B) Qualifications and requirements shall be subject to review by the Attorney General and the Election Commission Chair(s). The certification meeting shall be open to the public and shall be two weeks prior to elections on a Monday (can be changed at the discretion of the Attorney General). If, at said certification meeting, a candidate or nominee is determined not to meet the substantive qualifications and requirements set forth by this Title, such candidate or nominee shall be deemed not certified. Appeals to such decisions shall be filed with the Judicial Council within twenty-four (24) hours of said decisions.

C) All candidates or nominees are required to attend the certification meeting. An excuse for absence must be received by the Attorney General and the Election Commission Chair(s) before 5:00 p.m. the night of the certification meeting. Any absence not excused must be due to class or an extremely mitigating circumstance as determined by the Elections Commission. If such circumstances are not proven, denial of certification or disqualification shall be imposed.

D) At the certification meeting, the candidate shall be presented with the election rules, verbally and/or on paper.
V. Voting

Elections, Dates, and Notification Procedure.

All elections shall be held with the first primary on a Tuesday and the run-off on the Thursday immediately following the primary.

A) Qualifications for Voting. Every student duly registered and qualified as an elector at the time of any student body election shall be entitled to vote in the election of all officers and in all matters which may be submitted to the vote of the student body. A certificate from the Dean of Students shall determine any question as to voting eligibility.

B) Method of Voting. Electronic Voting will be utilized in all elections, referendums, and initiatives via the homepage of the MyOleMiss Portal after login. Voting in all elections or on referenda and initiatives shall be by secret ballot and in conformity with such other methods as may be developed and prescribed by law.

C) Ballot Structure: The name of every certified candidate seeking any office or honor shall be placed on the ballot in alphabetical order.

D) Voting Rule: No voter shall receive more than one (1) ballot for each slate of candidates in every election or vote for someone else. Anyone who is convicted of having cast more ballots than allowed shall not be eligible to vote in the next two (2) elections after conviction.

E) Write-in Votes: Any voter shall have the privilege of writing in the name of any student as a candidate or nominee in the first primary election only. In order for any write-in vote to be valid, the name written must be that of a student qualified to vote in the election in which his or her name is submitted, and the name written must consist of the correctly spelled surname and a reasonable facsimile of the actual or common given name of the person receiving the write-in vote.
VI. General Election Rules

A. This Section shall apply to all General Elections except Campus Senate, Campus Favorites and Senior Class Officer Elections.

B. For the purposes of this Section, “campaigning” shall be defined as any act by a candidate or his or her supporters that is intended to present that person to the general public as a candidate or nominee.

C. The “general public” shall be defined as two or more electors, as set forth in the ASB Constitution Art. II, §1.

D. For the purposes of this Section, “campaign material” shall be defined as any material, apparatus, or other property used by a candidate or nominee for the purpose of campaigning as defined by this Section. All campaign material shall include the name of the candidate or sponsoring group, and that person or group shall be identified as such.

E. For the purposes of this Section, “meetings” shall be defined as any gathering or endeavor by a group of two or more people to discuss, strategize, or implement any idea(s) or action(s) that concerns a candidate’s campaign for any office prior to the beginning of the open campaigning period. The term shall include all in-person and electronic gatherings or action(s). The term shall exclude campaign planning sessions held prior to the start of the campaign period.

F. No candidate or nominee, or his or her respective agents, may indulge in campaigning prior to the beginning of the open campaigning period as set forth in this Title.

G. Any meetings regarding the nature of the campaign before the open campaigning period shall be limited to groups of which the candidate is a member.

H. Sending an email addressed to more than one (1) person before the start of the campaign period is prohibited.

I. The use of listservs or the sending of unsolicited emails to persons unknown to the sender for the purpose of campaigning is prohibited.

J. No campaign material may be displayed publicly in an academic building except in those areas designated by the building mayor. No more than one (1) campaign flyer per candidate may be placed at those designated areas.

K. Posted campaign materials shall not exceed eight-and-one-half-by-eleven (8½ x 11) inches in size.
L. Each candidate or nominee may have only one (1) banner displayed at a time. No banners shall be displayed in or on the Student Union Building. A banner shall be defined as any campaign material larger than eight-and-one-half-by-eleven (8 ½ x 11) inches, excluding t-shirts.

M. No hand-held signs or posters of any kind shall be permitted on the same floor of the same building as the polls on Election Day.

N. Campaign cards, stickers, or buttons for candidates’ supporters to wear shall not exceed five-by-seven (5 x 7) inches.

O. No campaigning shall occur in an academic classroom during a class period, except students may wear cards, buttons, or stickers of a candidate.

P. No campaigning or campaign material may be handed out or displayed on the steps or porches of the Student Union.

Q. No candidate or his or her representatives shall offer food as part of the campaigning process. Free giveaways of promotional campaign items, excluding food, is allowed, given that each item has a value of $1 or less per unit. All items used as a giveaway must be accounted for in the candidate’s expense voucher. The burden of proof of the value of giveaways shall be on the candidate’s campaign.

R. Online social media may be used for the purposes of campaigning. The Attorney General and the Department of Justice, preceding the certification meeting of the General Elections, shall determine regulations regarding all online social media. A physical copy of these regulations shall be provided to candidates at the time of the certification meeting and shall stand for the remainder of that election. The Attorney General and the Department of Justice shall also provide on electronic copy of the online social media regulations for use by candidates and the general public.

S. No one candidate, campaign organization, or student in general may campaign within fifty (50) feet of the polls.

T. Candidates shall include the cost of t-shirts, costumes, and other articles of clothing that are worn for the purpose of campaigning that students would not typically have in their possession prior to the election on the candidate’s expense voucher.

U. Candidates shall submit their campaign manager or point of contact to the Attorney General at the time of their respective certification meeting, if applicable. This shall include the email and phone number of said point person.
V. Candidates shall submit a campaign platform at a point in the campaign period determined by the Attorney General. ASB shall compile the platforms and release the information to the public during the campaign period.

W. No candidate or his or her campaign representative shall tear down, mutilate, remove, or otherwise encroach upon another candidate’s campaign materials.

X. No student shall infringe upon the right to a private ballot as provided for in this Title. No candidate or his or her representatives shall use their respective personal cell phone(s), laptop(s), or other electronic device(s) as a polling station for other students. No candidate or his or her representatives shall aid, encourage, or force a student to vote on a cell phone, laptop or other electronic device(s) without the student’s permission.

Y. Each candidate shall be responsible at law for the nature and legality of his or her campaign, campaign materials, and demonstrations.

Z. Any attempt by a candidate or campaign representative to coerce, bribe, intimidate, or force a person to vote for said candidate shall result in immediate disqualification.

AA. Each candidate shall remove his or her campaign material from public areas of the campus within such time specified by the Deputy Attorney General of Elections. The deadline shall not be less than forty-eight (48) hours and those who violate the set deadline will be subject to a fine of twenty-five (25) dollars each day after the deadline.

BB. Public campaigning on the Tuesday of Election Day and, if necessary, the Thursday of the Runoff election will be limited to the Union Plaza, the Circle, and in front of Fulton Chapel. Campaigning may not occur within thirty (30) feet of the Union steps or on any of the walkways outside of the Circle. Campaigners may not obstruct any crosswalk, walkway, or in any other way inhibit an established path used regularly by students and faculty. Public campaigning at the prescribed areas shall be permitted from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm on the established dates.

CC. At each of the areas listed in § 113 (EE) the number of campaigners shall be limited as follows for the individual candidates. Any violations of this subsection shall be considered an intermediate violation.

1. Campaigners at the Union shall be limited to no more than fifteen (15) per candidate at any given period of time during the established times listed in § 113 (EE)
2. Campaigners at the Circle shall be limited to no more than ten (10) per candidate at any given period of time during the established times listed in § 113 (EE)

3. Campaigners in front of Fulton Chapel shall be limited to no more than five (5) per candidate at any given period of time during the established times listed in § 113(EE)

GG. At the start of the campaign period, each candidate will be issued up to thirty (30) “Common Name Badges” by the Attorney General and Department of Justice, to be distributed to campaigners in each designated campaign zone. These badges must be worn at all times while campaigners are actively promoting a candidate in a campaign zone and Resident Hall. These badges are non-transferrable between candidates, but do not have to be worn by the same campaigner, granted they represent the same candidate.

a. Candidates themselves are not required to wear a badge or count towards the limited number of campaigners per designated campaign zone.

b. Each candidate will also be issued a badge designated for a “campaign manager” or a representative of the campaign that is permitted to rotate amongst the campaign locations freely, given they are wearing the badge designated for this purpose.
VII. Budget and Finance Rules

A) This Section shall be subject to those penalties, which are noted in the Section titled “Penalties Assessable.”

B) Spending limits for candidates’ campaign expenses shall be as follows:

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<th>Position</th>
<th>Limit</th>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Ole Miss</td>
<td>$1000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Ole Miss</td>
<td>$1000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homecoming Queen</td>
<td>$1000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homecoming Maid</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
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A. C) Upon an order of the Deputy Attorney General of Elections or the Attorney General, candidates may be required to submit evidence in a hearing before the Elections Review Board to show proof of information on the voucher or prove simple omission according to Item (D) of this Section.

B. At the time the candidate is certified, the certifying officials thereof shall issue three (3) expense forms on which the candidates shall state campaigning expenditures and the nature thereof, and to which they shall attach all receipts necessary for the justification of expenses, and the candidate shall certify vouchers and file them in the receptacle in the ASB office provided for such purpose. One (1) expense form shall be filed between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on the Monday immediately preceding the election, and, if necessary due to a run-off election, one (1) expense form shall be filed by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the run-off elections. Each candidate must submit a timely expense form even if no expenses were incurred during the candidate’s campaign, including during any run-off election.

C. Failure of a candidate to make a required report to the Deputy Attorney General of Elections on the prescribed date and time shall result in disqualification, unless in a hearing by the Elections Review Board, it is determined to have been excusable due to unforeseeable and extremely mitigating circumstances. The Elections Review Board shall have the power to hear evidence presented by the candidate regarding the accuracy or timing of the required report. Should the candidate be found guilty of not turning in a voucher at the prescribed date and time by the Deputy Attorney General of Elections and this failure was not the result of unforeseeable and extremely mitigating circumstances, this shall be considered flagrant and intentional violation of these election laws resulting in the candidate’s disqualification.

D. Any omission, falsification, distortion, or misrepresentation on the required expense form by the candidate or any of his agents shall automatically disqualify the candidate from the election or from assuming the
office or honor. This provision of the elections regulations may be waived by
the Deputy Attorney General of Elections or Attorney General only if it can be
clearly proven to the Deputy Attorney General of Elections or Attorney
General that the violation was a simple omission made in complete good faith
by the candidate or his or her agent.

E. Any material donated to the campaign must be assessed at its present
wholesale value against the campaign spending limit. This includes material
that may have been used in previous campaigns or that may be used in future
campaigns or that is donated by the candidate or his or her supporters to his
or her campaign efforts. Campaign expenditures that must be reported as
expenses are those for materials that are specifically incidental to the
campaign; including any expenses for administering, publicizing, and
otherwise conducting the campaign. Any gifts used by candidate must be
recorded at wholesale value.

F. Campaign organizations of individuals may conduct fund-raising
activities. These activities shall be subject to the regulations concerning
campaigning, the posting and distribution of literature and campaign
materials, the times and types of campaigning that may occur. Any capital
funds necessarily spent for conducting these fund-raising activities need not
be reported as campaign expenses on the expense form.

G. Advertisements in the Daily Mississippian and on radio and television
stations shall be unlimited within the limits of the campaign expenditures
section of this Subtitle during the time of campaigning. This type of
campaigning is not considered to be word of mouth, and should be included
on the expense voucher.

H. Any costumes or uniform attire specifically purchased for the use in a
campus-wide election must be reported on the candidate’s expense form.

I. The expense forms, which candidates submit to the Deputy Attorney
General for Elections, must include the valid receipts for all campaign
expenses incurred on or before the Monday preceding the election for that
report, and all expenses incurred throughout the campaign for the second
expense report to be filed on the day of the election, including the firm or
person from whom campaign materials were purchased or donated. Copies of
the candidate’s receipts must be stapled to the expense form in an orderly
manner.

J. Any candidate whose campaign expenses total more than the limits
prescribed under this Title, upon determination of the Deputy Attorney
General for Elections, will be subject to a fine equal to three (3) times the
amount overspent. The prescribed limits are for the duration of the elections,
including any run-off election. If the overspent amount is found to be
blatantly and grossly in excess of the spending limit (defined as 10% or more
over the spending limit) the candidate shall be disqualified.
K. If a fine causes a candidate to go over the initial spending limit, then no additional fine shall be assessed. If a fine puts the candidate over the ten (10) percent maximum prescribed in the previous subsection, then he or she shall be disqualified.

L. The Deputy Attorney General for Elections shall have the power to grant economic relief by authorizing additional spending for any candidate whose campaign materials are destroyed or damaged beyond use by acts or force beyond the control or knowledge of the candidate. In case of special elections because of more than one run-off or invalidated elections, additional spending may be authorized by the Deputy Attorney General of Elections, not to exceed one-half (1/2) the original limits set within this title.

VIII. Election Timeline

1. Petitions Due: September 8, 2017 (3:00 p.m.)
2. Certification Meeting: September 10, 2017 (7:00 p.m.)
3. Open Campaign Begins: September 10, 2017 (Following Certification Meeting)
4. Election Day: September 26, 2017 (7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.)
5. Run-off Election Day: September 28, 2017 (7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.)