

GPSC Elections Code

Section 1: General Campaign Rules

- A. Elections shall follow the specifications outlined in this Code and the AS Constitution and shall be administered by the OSA;
- B. Write in candidates will not be allowed in any GPSC election;
- C. Campaigning shall be defined as an attempt to influence the decision or opinion of a voter in regard to the election;
- D. All campaigning must comply with this Code and the GPSC Constitution, the AS Supreme Constitution, the GPSC Code of Conduct, University Policy, the Code of Student Life, the Election Rules, and the Code of Computing Practices;
- E. An elector cannot be asked or required to cast a vote for a candidate in exchange for any item or service of value;
- F. No state or student fee monies, including GPSC monies, shall be used to support or oppose any candidate
- G. No candidate or campaign staffer shall interfere with the campaigning or campaign materials of an opponent
- H. Campaigning via the use of mass, unsolicited emails on University networks is strictly prohibited. Candidates must adhere to the Code of Computing Practices at all times;
- I. The use of the University mail system for campaigning is strictly prohibited;
- J. Candidates and campaigns must follow all University Policies and guidelines for posting and flyer distribution, including any policies which may exist within individual buildings and/or areas of campus;
- K. All campaign materials must be removed within twenty four (24) hours of the conclusion of the election;
- L. Candidates are responsible for any litter that is created due to campaign activities;
- M. Only University of Arkansas graduate or professional students may serve as members of a campaign staff;
- N. Each candidate will be held responsible for the actions and conduct of his/her campaign, including the actions of individuals who the candidate has asked to actively campaign on their behalf;
- O. The use of electronic media by a candidate or agent of a candidate to campaign before the campaigning period begins is strictly prohibited; and
- P. Candidates must follow all University Policies concerning use of buildings and sidewalks for campaigning.

Section 2: Election Results

- A. A successful candidate for Executive or At-Large office must receive a majority of votes as defined in the GPSC Constitution.
- B. If no candidate receives a majority in any office, the two candidates with the highest vote totals will be elected via a runoff election.
- C. The runoff election will be held from Tuesday 9:00 – Thursday 4:00 pm the week following the General Election.
- D. Successful candidates in DSO elections must receive the highest vote total among those cast for his/her DSO.

Section 3: Internal Assembly Elections

- A. Internal Assembly Elections shall be secret ballot elections coordinated by the President Pro Tempore. The Parliamentarian shall create and distribute the ballots, count the votes, and provide the results to the President Pro Tempore. However, the President Pro Tempore shall collect and provide results from the Parliamentarian election.
- B. Internal Assembly Elections shall include:
 - a. Legislative Clerk;
 - b. Historian; and
 - c. Any other special Assembly offices created in addition to those in the GPSC Constitution.
- C. Candidates are bound by rules explained in the GPSC Code as they relate to the elections calendar, eligibility, expenditures, and paperwork requirements.
- D. Additionally, candidates are bound by the following:
- E. Candidates may not use any university, department, or GPSC resources, including printing or university/departmental list-serves or computers for elections purposes.
- F. Candidates may not run on tickets with other candidates. All campaigning and campaign materials must be limited to the promotion of individuals. This applies to executive candidates and At-Large candidates.
- G. Candidates may not set up polling places.
- H. Current executive officers may not endorse candidates.
- I. Campaigning may not take place in the GPSC office.

Section 4: Campaign Violations

- A. Any graduate students may file an Elections Violation Complaint by completing the electronic form available on the GPSC website and emailing it to the GPSC secretary by the end of the voting period.
- B. All violations will be heard by Ethics Board as outlined in the GPSC Code of Conduct.
- C. The committee will review the elections violation complaint and evidence and make a determination of responsible or not responsible on a case by case basis.
- D. This determination will be based on a preponderance of evidence.
- E. Intent or ignorance of the elections rules shall not be considered in this determination.
- F. Candidates found responsible by the ad hoc committee will be disqualified from the election.
- G. Decisions of the committee are final and may not be appealed.

Section 5: Role of the GPSC in promoting elections and candidates.

- A. The GPSC in conjunction with the Office of Student Activities shall be responsible for posting all election materials, including applications, elections packets, expenditure and violation forms.
- B. The GPSC will also promote all candidates and platforms via the GPSC website, list-serves, and social media accounts. The GPSC secretary in conjunction with the Graduate Life Committee and External Relations and Marketing Chair will be responsible for these

promotions. When promoting candidates for specific positions, all candidates running for said position must be featured. All text, images, and graphic must be identical for candidates seeking the same position.

- C. The GPSC will also sponsor at least one candidate forum for executive and at-large candidates in which constituents can hear from candidates and ask questions.
- D. The GPSC will announce official elections results on all available platforms.

Section 6: Elections

- A. GPSC shall have two general elections each calendar year.
- B. Executive and At-Large college assembly representatives shall be elected in the Spring.
- C. DSO representatives shall be elected in the Fall.

Section 7: Executive Election Calendar

- A. Three weeks prior to the first full week of April, applications shall open for a period of two weeks.
- B. One week prior to the first full week of April, applications shall close and the Office of Student Affairs and the current GPSC Secretary shall verify candidate eligibility.
- C. After candidate eligibility has been established, the Office of Student Affairs and the current President of the GPSC will create an electronic application.
- D. Campaigning shall take place during the first full week of April.
- E. Voting will occur during the second full week of April from Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. – Thursday at 4:00 p.m.
- F. Unofficial results will be announced by Friday at 5:00 p.m. during the second full week of April.
- G. Special circumstances such as university holidays or scheduling conflicts may result in an alteration of these dates with the approval of the cabinet by a majority vote. However, the total number of days in the election process may not be altered.

Section 8: Executive Candidate Eligibility

- H. Candidates must be a graduate or professional student as defined by the GPSC Constitution.
- I. Candidates for executive positions must be in good standing for their program and must not be scheduled to graduate before the end of the next academic year.
- J. Presidential candidates must have previously held a position within graduate student government (GSC/GPSC) at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. This shall be verified by the current GPSC Secretary.
- K. The Office of Student Affairs shall verify that a candidate is eligible to run for a position by confirming candidates are considered in good standing with their program and that they are not scheduled to graduate before the end of the next academic year.
- L. Candidates participating in the Executive and At-Large college assembly elections are eligible to run for multiple positions but may only hold one position during the following academic year.

- M. Candidates shall identify all positions for which they would like to run on their application.
- N. Positions include President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and At-Large College Representative.
- O. Following the close of elections, positions will be determined in the following order: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and At-Large college representative.
 - a. Successful candidates will be removed from consideration for other positions based on the above order.
 - b. Unsuccessful candidates will remain in consideration for other positions based on the above order.

Section 9: Executive Election Ballot

- A. All ballots will appear electronically via Hogsync.
- B. Ballots will confirm voting eligibility via the input of University of Arkansas, Fayetteville student ID numbers.
- C. Voters will select their academic college in order to vote on their appropriate At-Large positions.
- D. Ballot items will appear in the following order:
 - a. Ballot Questions
 - b. Executive Positions
 - c. President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer
 - d. At-Large college representatives
- E. For positions in which multiple candidates are running, candidates will appear in a randomized list.
- F. The ballot will also feature candidate position statements of no more than 250 words.

Section 10: Executive Election Funding

- A. Candidates running for an executive position are eligible to spend up to \$100 dollars on campaign materials.
- B. Executive candidates spending in excess of this amount will be disqualified from the election and/or removed from office.
- C. Executive candidates cannot accept or benefit from any outside money spent on their behalf by others. Candidates doing so will be disqualified from the election and/or removed from office.
- D. Executive candidates may not pool money among one another. All campaigning expenses are exclusively for the benefit of the candidate spending funds.
- E. All executive candidates must submit an electronic campaign finance form, even if they spent no funds, including scanned copies of any receipts by inauguration. Failure to do so will result in successful candidates being disqualified.

Section 11: Executive Campaign Application and Elections Packet

- A. Three weeks prior to the first full week of April, applications shall open for a period of two weeks and be available on the GPSC website.

- B. Applications for executive positions and At-Large college representatives shall include the following information:
 - a. Candidate Name
 - b. Candidate Program
 - c. Candidate College
 - d. Position(s) candidate is interesting in running.
 - e. Place to input a 250-word statement
 - f. Place to upload a personal photograph
 - g. An acknowledgement that submission of application indicates that the candidates understand all election rules and the penalties for violations.

Section 12: Departmental Student Organization (DSO) Representatives' Elections Calendar

- A. Three weeks prior to the first full week of September, applications shall open for a period of two weeks.
- B. One week prior to the first full week of September, applications shall close and the Office of Student Affairs and the current graduate student secretary shall verify candidate eligibility.
- C. After candidate eligibility has been established, the Office of Student Affairs and the current President of the GPSC will create an electronic application.
- D. Campaigning shall take place during the first full week of September.
- E. Voting will occur during the second full week of September from Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. – Thursday at 4:00 p.m.
- F. Unofficial results will be announced by Friday at 5:00 p.m. during the second full week of September.
- G. Special circumstances such as university holidays or scheduling conflicts may result in an alteration of these dates with the approval of the cabinet by a majority vote. However, the total number of days in the election process may not be altered.

Section 13: DSO Representatives Candidate Eligibility

- A. Candidates must be a graduate or professional student as defined The GPSC Constitution.
- B. Candidates must meet the enrollment requirements as set by their program and must not be scheduled to graduate before the end of the next academic year.
- C. Candidates elected who do not meet these requirements may resign or be removed from office and replaced by their DSO.
- D. Candidates may only run for one DSO seat. Candidates in interdisciplinary programs must identify which DSO they are seeking to represent.

Section 14: DSO Representatives Candidate The Ballot

- A. All ballots will appear electronically via Hogsync.
- B. Ballots will confirm voting eligibility via the input of University of Arkansas, Fayetteville student ID numbers.
- C. Voters will select their academic college and DSO order to vote on the appropriate position.

- D. For positions in which multiple candidates are running, candidates will appear in a randomized list.
- E. The ballot will also feature candidate position statements of no more than 250 words.

Section 15: DSO Representatives Candidate Funding

- A. Candidates running for a DSO representative seat are not eligible to spend funds for campaigning purposes.
- B. Candidates who violate this rule will be disqualified from the election and/or removed from office.

Section 16: DSO Representatives Candidate Application and Elections Packet

- A. Three weeks prior to the first full week of September, applications shall open for a period of two weeks and be available on the GPSC website.
- B. Applications for executive positions and At-Large college representatives shall include the following information:
 - a. Candidate Name
 - b. Candidate Program
 - c. Candidate College
 - d. DSO candidate seeks to represent
 - e. Place to input a 250-word statement
 - f. Place to upload a personal photograph
 - g. An acknowledgement that submission of application indicates that the candidates understand all election rules and the penalties for violations.
- C. The elections packet shall contain the following information and be available on the GPSC website:
 - a. A link to the application
 - b. All rules related to the campaign as they appear in Constitution and Code.
 - c. Eligibility requirements.
 - d. Position Descriptions
 - e. Elections calendar noting the application period, campaigning period, voting period, and any paperwork deadlines.

Section 17: Executive Vacancy elections

- A. Vacancy elections will be held to replace executive office positions.
- B. Upon being notified of the executive office vacancy, the ranking executive member will initiate a vacancy election process.
- C. The vacancy election will follow the same rules and procedures as those used in spring Executive Officer Elections with the exception of dates.