



THE GRADUATE CODE OF ELECTIONS FOR THE GRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION, GRADUATE STUDENT BODY, AND GRADUATE STUDENT GROUPS OF EMORY UNIVERSITY

Effective as of January 29, 2018

ARTICLE I AUTHORITY

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Graduate Student Government Association ("GSGA"), the GSGA hereby establishes this Code of Elections to govern all graduate student elections within Emory University effective February 19, 2025.

The elections of the GSGA and the eight (8) Graduate Divisional Councils are most strictly governed by this Code.

ARTICLE II SCOPE, DEFINITIONS, AND APPENDICIES

Each Graduate Divisional Council shall retain the privilege to enact further regulations when consistent with this Code.

"Election Period" shall refer to all hours when voting occurs.

"Election Cycle" shall refer to the period starting with the beginning of campaigning and culminating at the end of the last election (regular or run-off/special, whichever is appropriate) as provided by this Code.

Each Graduate Divisional Council shall submit a document entitled "[DIVISIONAL COUNCIL]'s Appendix for the Graduate Code of Elections." This Appendix shall be submitted by the President of each Graduate Divisional Council to the GSGA President, GSGA Executive Vice President, and the GSGA Chief of Staff, who serves as the Graduate Elections Board Chair.

ARTICLE III THE GRADUATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. DUTIES

The Graduate Board of Elections (herein, "Board") shall:

- A. Oversee the election races for the following offices:
 - i. GSGA President
 - ii. GSGA Executive Vice President
 - iii. GSGA Chief Judge
- B. Coordinate and supervise all graduate elections and enforce all rules provided within this Code.
- C. Provide means by which all eligible voters can participate in elections.
- D. Organize a meeting of all potential candidates during which the mandates of this Code must be explained.
- E. Maintain a listing of all registered candidates and the offices they are running, available to any graduate student at the offices of the GSGA and on the GSGA Orgsync page.
- F. Create and approve official ballots, which shall list candidates in alphabetical order by last name.
- G. Investigate, hear, and deliver binding decisions in challenges concerning the elections.
- H. Approve all campaign materials.
- I. Have the power to enact rules and regulations governing the elections overseen by the ¹¹~~SEP~~ Board in the execution of the mandates of this Code, provided that such regulations are approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the Board and are announced

publicly, with certified delivery to the GSGA President, GSGA Executive Vice President, and the Presidents of each Graduate Divisional Council.

- i. Regulations must be made prior to the start of each election cycle.
 - ii. All regulations of the Board shall expire at the end of each election cycle and may be re-enacted by the Board in future election cycles. ^{[[1]]}_{SEP}
- J. Exercise all powers incident to and necessary for the execution of the above-listed responsibilities.
- K. Make recommendations to the GSGA Legislature on improving this Code to better serve the Graduate Student Body.

SECTION 2. MEMBERS

The Graduate Board of Elections shall consist of:

- A. The Chair
 - i. The Chair of the Graduate Elections Board shall be the GSGA Chief of Staff.
 - a. If the GSGA Chief of Staff is a candidate for GSGA President, GSGA Executive Vice President, or GSGA Chief Judge during an election cycle, they are ineligible to serve as chair and the Deputy Chief of Staff will serve as Chair of the Graduate Elections Board.
 - b. If the GSGA Chief of Staff and the GSGA Deputy Chief of Staff are candidates for GSGA President, GSGA Executive Vice President, or GSGA Chief Judge during an election cycle, the GSGA President must appoint, with legislative approval, a new Graduate Elections Board Chair.
 - c. In the event that no GSGA Deputy Chief of Staff has been appointed, the GSGA President shall appoint, with legislative approval, a new Graduate Elections Board Chair.
- B. A Vice Chair
 - i. The Vice Chair of the Graduate Elections Board shall be the GSGA Deputy Chief of Staff.
 - ii. If the GSGA Deputy Chief of Staff is a candidate for GSGA President or GSGA Executive Vice President during an election cycle, the GSGA President must appoint, with legislative approval, a new Graduate Elections Board Vice Chair.
 - iii. In the event that no GSGA Deputy Chief of Staff has been appointed, the GSGA President shall appoint, with legislative approval, a new Graduate Elections Board Vice Chair.
- C. Voting Members
 - i. In addition to the Chair and Vice Chair, the Board shall be made up of two (2) GSGA Legislators elected by the GSGA Legislature no later than one month before the beginning of the election cycle.
 - a. No two (2) Voting Members shall be enrolled in the same Graduate or Professional School at Emory University, listed in Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution of the GSGA.
 - ii. All Voting Members must fulfill the following requirements in order to fulfill and maintain their seat on the board:
 - a. A Voting Member must sign a waiver declaring their neutrality in the pending elections and forgoing their right to run in the elections being overseen.
 - b. A Voting Member must sign a waiver declaring their commitment to abstain from supporting any candidate in any such elections.
 - c. Each Voting Member's waiver shall be binding once confirmed by the Chair and GSGA President.

- D. A Commissioner for each Graduate Divisional Council, listed in Article II Section 1 Subsection A of the Constitution of the GSGA. These individuals shall be known as "Graduate Divisional Election Commissioners."
 - i. Each Divisional Election Chair must be enrolled in the Division they serve.
 - ii. Graduate Divisional Election Chairs must be appointed by the Graduate Divisional Council and serve in accordance with that Divisional Council's Code of Elections.
 - iii. This body will be referred to as the Committee of Graduate Divisional Election Commissioners and will be responsible for hearing appeals under this code. They cannot serve as Voting Members, nor are they eligible to vote for any purposes other than appeals.
 - a. Current members of GSGA who are running for any GSGA position are not eligible to act as a Commissioner for their Council.

SECTION 3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

The Chair of the Graduate Elections Board shall:

- A. Be the GSGA Chief of Staff. If the GSGA Chief of Staff is ineligible, the Chair will be decided by the process explained in Section 2(A), above.
- B. Call and preside over all meetings of the Graduate Elections Board.
- C. Oversee transition efforts of the Graduate Elections Board.
- D. Call and preside over all hearings regarding challenges concerning the results or events of the elections.

The Vice Chair of the Graduate Elections Board shall:

- A. Assist the Chair with their responsibilities, at the discretion of the Chair.
- B. Execute the responsibilities and authorities of the Chair at the request of the Chair or in the event of the inability of the Chair to do so.
- C. During the vacancy of the office of the Chair, shall act as Chair, until the GSGA Legislature shall have confirmed a nominee by the President.
- D. Execute other such duties and responsibilities as determined by the provisions of this Code.
- E. Shall take minutes of any and all meetings pertaining to elections, elections violation hearings, and appeals of decisions.

The Voting Members of the Graduate Elections Board shall:

- A. Execute other such duties and responsibilities as determined by the provisions of this Code.
- B. Oversee candidate meetings for Graduate-wide positions.
- C. Maintain and publicize the names, graduate division, graduation year, email, and title of each individual on the Board.
- D. Maintain the official record of candidate registration, including but not limited to the candidate's first name, last name, full preferred name on the ballot, office for candidacy, general biographical information, and other information as decided by the Chair or Graduate Elections Board.
- E. Keep track of penalties assessed by the Board and upon candidates and candidates' completion of such penalties.

Graduate Divisional Election Commissioners shall:

- A. Be a student of Emory University who is under the jurisdiction of the Graduate Divisional Council they serve.
- B. Be chosen in a manner decided by regulations of each Graduate Divisional Council.

- C. Maintain communications from the Graduate Elections Board to their respective Graduate Divisional Councils.
- D. Coordinate all division-specific elections in accordance with this Code.
- E. Hold election information sessions for individuals interested in running for office in their respective divisions.
- F. Coordinate any candidate meet-and-greet or speeches/debates in a location that is most convenient for their constituents on behalf of the Graduate Elections Board. All events shall be open to the students enrolled in their respective Graduate Division. All candidates that are eligible to run in the division shall be eligible to participate in each event. Each Divisional Chair shall publicize and announce each event and the rules governing such event, at least twenty-four (24) hours beforehand.

ARTICLE IV GENERAL ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. DATES

- A. The Graduate Elections Board shall hold Elections various times throughout the year, as the GSGA requires.
- B. There shall be at least one (1) annual Spring Election for the GSGA President, GSGA Executive Vice President, and GSGA Chief Judge. The Chair and all Graduate Divisional Commissioners shall determine the calendar for Spring Elections.
- C. The Board shall have the authority to reschedule Election Day due to technical difficulty, religious or federal holiday, or other date where Emory University or a division thereof has suspended classes, so long as the election takes place no sooner than forty-eight (48) hours after the original time of the election.

SECTION 2. BALLOTS

- A. OrgSync shall be the platform used for all Graduate Elections including GSGA elections and Graduate Divisional Council elections.
 - i. The Graduate Elections Board will coordinate with the Office of Student Leadership, Involvement, and Transitions ("SILT") to use the OrgSync platform.
- B. The order of the names for each office shall be listed in alphabetical order by last name.
- C. The Graduate Elections Board shall make a sample ballot at least twenty-four (24) hours before the commencement of Election Day to test its accuracy.
- D. The ballot shall have a space available for "No Confidence" when candidates are running uncontested.
 - i. In the event that "No Confidence" wins the position, then the position shall be considered vacant, and rules governing vacancies in each governing body shall apply.
- E. In tabulating the votes cast on Election Day, the following rules apply:
 - i. Partially completed ballots shall be counted for the offices that have been completed.
 - ii. Conflicting votes on a single ballot shall render the vote for candidates of the office for which the conflicting votes are cast null and void.
 - iii. Incorrect spelling of a write-in candidate's name shall not result in the elimination of the vote, so long as the Board can adequately determine the identity of the candidate for whom the vote was intended.
 - iv. All votes for fictional, ineligible, or unregistered write-in candidates shall be discarded.
- F. Upon the conclusion of Election Day and the receipt of the results by the Board, the Board shall vote to give temporary certification of the results, pending appeal, and to

authorize the release of the results. The Board shall send an email to the graduate student body with its calculations, denoting the total percentage and number of votes. Under no condition may the Board withhold the release of tallies for more than twelve (12) hours. If the Board has withheld the release of tallies for more than twelve (12) hours, the GSGA President shall receive control of the Ballot and release it to the Members of the Legislature and the GSGA Vice President for Marketing and Communications, who shall then send it to the student body. The Chair may petition the GSGA Legislature for an extension, but such extension may not exceed six (6) hours; extensions may only be given for reasons of difficulty of tabulating elections results. Challenges may not be considered or heard while election results have not been announced.

- G. The official tabulation of the results shall be typed and posted by the Board on the GSGA OrgSync, or equivalent page, and shall bear the signature of the Chair of the Board.
- H. The results of the election shall be provided to the GSGA Legislature and shall be read into the minutes of the GSGA Legislature.

SECTION 3. VOTING

For annual Spring Elections, voting shall occur over seventy-two (72) continuous hours. Furthermore, for various Fall and Summer division-specific elections, voting shall occur for up to seventy-two (72) hours, as decided by the Graduate Divisional Commissioner or Divisional Council in its Appendix. The hours of voting for elections not noted above and run-off elections shall be twenty-four (24) hours. Run-off elections, where necessary, shall commence no later than seven (7) days after the conclusion of the original vote resulting in the need for a run-off.

SECTION 4. ELIGIBLE VOTERS

- A. Pursuant to the GSGA Constitution, all individuals who are graduate or professional students at Emory University are eligible to vote for the offices of the GSGA President, GSGA Executive Vice President, and Chief Judge.
- B. Each Divisional Council shall indicate the eligible voters for its offices in its Appendix.

SECTION 5. VOTING PROCEDURE

- A. The Board shall ensure that each graduate student votes only once in any election, that all graduate students are able to vote, and that all graduate students have equal opportunity to vote.
- B. The Board shall notify the respective electorate in whole no later than three (3) days prior to Election Day of the impending elections on the rules and procedures of Election Day.

SECTION 6. WINNING GENERAL ELECTIONS AND RUNOFF ELIGIBILITY

- A. In this Code, including its appendices, "majority" shall be defined as any unrounded percentage above fifty (50) percent.
- B. Any candidate for the offices of GSGA President, GSGA Executive Vice President, and GSGA Chief Judge who receives a majority of the votes shall be elected to said office.
 - i. In the case where no candidate receives the required majority of votes, the candidate for GSGA President, GSGA Executive Vice President, or GSGA Chief Judge respectively, with the most votes (plurality of all votes cast) shall be deemed the winner of that election.
- C. Runoff Elections will only occur in the event of a tie during the general election for GSGA President GSGA Executive Vice President, or GSGA Chief Judge.

- i. For a runoff election, the names of the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be placed on the ballot for the runoff election. In the runoff election, the candidate receiving the most votes shall be elected to said office.
 - ii. In the event that a runoff election shall result in a tie, the sitting GSGA Legislature, during the time of election, shall decide the winner of the election by a majority vote.
- D. Divisional Councils shall indicate in their Appendix the winning vote requirements and runoff eligibility for each office.

SECTION 7. RUNOFF DATES

Runoff elections, if necessary, shall be held no earlier than forty-eight (48) hours after the official release and certification of the general election day results. All general election day challenges must be settled before continuing onto to a runoff election.

SECTION 8. RUNOFF CAMPAIGNING

- A. Runoffs shall be governed under the same restrictions as the general elections.
- B. If applicable, campaign materials used in the general election may be used in the runoff. New campaign materials must be approved in accordance with this Code.
- C. If applicable, expenditures from the previous election shall not be included as expenditures for the runoff election. The additional limit shall be half of that allowed in general election, if applicable.
- D. If applicable, an individual may continue to raise funds for his or her campaign in accordance with the donor limits imposed by this Code.

ARTICLE V CANDIDACY

SECTION 1. QUALIFICATIONS

- A. All candidates for GSGA President, GSGA Executive Vice President, and GSGA Chief Judge must be enrolled full-time in a graduate or professional school at Emory University.
- B. Individuals wishing to hold office for each Graduate Divisional Council shall be students under each Divisional Council's jurisdiction and shall be in good academic standing. Each Divisional Council may set additional qualifications for each office, which shall be stated in its Appendix.
- C. Individuals who will be serving as an Executive Member of a Graduate Divisional Council may not run for the positions of GSGA President, GSGA Executive Vice President, or GSGA Chief Judge if the two terms overlap.
- D. If applicable, individuals who will be serving as a Voting Member of a Graduate Divisional Council's elections committee may not run for the positions of GSGA President, GSGA Executive Vice President, or GSGA Chief Judge if the two terms overlap.
- E. All candidates must be registered students of Emory University during the term in which they wish to run and must stipulate that they shall be a registered student during his or her entire term.

SECTION 2. REGISTRATION

- A. A candidate for office must register their campaign with the Board.
- B. A candidate shall receive a copy of this Code at the time of his or her registration and shall stipulate that he or she will agree to abide by the dictates of this Code. The act of registration shall also serve as an implicit agreement to abide by this Code.

- C. The Board shall have the authority to determine the date and time of candidate registration.
- D. Each candidate may register a campaign advisor. This individual must be clearly indicated on the registration form submitted by the candidate. Registration of a campaign advisor with the Board permits an advisor to act on behalf of the candidate in accordance with this Code. Registration of a campaign advisor shall serve as an agreement by such an advisor to abide by the dictates of this Code. Candidates and Candidates' Campaigns are ultimately responsible for any acts in violation of this Code preceding and during the election cycle by the candidate, advisor, and all others campaigning on their behalf.

SECTION 3. TYPES AND RULES OF CANDIDACY

Independent Candidacy:

- A. Any eligible student may run for an office as an independent candidate.
- B. The following shall be the expenditure limits for each candidate and their campaigns for general elections:
 - i. Candidates for the office of GSGA President, GSGA Executive Vice President, and GSGA Chief Judge may have expenditures up to \$250.00.
 - i. The GSGA Election Fund may reimburse a maximum of \$100.00 per candidate.
 - ii. In the event that the GSGA Election Fund is unable to reimburse the total amount of reimbursement requested, the GSGA Election Fund will reimburse an equal percentage of expenditures to all requesting candidates.
 - 1. The amount reimbursed shall be calculated as follows:
 - a. The amount requested for reimbursement by each candidate shall be calculated as a percentage of total requests; the requesting candidate shall then receive the percentage of the GSGA Election Fund in accordance with the percentage calculated.
 - 2. This may result in an unequal distribution of reimbursements if the amount requested by requesting candidates is variable.
 - ii. Offices for each Divisional Representative and each office within Divisional Councils shall have the authority to decide its expenditure limits. If Divisional Councils fail to regulate such expenditures, then the limit shall be \$100.00 for its executive positions and \$50.00 for its legislative positions.
 - iii. Funding for campaigns may not be granted or come from Graduate Student Activity Fee funds if in excess of the \$100 reimbursable amount per Graduate-wide candidate.

Write-In Candidacy:

- A. Any student eligible to hold any office shall be permitted to run as a write-in candidate.
- B. A write-in candidate will not be reimbursed from GSGA for any campaign expenses but may expend their own funds or raise funds for campaign purposes.
 - a. Write-In Candidates may have expenditures up to \$250.00
- C. A write-in candidate may be permitted to participate in election events hosted by the Board and shall be permitted to promote their candidacy throughout the campaign.

ARTICLE VI CAMPAIGNING

SECTION 1. CANDIDATES' MEETING

- A. A candidates' meeting shall be held before campaigning begins.
- B. This code shall be explained during this meeting.
- C. Attendance at a candidates' meeting or divisional equivalent by all candidates is mandatory and required for any graduate students intending to register as a candidate.
- D. An individual desiring to seek an office but unable to attend the candidates' meeting may authorize a proxy to attend on his or her behalf. A candidate must sign an authorization form identifying the proxy and submit such form to the Board by 10:00 p.m. on the night before the day of the candidates' meeting. The proxy may not be a candidate him or herself and may only represent one (1) candidate.
- E. An individual registered to be a candidate for office but unable to attend the candidates' meeting, and who fails to send a proxy on his or her behalf, shall be disqualified from the election. The Board shall have the authority to reinstate the candidate if petitioned within twelve (12) hours of the conclusion of the candidates' meeting. All reinstatements shall be at the discretion of the Board when good cause has been shown and must be decided on by the Board within twenty-four (24) hours after the conclusion of the candidates' meeting, subject to appeal to the Constitutional Council.

SECTION 2. CAMPAIGNS

Campaigning shall be permitted beginning at 12:01 a.m. ten (10) calendar days prior to Election Day and shall be permitted throughout Election Day. In the case of a run-off election, campaigning may begin at 12:01 a.m. three (3) days prior to the Run-Off Election Day and shall be permitted throughout the Run-Off Election Day.

SECTION 3. RULES OF CAMPAIGNING

On the date of the election, no candidate, campaign staffer, nor any other individual excluding the Board will be allowed to encourage individuals to vote for a particular candidate by standing near or providing eligible students computers, phones, or other electronic devices on which to vote.

Each Divisional Council shall choose the rules governing their elections from one of the following options. If a Divisional Council does not submit their Campaign Option, then elections will be held under Campaign Option 3. Elections of the GSGA Executive Board shall henceforth be governed through Campaign Option 3.

Campaign Option 1:

- A. All forms of campaigning shall be forbidden, except for events hosted by the Board, where only verbal forms of campaigning shall be allowed during the event.
- B. The Graduate Divisional Elections Commissioner which has decided in favor of this Campaign Option shall coordinate an event for their respective constituents to meet and greet all eligible candidates.
- C. Additionally, each respective Commissioner shall compile a newsletter (which shall include at least the candidate's name, office title that he or she is running for, and a brief candidate statement), to send to all students within their jurisdiction. Prior to sending out this newsletter, all respective candidates shall be given at least 24 hours' notice.

Campaign Option 2:

- A. No campaign or election-related expenditures are allowed.
- B. All campaigning on university property must be in compliance with the applicable rules, regulations and guidelines.
- C. All forms of free social media shall be allowed, subject to approval of the Board.
- D. No emails can be sent via Emory ListServ or to an Emory Listserv.

- i. An Emory ListServ shall be defined as any email address ending in “@listserv.cc.emory.edu” or “@listserv.emory.edu.” Candidates must conduct any campaigning through their University-provided e-mail address (for example, @emory.edu or @emoryhealthcare.edu).
- E. No campaigning in university computer labs or libraries shall be permitted.
- F. No campaigning in class while class is in session is permitted unless this provision is waived by the professor or instructor of the course.
- G. No “chalking” shall be permitted by candidates.
- H. No candidate may call students at random to solicit votes.
- I. No campaigning shall be permitted on social media pages or accounts directly funded, managed, or affiliated with GSGA, GWOs, or Divisional Councils (i.e. GSGA Facebook Page), but pages designated for student-student communications and announcements can be used for campaign purposes.
- J. All campaigning shall be subject to university policy, Conduct Code, and Honor Code guidelines and/or restrictions.
- K. The Board may request candidates to file a receipt indicating that they did not have any expenditures, if it so chooses.

Campaign Option 3:

- A. Solicitation of Votes
 - i. All materials used to solicit votes must be approved by the Board, the Chair of the Board, or a Designee decided by the Chair of the Board. The sole basis of disqualification must be violation of this Code. The Board shall not judge the merit or content of any promotion. Approval shall be signified by either the signature of the Chair or his/her Designee or via Emory email by the same individuals.
 - ii. Candidates shall be held responsible for all campaigning undertaken in their name.
 - iii. No method of campaigning not expressly authorized by this Code shall be permitted unless approved by the Board in writing.
- B. Expenditure limits are prescribed in Article V Section 3 of this Code or each Divisional Council’s Appendix.
- C. All campaigning on university property must be in compliance with the applicable rules, regulations and guidelines.
- D. All printed campaign materials must bear the signature of the candidate it supports and that of the Chair of the Board. All materials not in compliance with this requirement shall be confiscated and destroyed by the Board. The Board may authorize confiscation and destruction of material by other students or faculty, at its discretion. The Board shall have the discretion to waive this requirement in favor of one mandating these signatures on only the original copy. Electronic certification shall be sufficient, but a printed copy shall still be kept by the Board for archival purposes.
- E. Electronic campaign materials must be presented in transcribed form and must be approved in accordance with Section (A)(1) of this Part. All non-print messages must adhere to the approved script.
- F. All forms of free social media shall be allowed, subject to approval of the Board as prescribed in Section A of this Article.
- G. No emails can be sent via Emory ListServ or to an Emory ListServ.
 - i. An Emory ListServ shall be defined as any email address ending in “@listserv.cc.emory.edu” or “@listserv.emory.edu.” Candidates must conduct any campaigning through their University-provided e-mail address (for example, @emory.edu or @emoryhealthcare.edu).

- H. Paid advertising shall be permitted using only Emory University controlled media or such other media venues as permitted by the Board through a published list.
- I. No "chalking" shall be permitted by candidates.
- J. No campaigning in class while class is in session is permitted unless this provision is waived by the professor or instructor of the course.
- K. No campaigning in university computer labs or libraries shall be permitted.
- L. No candidate may call students at random to solicit votes.
- M. No campaigning shall be permitted on social media pages or accounts directly funded, managed, or affiliated with GSGA, GWOs, or Divisional Councils (i.e. GSGA Facebook Page), but pages designated for student-student communications and announcements can be used for campaign purposes.
- N. Candidates shall be responsible for removing all campaign materials within forty-eight (48) hours of the end of Election Day (general or run-off, if necessary).
- O. All campaigning shall be subject to university policy, Conduct Code, and Honor Code guidelines and/or restrictions.

SECTION 4. FILING OF RECEIPTS

- A. A full and itemized account of expenditures, including receipts and donations, both monetary and in-kind, must be filed with the GSGA or the Board by 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the Voting Period. Proof of submission and acceptance will be provided to the candidate, and the candidate must retain such proof for his or her records.
 - 1. Candidates must indicate which expenditures they are seeking reimbursement for from the GSGA Election Fund. This reimbursement form must be filed with the GSGA Vice President of Finance by 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the voting period for a given election.
 - 2. The itemized donation report must specify the name of the donor, the amount donated or the fair market value of the property donated, and the last four digits of the student identification number, if a student. In regard to in-kind donations, the Board shall have the discretion to assign its own estimate of the fair market value of a donation.
 - 3. Candidates must specify the amount of money they personally contributed to their campaigns. Note, personal and outside donations cannot exceed \$150.00.
- B. Failure to file an itemized account shall result in the disqualification of the candidate from the election. Inaccuracies in the account shall be cause for violation and sanction by the Board.

ARTICLE VII RUNOFF AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS

SECTION 1. DATES

Runoff elections, if necessary, shall be held no earlier than forty-eight (48) hours after the official release and certification of the general election day results. All general election day challenges must be settled before continuing onto to a runoff election.

SECTION 2. CAMPAIGNING

- A. Runoffs shall be governed under the Campaign Options as general elections.
- B. If applicable, campaign materials used in the general election may be used in the runoff. New campaign materials must be approved in accordance with this Code.
- C. If applicable, expenditures from the previous election shall not be included as expenditures for the runoff election. The additional limit shall be half of that allowed in general election, if applicable.

- D. If applicable, an individual may continue to raise funds for his or her campaign in accordance with the donor limits imposed by this Code.

SECTION 3. WINNING GENERAL ELECTIONS AND RUNOFF ELIGIBILITY

- A. All Runoff and Special Elections shall be governed by the guidelines in Section 6 of Article IV.

ARTICLE VIII CHALLENGES AND APPEALS

SECTION 1. CHALLENGES

- A. All challenges to conduct before or during the election, in regard to the election and the activities governed by this Code, shall be brought to the Board.
- B. All students eligible to vote for an office may issue a challenge in regard to that office.
- C. All challenges must be submitted to the Board within forty-eight (48) hours of voting ending.
- D. All challengers must submit a written complaint setting forth the basis of their challenge within seventy-two (72) hours of voting ending.
- E. A challenge may be based upon a violation of the GSGA Constitution, other governing documents of GSGA, this Code, any University or Divisional Conduct Code or Honor Code, as well as the commission of acts of fraud, violations of this Code by members of the Board, and partiality on the part of members of the Board towards or against one or more candidates.
- F. The Board must refer all cases of fraud to the appropriate administrative officials.
- G. The Board shall have the authority to order a recount of the votes cast.
- H. A challenge against a candidate, campaign advisor, or organization (Student Group or Establishment) shall initiate the following sequence of events:
 - i. The Chair shall decide whether it will hear the challenge or deny a hearing of the challenge by the Board.
 - ii. If the Chair shall elect to allow a hearing, the Board shall take a subsequent vote no later than one (1) week after the challenge is filed.
 - iii. Upon a vote to allow a hearing, the Board shall notify the challenged party of the charges brought against him or her, as well as the time and location of the hearing. Such notification shall be provided in written form.
 - iv. There shall be at least forty-eight (48) hours between the time a written challenge is issued and the hearing, unless this requirement is waived by the challenged party.
 - v. If a member of the Board challenges the election of a candidate, the member shall serve as a plaintiff and must recuse him or herself from the deliberations and voting on that challenge.
 - vi. If a member of the Board or group of members of the Board assists a candidate in determining if a violation exists prior to said violation being brought to the Chair in the form of a challenge, these Board Members must recuse themselves from deliberations and voting on said challenge.
 - vii. The following rules of procedure shall be in place during a challenge hearing:
 - a. The Chair shall preside over all challenge hearings unless recused, in which case the Vice Chair shall preside over the hearing and execute the authorities granted to the Chair in the following provisions.
 - b. A quorum of the Board must be present at any hearing. A quorum shall be defined as $\frac{3}{4}$ of non-recused Board members.

1. In the event that there are three non-recused board members, 50% of non-recused board members shall be sufficient for quorum. In a challenge where only one or two non-recused board members are eligible to hear the challenge, the acting Chair may hear the challenge alone.
- c. If the requirements as stated in vii(a) and vii(b) of this Article are not met at the time and date of a scheduled hearing, the hearing must be rescheduled unless the parties agree to continue with the hearing.
- d. All hearings shall be public, and a transcript of the proceedings must be kept.
- e. The Chair shall have the authority to set appropriate limits on the time allocated to debate, providing sufficient time for each party to make its case.
- f. The written complaint shall be read at the beginning of every hearing.
- g. A party involved may present any and all evidence pertaining to its case. A party may call witnesses to offer relevant testimony. The Chair shall have the authority to terminate the continuance of witness testimony or the presentation of evidence if it is determined that such evidence or testimony is irrelevant, unduly detrimental, or burdensome to the efficiency and effectiveness of the hearing.
 1. The evidence presented, and witness testimony, shall be governed by the Federal Rules of Evidence as they pertain to civil actions. The Chair shall serve as the Chief Judiciary in such proceedings
- h. The challenger shall have the opportunity to present his or her case first. The challenged party shall have an opportunity to rebut the challenger's claims with equal time. The Board shall have an opportunity to question both parties. Both parties shall have an opportunity to close their presentations at the conclusion of the questioning by the Board.
- i. The Board shall keep detailed records of all testimony and evidence presented at its hearings. These records shall be made available to the Constitutional Council of Emory University if the decision of the Board is appealed.
- viii. The Board shall deliberate and vote in a private session when deciding a challenge and determining an adequate penalty. The Chair of the Board must file records of the Board's decisions with the GSGA President and GSGA Legislature immediately after such decisions are issued.
- ix. In order to allow for an adequate appeal period, the Board shall work to resolve all challenges two days prior to the last legislative or general body meeting of the GSGA or establishment.
- I. If a challenged party is found guilty, the Board shall immediately order the disqualification of the candidate.
 - i. If the disqualified candidate has already been deemed and announced as the winner of the election, their term shall be revoked and the runner-up shall be announced as the elected candidate.
 - ii. No appeal to any other entity shall be available. The decision of the Board shall be considered final and binding.
 - iii. The Board may also issue the following penalties:
 - iv. A candidate, regardless of whether or not he/she wins or loses the elections, found guilty of a violation may be penalized by, including a combination of:
 - a. Disqualification of the candidate from the election.

- b. The calling of a new election or runoff.
 - c. Referral to the appropriate Conduct or Honor Council, or to the Constitutional Council, according to jurisdiction.
- v. In the case where a challenge is brought against the election, generally, the following procedures are mandated:
- vi. Upon receipt of a written challenge, the Board shall act as a committee of inquiry, researching the issue and taking steps as it deems necessary based upon a preponderance of the evidence.
- vii. If any election is challenged, the Board shall validate and certify the results after all of the challenges are resolved, and a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours has passed since the election in controversy.
- J. All elections not challenged shall be officially certified within forty-eight (48) hours after the close of the polls. Nonetheless, results pending official certification shall still be released, as prescribed in Part III, Article 2(H).
 - i. In such case where a result is pending official certification, such need shall be addressed to the Graduate Student Body.

SECTION 2. APPEALS

- A. Appeals may be made to the Committee of Graduate Divisional Election Commissioners against the Board, any member thereof, its procedures, decisions, or in regard to reasonable questions arising from its conduct or that of any of its members. The Board shall choose an individual to defend itself in front of the Committee of Graduate Divisional Election Commissioners.
- B. If the forty-eight (48) hour deadline for challenging violations of this Code to the Board has passed, a party may not appeal directly to the Committee of Graduate Divisional Election Commissioners without first being heard by the Board.
- C. A copy of an appeal must be submitted to the GSGA President at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the appeal hearing. The GSGA President shall make a written recommendation to the Committee of Graduate Divisional Election Commissioners on the action that should be taken. This right is forfeited if the GSGA President is a candidate for the contested position.
- D. Any student eligible to vote for an office is eligible to appeal a challenge regarding that office.
- E. The Committee of Graduate Divisional Election Commissioners may issue penalties only in accordance with Article 1 of this Part.
- F. No appeals for the GSGA President or GSGA Executive Vice President shall be considered after the conclusion of the Spring semester.

ARTICLE IX REFERENDUM

SECTION 1. BY RESOLUTION/ORDER OF THE GSGA LEGISLATURE, ORDERS OF THE GSGA PRESIDENT, OR BY LAW OF THE GSGA

Amendments to the Graduate Student Activity Fee (GSAF) and Other Referendums:

- A. All amendments to the Graduate Student Activity Fee (GSAF) and other matters deemed by the GSGA Legislature to need a Graduate-Wide Referendum require approval by the Graduate Student Body of Emory University.
 - i. The GSGA Legislature may decide by majority vote to send the aforementioned matters to a Graduate-Wide Referendum.

- ii. The GSGA President, GSGA Chief of Staff, or GSGA Vice President of Finance shall forward any GSAF Amendment or other matters that they decide necessitate a Graduate-Wide Referendum to the Graduate Elections Board.
 - a. Adjustments to the GSAF need only be voted on by the graduate students the adjustment would affect. For example, if the MSS wants to raise the School of Medicine GSAF, only the Medical School Students will vote on such a change.
 - b. All adjustments to the GSAF, if the referendum garners a majority of affirmative votes, shall be presented to the Emory University by the Board of Trustees by the GSGA President.

Voting on the Referendum:

- A. A referendum must occur no later than two (2) weeks after the date after the drafts approval by the GSGA Chief of Staff and GSGA President.
- B. The Board shall carry on its usual functions to publicize the referendum.
- C. Two notifications shall be sent by the Board to the student body electorate, two (2) days before the scheduled date of the vote and on the day of the vote prior to the opening of the polls, to remind them of the referendum. These notifications shall contain, among other things, the exact text of the referendum. Voting on the day of the referendum shall occur from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., unless otherwise modified by the Board, but no such modification shall be less than eight (8) hours or greater than seventy-two (72) hours.
- D. The Board shall print out an official copy of the results of the referendum. The Board shall inform the GSGA President, GSGA Chief of Staff, and administrators and officials of Emory University.
- E. If a referendum fails to garner a majority of affirmative votes, the legislation shall be declared null and void. The Board may hear challenges to the results of the referendum in accordance with this Code.

ARTICLE X INTERPRETATION

- A. The Chair shall have the authority to interpret the meaning of all rules and regulations contained within this Code within the limits of reasonable construction and understanding.
- B. A member of the Board shall have the right to call for an adjudication regarding any interpretation of the mandates of this Code. Such adjudication shall require the debate of the provision in controversy, a vote of the Board regarding the appropriate interpretation, and the drafting of a majority opinion of the Board as well as any dissenting opinions. All opinions shall be lodged with the GSGA President, GSGA Chief of Staff and presented to the GSGA Legislature whenever requested or appropriate. Adjudication of this kind may be denied by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total Voting Membership of the Board (all members except Commissioners).

ARTICLE XI AMMENDMENT

Any graduate student may propose an amendment to this Code. The Board shall review the Amendment and provide a recommendation to the GSGA Legislature. The GSGA Legislature shall review any Amendment to these bylaws pursuant to the Constitution of the GSGA.

