

**Code of Elections for Georgia College & State University  
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 Georgia College & State University.

**Article II. Eligibility Requirements for Candidacy Section 1.**

**Officers Paragraph A. President**

- i. Must be a registered full-time student as defined by the President's degree program of study and must cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 on scale.
- ii. Must have completed forty (40) semester hours, thirty (30) of which shall have been completed at any branch of Georgia College.
- iii. The individual must have been at least a committee chair, for a full semester, or executive officer for one semester in good standing.
- iv. The individual must submit an application for the Office of the President and have been approved by the Secretary of the SGA.
- v. Shall be elected by the student body in a secret ballot no later than the last full week of February.
- vi. Must be capable of fulfilling duties beginning on May 15, following the spring election.

**Paragraph B. Vice President**

- i. Must be a registered full-time student as defines by the Vice President's degree program of study and must a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 on scale.
- ii. The Vice President must have completed thirty (30) semester hours, twenty (20) of which shall have been completed at any branch of Georgia College.
- iii. The individual must have been at least a Senator for two semesters in good standing.
- iv. The individual must submit an application for the Office of the Vice President and have been approved by the Secretary of the Student Government Association.
- v. Shall be elected by the student body in a secret ballot no later than the last full week of February.
- vi. Must be capable of fulfilling duties beginning on May 15, following the spring election.

**Paragraph C. Secretary**

- i. Must be a registered full-time student as defines by the Secretary's degree program of study and must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 on scale.
- ii. Must have completed twelve (12) semester hours, twelve (12) of which shall have been completed at any branch of Georgia College.
- iii. The individual must have been at least a senator for one semester in good standing.
- iv. The individual must submit an application for the Office of the Secretary and have been approved by the Secretary of the SGA.
- v. Shall be elected by the student body in a secret ballot no later than the last full week of February.
- vi. Must be capable of fulfilling duties beginning on May 15, following the spring election.

**Paragraph D. Treasurer**

- i. Must be a registered full-time student as defines by the Secretary's degree program of study and must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 on scale.
- ii. Must have completed twelve (12) semester hours, twelve (12) of which shall have been completed at any branch of Georgia College.
- iii. The individual must have been at least a senator for one semester in good standing.
- iv. The individual must submit an application for the Office of the Treasurer and have been approved by the Secretary of the SGA.
- v. Shall be elected by the student body in a secret ballot no later than the last full week of

February.

- vi. Must be capable of fulfilling duties beginning on May 15, following the spring election.

**Paragraph E. President Pro Tempore**

- i. Must be a registered full-time student, at the start of their term, as defines by the President Pro Tempore's degree program of study and must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 on scale.
- ii. Must have completed twelve (12) semester hours, twelve (12) of which shall have been completed at any branch of Georgia College.
- iii. The individual must have been at least a senator for one semester in good standing.
- iv. The individual must submit an application for the Office of the Senator, must designate desire to run for President Pro Tempore and have been approved by the Secretary of the SGA.
- v. Shall be elected as Senator by the student body the start of the fall semester.
- vi. Must be elected by a plurality among members of the newly elected senate in the Fall Semester during the first official Senate session.

**Paragraph F. Attorney General**

- i. Must be a registered full-time student, at the start of their term, as defines by the Attorney General's degree program of study and must maintain cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 on scale.
- ii. Must have completed twenty-four (24) semester hours, twenty-four (24) of which shall have been completed at any branch of Georgia College.
- iii. The individual must have been at least a judicial board justice for one semester in good standing.
- iv. Must be appointed by the President, and confirmed by a two-thirds majority of the newly elected senate in the Fall Semester during the first official Senate session.

**Paragraph G. Chief-of-Staff**

- i. Must be a registered full-time student, at the start of their term, as defines by the Attorney General's degree program of study and must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on a 4.0 on scale.
- ii. Must have completed twenty-four (24) semester hours, twenty-four (24) of which shall have been completed at any branch of Georgia College.
- iii. The individual must have been a member of any branch for one semester in good standing.
- iv. Must be appointed by the President, and confirmed by a two-thirds majority of the newly elected senate in the Fall Semester during the first official Senate session.

**Paragraph H. Senator**

- i. Senators shall be elected from the student body of Georgia College.
- ii. Senators must be registered as full-time students, at the start of their term, as defined by their degree or program and must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.75 on 4.0 scale, with the exception of first semester freshman candidates and must be in good standing with the University.
- iii. Senators shall represent their respective class based on their earned credit hour.
- iv. Senators must submit an application for the Office of the Senator and be approved by the Secretary of the SGA.
- v. Shall be elected as Senator by the student body in a secret ballot no later than twentyeight (28) days after the start of the fall semester.

**Article III. Filing Section 1. Documents Paragraph A.**

**Application**

- i. Candidates must complete the application corresponding to their desired office.
- ii. The Election Committee must submit prior to all applications due date set.
- iii. Applications must be approved by the Election Committee and bear the signatures of the Chair of the Election Committee.
- iv. No cross-filing allowed

**Paragraph B. Elections Timeline**

- i. The timeline for the elections shall be distributed to all candidates in the official election packet for their respective office.

**Section 2. 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 3. Tampering**

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

**Article IV. Campaigns Section 1. Campaign Period**

- i. The Vice-President will set the campaign period for fall elections. It shall be no longer than 18 days, including the week of voting.
- ii. The Attorney General will set the campaign period for spring elections and shall not exceed 18 days.

**Section 2. Candidate Session**

All candidates must attend a mandatory candidate session with the Elections Committee in order to be qualified to campaign for office. Excuses must be submitted 24-hour in advance and approved by the Elections Committee chair.

**Section 3. Expenses**

The Election Committee reserves the right to place maximums on money spent on campaigns. Any limits set shall be done before the campaign period begins with the necessary publication of the limits as to inform the involved candidates.

**Section 4. Campaigning and Postings**

- i. All campaign materials must be date stamped and approved by the Campus Life Office; failure to comply may result in a \$25 posting fine per incident and further election consequences outlined below.
- ii. Any unapproved material may not be posted on University property.
- iii. Postings must follow the GC Posting and Advertising Guidelines. Additionally, they must not be placed on glass surfaces; only on approved bulletin boards.
- iv. Permission of the owner of any property is required for off-campus postings.
- v. Each Candidate is responsible for seeing that his or her postings are removed by 5:00 pm. the day following the announcement of the election results.
- vi. Any postings not removed by the deadline may result in a \$10 fine per incident. vii. Candidates are responsible for the cleanup of all litter resulting from campaign materials i.e. Glitter; tear off tabs, sticker backings, etc.
- vii. Campaign materials may not display foul language or any obscene, questionable, or any inappropriate pictures or references.
- viii. Postings shall not be made out of hardwood except as a frame to hold a banner that has already been approved by the Elections Committee.
- ix. Further, signs should not exceed 3ft by 3ft unless otherwise approved by the Office of Campus Life. The Election Committee reserves the right to make exceptions to the posting rules so long as they too, follow the rules outlined by the Office of Campus Life. Exceptions to the size rules may be given to materials such as sheet banners, and other materials that enhance campus ethos at the discretion of the Office of Campus Life, and Election Committee.

## **Section 5. Provisions**

- i. No persons other than a member of the Election Committee, respective candidate, or member of a candidate's staff shall willfully destroy deface, obscure, move, or remove postings.
- ii. Only the Election committee or Campus Life shall handle campaign materials in violation of the Code of Elections and shall alert the candidate, within one business day, of its removal.
- iii. No candidate or any individual working with a campaign may publicly state any false or misleading information about a candidate, staff member, or Election member.
- iv. Hand distributed material must be given out hand-to-hand, and may not be left at a central location for pick-up by voters.
- v. No candidate may claim to be endorsed by a certain individual or organization unless the respective candidate secures a signed statement of endorsement from the individual/group in question, and such signed statement is furnished for Election Committee review. **Article**

## **V. Elections**

### **Section 1. Procedures Paragraph A. Elections Period**

- i. The elections shall be held on the last week of the campaign period.
- ii. There shall be no mass voting. Candidates and their staff are not allowed to produce independent polling stations or solicit votes door-to-door or any similar situation.
- iii. The Election Committee shall supervise the elections and be available for assistance and ruling in any and all matters during the elections process.

#### **Paragraph B. Voting**

- i. Only individuals who are officially registered as students of GC may participate in SGA elections.
- ii. The vote count shall be under the supervision of the Election Committee.

#### **Paragraph C.**

##### **Results.**

#### **Paragraph C.**

- i. The incoming President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and members of Senate elected shall be notified of the results no more than three school days after the close of the polls.
- ii. The Royal Homecoming Court shall be announced at the Homecoming Basketball Game.

### **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**

- i. 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 C. Petition**

- i. Any individual desiring a recount must petition the Election Committee within 24 hours after the elections results are announced.

#### **Paragraph D. Notification**

- i. All candidates involved in a recount shall be notified within 7 days of the request.

#### **Paragraph E. Recount**

- i. The Election Committee shall conduct the recount within seven days of the request.

### **Section 2. Irregularities Paragraph A. Withholding Results**

- i. The Election 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**

- i. Notice of withholding results will be filed with SGA Senate within three (3) school days of the conclusion of the election procedures in any election.

**Paragraph C. Investigation**

- i. The Election Committee shall have three (3) school days to investigate and rule on the irregularity.

**Paragraph D. Election**

- i. The Election Committee may, if deemed necessary, call a new election to be held within the limits of this Code of Elections at the earliest convenience, but no later than the last week of March.

**Section 3. Run-Off Elections Paragraph A. Election**

- i. The Election Committee shall set an appropriate date for a run-of election should election results fail to determine a winner to a position.

**Article VI. Referendums and Constitutional Amendments**

**Section 1. Voting**

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

**Section 2. Special Elections**

- i. The Election committee, under instructions from the SGA Senate, may call a special election while classes are in session during fall and spring semesters, so long as those elections follow the guidelines set out by this governing document.

**Article VII. Transition**

**Section 1.** The official SGA transition period shall begin immediately following the announcement of the election results and will end with the swearing in of the new Student Government Executive Officers and Senators.

**Section 2. Oath of Office Paragraph A. Executive Officers**

- i. The Executive Board-elect shall assume duties and responsibilities on May 15th.
- ii. The President-elect shall be administered the Oath of Office by the university president on May 15<sup>th</sup> (traditionally this oath takes place on the steps of the Old Governors' Mansion).
- iii. The newly inaugurated SGA President shall administer the Oath of Office to the SGA Executive Board during his/her State of the Student Body Address within the first two months of the fall semester.

**Paragraph B. Senators**

The Senators-elect shall be administered the oath of office by the Vice President of the SGA, at the first official meeting of SGA after the election whereupon the Senators-elect where elected.

## **Article VIII. Campaign Violations and Consequences**

### **Section 1.**

#### **Paragraph A. Electronic Media and Announcement**

Any campaigning including the use of electronic media, i.e. Facebook, Twitter, student announcement, prior to the start of the campaign period may result in an automatic disqualification from the election pending a vote of the Election Committee.

#### **Paragraph B. Consequences**

- i. Consequences for violations of posting rules, outlined in Article IV, Section 3, are as follows, in addition to Campus Life fines and penalties.
  - Offence 1) Written warning
  - Offence 2) All campaign materials must be removed from campus
  - Offence 3) Disqualification from the election
- ii. On other violations brought to the attention of the Election Committee, the Elections Chairman, with the approval of the Elections Committee, can levy any consequences including disqualification from the election.

## **Article IX. Elections Committee**

### **Section 1. Elections Committee for Spring Elections**

- i. The membership of the elections committee will be made up four senators and the President Pro Tempore during the Spring Election Cycle.
- ii. The senators will be appointed by the Chair in October and will meet once before the Spring semester begins.
- iii. If the President Pro Tempore plans to run, a vice chair will be appointed by a simple majority of the executive board who does not plan on running in the spring election

### **Section 2. Membership of the Elections Committee for Fall Senatorial Elections**

- i. Membership of the Elections Committee will be comprised of the present executive board, not including the President Pro Tempore from the previous academic year.
- ii. The Vice President will chair this committee during the fall semester.

### **Section 3. Decisions**

- i. The committee shall deliberate within one (1) day after receiving a written accusation citing the rules broken.
  - a. The accuser shall be allowed the option to express his/her concern to the Elections Committee.
  - b. The defendant shall be allowed the option to speak at the hearing.
- ii. The committee shall give a decision within one (1) hour after meeting with the committee to the President, Attorney General, and defendant.
  - a. The decision shall be decided by a simple majority vote
  - b. The sanctions shall be decided in a separate vote by a simple majority
- iii. In the event of an appeal, the case will be taken to the Student Judicial Board's Elections Appeals Committee for final review.

## **Article X. Elections Appeals Committee**

### **Section 1. Elections Appeals Committee**

- i. The Election Appeals Committee shall be composed of five members of the Student Judicial Board appointed by the acting chair of the committee.
- ii. The Attorney General shall serve as chair and the Assistant Attorney General shall serve as the vice chair in both the Spring and Fall elections.
- iii. If the Attorney General runs as a candidate in the election, the Assistant Attorney General will serve as chair and a Chief Justice determined by the chair will serve as the vice-chair.
- iv. Members of the Election Appeals Committee shall not publicly endorse any candidate for office, including candidates for Homecoming Royal Court.

### **Section 2. Committee Substitution**

- i. If any member of the Election Appeals Committee is running in the election, he/she must recuse themselves from the committee until the election has been completed. The Chair of the Elections Appeals Committee shall appoint a duly qualified justice to fill the place of any justice who recuses himself or herself in this way.

### **Section 3. Chairman Exception**

- i. If the Attorney General runs as a candidate in the election, the Assistant Attorney General will serve as chair and a Chief Justice chosen by the chair will serve as the vice-chair.

### **Section 4. Appeals Process**

- i. If a decision by the elections committee is appealed, the Election Appeals Committee will meet within two (2) business days to make a final decision.
- ii. The Election Appeals Committee can decide to decrease or remove the sanctions placed on the accused candidate.
- iii. The Election Appeals Committee will hear from the chair of the Elections Committee and the accused candidate before making their final decision.