

**Code of Elections for the University of Georgia
Student Government Association**

Article I. Purpose

This Code shall be the governing document in regards to all aspects of the elections process for the Student Government Association of the University of Georgia.

Article II. Requirements for Office

Section I. Officers

Paragraph A. President

- i. Must be registered as a full-time student as defined by the President's degree or program of study and must maintain an institutional Grade POINT AVERAGE of at least a 2.50 on a 4.0 scale.
- ii. Shall run as an executive ticket with the Vice President and Treasurer.
- iii. Shall, as a ticket, submit a petition with 300 signatures from any registered student.
- iv. Shall be elected by the student body in a secret ballot no later than April 30th.
- v. May serve no more than two terms as either President, Vice President, or Treasurer.
- vi. Must be capable of fulfilling obligations of the office during the summer term.

Paragraph B. Vice President

- i. Must be registered as full-time student as defined by the Vice President's degree or program of study, and must maintain an institutional GRADE POINT AVERAGE of at least a 2.50 on a 4.0 scale.
- ii. Shall run as an executive ticket with the President and Treasurer.
- iii. Shall, as a ticket, submit a petition with 300 signatures from any registered students.
- iv. Shall be elected by the student body in a secret ballot no later than April 30th.
- v. May serve no more than two terms as either President, Vice President, or Treasurer.
- vi. Must be capable of fulfilling obligations of the office during the summer term.

Paragraph C. Treasurer

- i. Must be registered as full-time students as defined by the Treasurer's degree or program of study, and must maintain an institutional GRADE POINT AVERAGE of at least a 2.50 on a 4.0 scale.
- ii. Shall run as an executive ticket with the President and Vice President.
- iii. Shall, as a ticket, submit a petition with 300 signatures from any registered students.
- iv. Shall be elected by the student body in a secret ballot no later than April 30th.

- v. May serve no more than two terms as either President, Vice President, or Treasurer.
- vi. Must be capable of fulfilling obligations of the office during the summer term.

Paragraph D. Senators

- i. Senators shall be elected from each of the individual schools and colleges of the University of Georgia in proportion to the student enrollment within the school or college using the formula of one Senate seat for every one-thousand students enrolled, or a portion thereof, and one Senate seat for any school or college with less than one-thousand enrolled.
- ii. One Graduate Senator shall be elected per every two-thousand graduate students.
- iii. Senators must be registered as full time students as defined by their degree or program of study and must maintain an institutional GRADE POINT AVERAGE of 2.50 on a 4.0 scale.
- iv. Senators must be enrolled in the school or college in which they stand for election.
- v. If a Senator ceases to be enrolled in a class in the school or college he or she was elected to represent, then he or she may be up for review by the Supreme Court.
- vi. Shall submit a petition of signatures with the lesser of 100 or 10% of the students enrolled in the school or college in which they stand for election.
- vii. Senators can serve unlimited terms following each annual election that they successfully win.

Section 2. Cross-filing

No cross-filing for any two offices is allowed.

Article III. Candidate Seminar

Section 1. Time and Place

The Candidate Seminar shall be held within five school days of the filing deadline. The exact time and place shall be determined and announced by the Elections Committee no later than the beginning of the time of filing.

Section 2. Attendance

Paragraph A. Absence

- i. Any candidate who is unable to personally attend or send an agent to the Candidate Seminar shall contact the Chair of the Elections Committee prior to the meeting and report their reason for absence.
- ii. Any candidate who fails to attend the seminar, personally, by agent, or who fails to contact the Chair, will not have his or her name printed on the ballot.

Paragraph B. Agents

- i. A candidate may send an agent to represent them at the Candidate Seminar.

- ii. Any person claiming to be an agent of a candidate shall be required to show written verification, signed by the candidate, identifying the person as an agent.

Article IV. Filing

Section 1. Documents

Paragraph A. Statement of Intent

- i. All candidates shall file a statement of his or her intention to run for office with the Elections Committee.
- ii. The Statement of Intent shall be distributed by the Elections Committee and shall include the candidate's name, current address, phone number, e-mail address, position for which he or she shall stand for election, names of any individual campaign staff, staff phone numbers, and staff e-mail addresses.
- iii. All candidates shall sign a grade release statement enabling the Elections Committee to check grade qualifications of the candidates.
- iv. A candidate may change the office he or she seeks to run for up until the close of the filing period at which time changes will be prohibited.
- v. Staff may be added or removed by the candidate until the close of the filing period at which time modifications will be prohibited.

Paragraph B. Petition of Signatures

- i. Executive ticket candidates shall, as a ticket, submit a petition with 300 signatures from any registered students.
- ii. Senator candidates shall submit a petition of signatures with the lesser of 100 or 10% of the students enrolled in the school or college in which they stand for election.

Paragraph C. Party Affiliation

- i. Any group of candidates who choose to form a party shall submit a party affiliation form as provided by the Elections Committee.
- ii. The Party Affiliation Form shall include the party's name, list of all candidates in the party and their associated positions, and any party-wide staff.
- iii. Candidates and staff may be added or removed from the party until the close of the filing period at which time modifications will be prohibited.
- iv. Parties may only submit one name for every position available.
- v. A candidate cannot appear on more than one Party Affiliation Form.

Paragraph D. Elections Timeline

The timeline for elections shall be distributed to all candidates at the Candidate Seminar.

Section 2. Deadline

All filings shall be completed no later than two weeks prior to the start of the campaign period. Failure to do so shall exclude the individual from having his or her name included on the ballot.

Section 3. Requests

A prospective candidate may request the identity of any other students who have already filed for any office or position at any time.

Section 4. Tampering

Any tampering of election documents will result in the disqualification of the tampering person or the candidate they represent.

Article V. Campaigns

Section 1. Campaign Period

The campaign period will be set by the Elections Committee. It shall be no longer than two weeks, including the week of voting.

Section 2. Expenses

Paragraph A. Individuals

- i. Individual executive tickets may spend a maximum of \$700 on their campaign.
- ii. Individual candidates for Senate may spend a maximum of \$200 on his or her campaign.

Paragraph B. Parties

Parties may spend a maximum amount based on the sum of \$600 if there is an executive ticket and \$150 for every candidate seeking a Senate seat.

Section 3. Campaigning

Paragraph A. Postings

- i. All campaign materials must be approved by the Elections Committee.
- ii. Only approved postings may be posted.
- iii. In residence halls, postings must be placed in areas and in the manner approved by the residence hall office.
- iv. Postings may only be posted to public bulletin boards and on walls designated as bulletin boards.
- v. Permission of the owner of any property is required for off-campus postings.
- vi. No more than one posting for one candidate or party may be posted on one single public bulletin board.
- vii. Campaign materials for a party may list the individual members of the party. These materials will count as a party posting but not individual candidate posting.
- viii. The Zell B. Miller Learning Center has twelve bulletin boards in the building that may be used for postings. These include the elevator lobbies and vending areas. Materials posted in other locations throughout the MLC are prohibited.
- ix. Three postings may be submitted to the Information Desk Supervisor in the Tate Student Center for posting in Tate and Memorial Hall. The Information Desk Attendants will post these in designated areas and will remove them after elections.

- x. Each candidate is responsible for seeing that his or her postings are removed by 5:00 p.m. the day following the announcement of the election results.
- xi. If a candidate is involved in a run-off, he or she need not remove his or her postings until the day following the announcement of the run-off results.
- xii. No glitter, tear off tabs or any other potential litter-causing items may be added to campaign materials.
- xiii. Candidates may make one posting on each dining hall bulletin board located on the outside of the building.
- xiv. Campaign materials may not be attached to lampposts, telephone poles, fence posts, fences, handrails, guardrails, bus stop shelters, retainer walls, bathroom doors, trash containers, or any exterior or interior walls, windows, or doors of campus buildings.
- xv. Campaign materials may not display foul language or any obscene, questionable, or any inappropriate pictures or references.
- xvi. Postings shall be no larger than 8 1/2 by 11 inches.
- xvii. Postings and table tents are prohibited in campus dining areas.

Paragraph B. Debate

- i. The Elections Committee shall set a time and place for the Executive Debates to be held during the week prior to the days of the General Election.
- ii. The Elections Committee shall set a time and place for a debate between Senate candidates to be held during the week prior to the days of the General Election.
- iii. Attendance at debates is mandatory for all respective candidates.
- iv. Participation in the debates is voluntary for Senate candidates.
- v. The format of the debates shall be determined by the Elections Committee.

Paragraph C. Provisions

- i. No person other than a member of the Elections Committee, the respective candidate, or member of the respective candidate's staff or party shall willfully destroy, deface, obscure, move, or remove postings.
- ii. The Elections Committee shall only handle campaign materials in the case of a violation of this Code of Elections and shall alert the respective candidate within one business day.
- iii. No candidate or any individual working on a campaign may malign or damage the character of another candidate, staff member, or Elections Committee member.
- iv. No candidate or any individual working on a campaign may publicly state any false or misleading information about a candidate, staff member, Elections Committee member, or party.
- v. Chalking and all other forms of defacing University property are prohibited.
- vi. Candidates and staff may not distribute campaign materials in campus dining areas.
- vii. Door-to-door campaigning in residence halls is prohibited.

Justin 5/17/07 4:39 PM

Comment: Additions.

- viii. Hand distributed campaign materials must be distributed person-to-person and may not be placed in any central location for pick-up by voters.
- ix. Candidates may not hand out campaign materials inside university buildings.
- x. No candidate shall claim to be endorsed by any individual or organization, other than a party, unless the candidate has secured a written statement of endorsement from the endorsing individual or organization and presented it to the Elections Committee.

Section 4. Campaign Staff

All individuals who are actively representing an individual or party are considered to be staff and must be registered with a Statement of Intent or Party Affiliation. Candidates and parties are responsible for the actions of their staff.

Article VI. Elections

Section 1. Procedures

Paragraph A. Elections Period

- i. The elections shall be held on the the last week of the campaign period.
- ii. Candidates and staff must remain at least thirty feet away from any student actively voting.
- iii. The Elections Committee shall supervise the elections and be available for assistance and ruling in any and all matters during the elections process.
- iv. Copies of the official enrollment numbers for the University of Georgia shall be obtained by the Elections Committee from the Office of the Registrar no less than ten school days prior to the elections.

Paragraph B. Voting

- i. Only individuals who are officially registered as full-time students of the University of Georgia may participate in Student Government Association elections.
- ii. The vote-counting shall be under the supervision of the Elections Committee.

Paragraph C. Results

- i. The incoming President, Vice President, Treasurer, and members of Senate elected in the elections shall take office after the ratification of the elections results by the Student Government Association Senate, and before April 30th.
- ii. A vote to ratify the elections results must be made in the first meeting of the outgoing Student Government Association after the receipt of the report of the Elections Committee by the Attorney General.
- iii. If the Senate chooses not to ratify the results, then it shall instruct the Elections Committee to carry out remedies or conduct another election on a date which the Senate specifies.

Section 2. Restrictions

Paragraph A. Proxy Voting

i. One person submitting a ballot using the identity of another student, regardless of the willingness of the student, is prohibited.

Paragraph B. Block Voting

ii. One or more persons submitting ballots using the using the identity of multiple students, regardless of the willingness of the students, is prohibited.

Section 3. Recount

Paragraph A. Petition

Any individual desiring a recount must petition the Elections Committee within twenty-four hours after the elections results are announced.

Paragraph B. Notification

All candidates involved in a recount shall be notified within twenty-four hours of the request.

Paragraph C. Recount

The recount shall be conducted by the Elections Committee within seven days of the request and must be done in the presence of two representatives of both parties.

Section 4. Irregularities

Paragraph A. Withholding Results

The Elections Committee shall have the power to withhold the certification and results of an election in which it finds substantial evidence that irregularities may have occurred and such irregularities may have influenced the outcome or results of the election.

Paragraph B. Notice

Notice of withholding results must be filed with Student Government Association Senate within three days of the conclusion of the election procedures in any election.

Paragraph C. Investigation

The Elections Committee shall have three school days to investigate and rule on the irregularity.

Paragraph D. Election

The Elections Committee may, if deems necessary, call a new election to be held within the limits of this Code of Elections at the earliest convenient time.

Section 5. Run-off Elections

Paragraph A. Run-off

A run-off between the top two tickets shall be held for the executive tickets when a ticket does not receive more than forty percent of the votes cast.

Paragraph B. Election

The Elections Committee will set an appropriate date for the run-off election.

Paragraph C. Finances

In the case of a run-off election, the Financial Disclosure Form will not be due until 5:00 p.m. on the Monday following the run-off election.

Article VII. Financial Disclosure

Section 1. Disclosure Form

Paragraph A. Candidates

- i. Each candidate is required to keep accurate and up-to-date records of all campaign receipts and expenditures.
- ii. Contributions to a candidate by individuals or organizations must be documented in the Financial Disclosure Form.
- iii. Contributions and expenditures of non-monetary assets shall be listed and valued at their fair market value.
- iv. Each candidate shall be required to file a complete Financial Disclosure Form or sign the party's Financial Disclosure Form by 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the campaign period.
- v. Each candidate's financial records shall be available for public inspection.

Paragraph B. Parties

- i. Each party is required to keep accurate and up-to-date records of all campaign receipts and expenditures for the party and associated party members and staff.
- ii. Contributions to a party or any associated party candidates must be documented in the Financial Disclosure Form.
- iii. Contributions and expenditures of non-monetary assets shall be listed and valued at their fair market value.
- iv. Each party shall be required to file a complete Financial Disclosure Form and obtain the signature of the associated candidates by 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the campaign period.
- v. Each party's financial records shall be available for public inspection.

Section 2. Discrepancy

Any discrepancy of more than five percent between receipts provided and expenditures listed shall be considered a violation of this Code of Elections and will result in a hearing before the Elections Committee and possible disqualification.

Article VIII. Referendums and Constitutional Amendments

Section 1. Voting

Constitutional amendments, referendum issues, and other questions may be submitted to the student body at the same time as any election governed by this Code.

Section 2. Special Elections

The Elections Committee, under instructions from the Student Government Association Senate, may call a special election while classes are in session during any fall and spring semester.

Article IX. Transition

Section 1. Transition Period

The Student Government Association transition period shall begin immediately following the announcement of the election results and will end with the swearing in of the new Student Government Association Executive Officers and Senators.

Section 2. Transition Meetings

All Student Government Association Officers and Senators shall be required to attend the mandatory transition meetings that will be set by the Elections Committee during the transition period.

Section 3. Oath of Office

Paragraph A. Executive Officers

The President-Elect, Vice President-Elect, and Treasurer-Elect shall be administered the Oath of Office by the Chief Justice of the Student Government Association at a time and date set by the elections committee, provided that this date is before April 30th.

Paragraph B. Senators

The Senators-Elect shall be administered the Oath of Office by the Vice President of the Student Government Association, immediately following the swearing in of the executive officers.

Article X. Election Committee

Section 1. Membership

Paragraph A. Committee

The Elections Committee shall be chaired by the Student Government Association Attorney General who shall only vote in the case of a tie, the Student Government Association Senate President Pro-Tempore, the Student Government Association Faculty Advisor, the Student Government Association Graduate Advisor, two members chosen from the SLAC Board, and two at-large members.

Paragraph B. At-Large Members

The at-large members shall be Presidential appointments approved by a two-thirds vote of the Student Government Association Senate.

Paragraph C. SLAC Board Members

The SLAC Board members shall be chosen moving down a roster of the organizations in alphabetical order as prepared by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and approved by a two-thirds vote of the Student Government Association Senate.

Paragraph D. Election

- i. In the case where the President Pro-Tempore or the Attorney General stands for election, each position will be responsible to submit a designee to the President of the Student Government Association to fulfill their duties on the Elections Committee and the designee must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Student Government Association Senate.

- ii. No member of the Elections Committee shall be a candidate for office in the Student Government Association while serving on the Elections Committee.

Section 2. Duties

Paragraph A. Elections

- i. Shall interpret, execute, and enforce all election laws provided in this Code of Elections.
- ii. Shall supervise and control all campaigns by candidates and parties for Student Government Association office as well as elections related to referendum issues, proposed Constitutional amendments, and other questions appearing on the official ballot.
- iii. Shall assess and execute the remedies and sanctions provided in this Code of Elections if it finds violation of either provisions of this Code or Elections Committee rulings.
- iv. May promulgate rules and regulations to the extent that they are necessary in providing an equal opportunity to all candidates during the whole election process.

Paragraph B. Composition

Shall appoint a secretary, who shall take all minutes of meetings and hearings, and keep records of all opinions, rulings, and filings required of candidates under this Code of Elections.

Paragraph C. University and Community

- i. Shall have the authority to submit news items and election results to campus and community news disseminating organizations.
- ii. Shall have the authority to reserve University facilities for events related to any election.

Section 3. Hearings

Paragraph A. Complaints

Shall act on all complaints within three school days after they are received by dismissing them or calling a hearing.

Paragraph B. Dismissal

- i. May dismiss a complaint if the complaint was not filed within two school days of the conclusion of all election procedures.
- ii. May dismiss a complaint if the Elections Committee lacks jurisdiction over the subject or a party in the dispute.
- iii. May dismiss a complaint if the complaint fails to state a cause of action for which relief may be granted.
- iv. May dismiss a complaint if the complaint is not registered in good faith and is primarily for the purpose of harassment.

Paragraph C. Hearings.

- i. Shall set the time and place of the hearing.
- ii. Shall notify the involved parties of the time and place of the hearing.
- iii. Shall be open to the public.

- iv. Require at least three Elections Committee members to be in attendance with the chair presiding. In his or her absence, the responsibility shall fall to a designated Elections Committee member.
- v. Shall determine the format for the hearing in such a manner where all parties are represented equally and the information necessary to make a decision is provided.
- vi. The presentation by witnesses or expert testimonies is allowed.
- vii. The complaining party shall bear the burden of proof.
- viii. Ignorance of this Code of Elections, either by candidates, staff, parties, or members of the Elections Committee, shall not be an acceptable defense in response to any offense committed in any election governed by this Code.

Paragraph D. Rulings

Decisions, orders, and rulings of the Elections Committee shall be announced as soon as possible after the hearing and must be concurred to by the majority of the Committee.

Paragraph E. Remedies and Sanctions

- i. Disqualification from office or candidacy.
- ii. Removal of candidate from the ballot.
- iii. Suspension from campaigning.
- iv. Probationary period.
- v. Removal of campaign materials.

Paragraph F. Sanctions

- i. A candidate may not receive multiple numerical sanctions for the same incident, only steeper remedies if so deemed.
- ii. Three sanctions will, at least, result in automatic probation.
- iii. A sanction while on probation will, at least, automatically suspend the candidate from further campaigning.
- iv. A sanction while suspended will automatically disqualify any candidate from the election process.
- v. A total of five sanctions will automatically disqualify any candidate from the election process.
- vi. If after a hearing, the Elections Committee finds that the candidate has willfully and blatantly violated the ruling of the Committee, the Committee may disqualify the candidate.

Justin 5/17/07 4:44 PM

Comment: Adjusted.

Article XI. Ratification

Upon ratification by a two-thirds vote in the Student Government Association Senate, this Code of Elections shall supersede all previous governing documents regarding elections, which shall be deemed null and void.

Article XII. Severability

This Code of Elections shall at all times be subordinate to the Constitution of the Student Government Association and University policies.