Elections Code

Graduate and Professional Student Council

The University of Arizona

Amended March 8, 2016

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Article I, Section 1 – Definitions

Unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms shall have the meanings specified herein. Any terms not herein defined shall be given their ordinary meaning.

A. Campaigning means any public action including but not limited to: leafleting; distributing buttons, signs, posters; talking to students and debating; initiated by a Candidate or a member of his or her campaign staff to persuade members of the student body to vote for or against any Candidate. Soliciting signatures is not considered campaigning.

B. Candidate means a person desiring to become a GPSC Representative or Officer.

C. Code means this Elections Code.

D. Constituent Unit means any program designated as such in Article II, Section 2 of the GPSC Constitution.

E. Council or GPSC means the University of Arizona Graduate and Professional Student Council.

F. Director means any of the individuals designated in Article V of the GPSC Constitution.

G. Elections Director means the Director charged with conducting GPSC elections.

H. Elector means a qualified Elector as defined in section 2-1.

I. Executive Board means the GPSC Executive Board as defined in Article III, Section 5 of the GPSC Constitution.

J. Assembly Chairperson means the GPSC Assembly Chairperson.

K. May means that the individual assigned a responsibility has discretion to decide whether or not to exercise that responsibility. Compare shall. If no person is designated to fulfill a responsibility, the Elections Director is charged with it.

L. Officer means GPSC Officers as defined in Article III, Section 1 of the GPSC Constitution.

M. Representative means an individual elected by a Constituent Unit to represent it on GPSC.

N. At-Large Representative means an individual elected by the graduate and professional student body to represent any underrepresented Constituent Units and graduate student interests not amenable to representation through Constituent Units.
Article I, Section 2 – Implementation
The Elections Director shall be responsible for implementation of, and compliance with, the provisions of the Code.

Article I, Section 3 – Violations and Appeal
A. Unless otherwise specified, the Elections Commission may impose fines for violations of this Code of not more than $10.00 per violation. Fines shall not be paid with funds donated to a Candidate’s campaign from outside sources. If a section of this Code indicates that disqualification may result from a violation, the Elections Director may impose either a fine or disqualification for its violation.
B. Any Candidate sanctioned for a violation of the Code, or aggrieved by an interpretation of the Code by the Elections Commission, may appeal to the GPSC Executive Board by notifying the Elections Commission and Assembly Chairperson within two (2) working days of the action by the Elections Director giving rise to the appeal.
C. When the Elections Commission receives notice of an appeal as specified in Article 1, Section 3.B, he or she will immediately transmit all materials relevant to the appeal to the Executive Board. The Assembly Chairperson shall notify the other members of the Executive Board, who shall assemble and hear the appeal within two (2) days.
D. In deciding an appeal, the Executive Board shall consider the materials transmitted by the Elections Commission and a statement by the Candidate, if he or she wishes to speak. The Executive Board shall either affirm or reverse the action of the Elections Commission. The decision of the Executive Board shall be final.

Article II – Qualifications of Electors
A. All graduate and professional students currently enrolled at The University of Arizona shall be considered qualified Electors.
B. To be eligible to vote, a qualified Elector must have paid all registration and tuition fees by the election (as verified through the Registrar’s records) and log into the elections website with a valid UA NetID and Password.

Article III – Candidate Eligibility and Qualifications
Article III, Section 1 Candidate Eligibility and Qualifications
A student desiring to become a Candidate for any elected GPSC position must meet the following requirements:
- The student must currently be in good standing as defined by the U of A extracurricular eligibility requirements for his/her program.
- The student is responsible for verifying his or her own academic standing with the Registrar and must have the required units by the Candidate registration deadline.
- The student must be enrolled as a graduate or professional student at the University of Arizona.
- The student must be enrolled in the program he or she seeks to represent, in the case where the candidate is seeking to be a constituent unit Representative. Candidates who are dually enrolled more than one college may seek to represent either unit, but may only represent one unit at a time.
Article III, Section 2 – Nominating Petitions and the Elections Notification

A. Nominating Petitions:
1. Nominating petitions for constituent unit Representatives shall carry ten (10) spaces for signatures and student identification information needed to verify signatures. Each Candidate shall submit a completed petition containing ten (10) signatures and identification information from Electors who are in the Constituent Unit the Candidate seeks to represent. Incumbent College Representatives must obtain five (5) signatures if they wish to run for re-election. Electors may sign as many petitions as there are seats available for their Constituent Unit, i.e. A student in the College of Science may sign three candidate packets for Constituency Representative because there are three Representative seats for the College of Science.

2. Nominating petitions for candidates to be an At-Large Representatives shall carry ten (10) spaces for signatures and student identification information needed to verify signatures. Each Candidate shall submit a completed petition containing ten (10) signatures and identification information from Electors who are not members of the Constituent Unit of which the Candidate is a member, and are not GPSC Representatives. Incumbent At-Large Representatives must obtain five (5) signatures if they wish to run for re-election. Electors may sign up to three (3) petitions for At-Large Representative candidates.

3. Nominating petitions for candidates to be GPSC President or GPSC Vice President shall submit a completed petition containing the signatures and the identification information of twenty (20) eligible electors. At least ten (10) of the Electors shall be neither GPSC Representatives nor members of the candidate’s constituent unit. In addition, a petitioner shall submit a statement of intention, of not more than 400 words, explaining the petitioner’s interest in the GPSC, and explaining how the petitioner would contribute to improving the quality of life for graduate and professional students at the University of Arizona, if he or she were to be elected to the position of GPSC President or GPSC Vice President.

4. In order to become an alternate representative by petition of the GPSC, a student shall submit a completed petition containing the signatures and the identification information of ten (10) eligible electors from the Constituent Unit for which the petitioner seeks to become an alternate representative. In addition, a petitioner shall submit a statement of intention, of not more than 200 words, explaining the petitioner’s interest in the GPSC, and explaining how the petitioner would contribute to improving the quality of life for graduate and professional students at the University of Arizona, if he or she were to become a Representative for his or her Constituent Unit.

5. Candidates from the Colleges of Letters, Arts, and Sciences (CLAS) shall be considered as part of their “home” unit (i.e. Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Science, or Fine Arts). As such, nominating petitions for constituent representative candidates shall contain signatures from students within the home unit; nominating petitions for At-Large Representative candidates or officers shall contain the requisite number of signatures from students outside the home unit but may contain signatures from students in other CLAS units.

6. For candidates who are dually enrolled in more than one college, nominating petitions for at-large representative or officer positions shall contain the requisite number of signatures from students outside either college in which the candidate is enrolled.

B. The Elections Notification shall contain the following items:
1. Descriptions of the duties of Representatives, Officers and Directors.
2. Relevant information regarding attendance at general GPSC meetings and forms of remuneration for various positions in GPSC.
3. The dates for all deadlines related to the elections.
4. A nominating petition form.

Article III, Section 3 – Mandatory Extensions of Deadlines for Candidacy
A. In the case where fewer than two persons submit candidacy packets for the position of GPSC President, there will be an automatic one week extension of the deadline for submission of candidacy materials for the position. The extension will be announced immediately to members of the GPSC Assembly. 

B. In the case where fewer than two persons submit candidacy packets for the position of GPSC Vice President, there will be an automatic one week extension of the deadline for submission of candidacy materials for the position. The extension will be announced immediately to members of the GPSC Assembly. 

**Article IV – Campaign Expenses, Conduct and Materials**

**Article IV, Section 1 – Spending Limits**
A. Candidates shall not spend more than $50.00 for all materials associated with the candidate’s campaign. 
B. Violation of Section 1(A) may result in disqualification of the Candidate from the election.

**Article IV, Section 2 – Accounting of Expenses**
A. A Candidate shall be responsible for keeping receipts of all expenses associated with his or her campaign. The Elections Director may audit any Candidate’s campaign expenditures if there is reasonable evidence that a violation of Article IV, Section 1 has occurred. 
B. Failure to comply with requests for receipts may result in disqualification of the Candidate from the election.

**Article IV, Section 3 – Campaign Conduct**
A. No campaigning is allowed in the following areas: U of A classrooms while class is in session, or at any GPSC General Council meeting. 
B. If electronic resources hosted or maintained by the University of Arizona are used for campaign purposes, candidates must comply with respective University of Arizona policies. 
C. No campaign posters shall be posted at the GPSC offices. No GPSC organization or any organization whose funding is entirely dependent on GPSC shall officially or publicly endorse a Candidate.

**Article IV, Section 4 – Campaign Materials**
A. Each Candidate shall be responsible for the removal of any campaign materials posted by the candidate in classrooms or other public announcement boards at the end of his or her campaign. 
B. No Candidate shall remove the campaign materials of other Candidates before or during the election. Candidates who do so, or who direct others to do so, may be disqualified from the election.

**Article V – Election of the GPSC Officers**

**Article V, Section 1 – Election of the GPSC President, GPSC Executive Vice President, and GPSC Administrative Vice President**
The GPSC President and Vice Presidents will be elected during the GPSC general elections by a vote of the UA graduate and professional student body.

**Article V, Section 2 – Election of the internally-elected GPSC Executive Board Positions**
A. The GPSC Assembly Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, and any other Executive Board positions not covered by Article V, Section 1 shall be elected at the second GPSC general meeting following election of Representatives. All newly elected, incumbent and outgoing Representatives, At-Large
Representatives, and Officers shall be allowed to vote in the election. The elections shall be conducted by written ballot, to be provided by the Elections Director.

B. Each person who wishes to be a candidate for an internally-elected GPSC Executive Board position shall contact the Elections Director at least five (5) days prior to the scheduled election date. Candidates must contact the Elections Director to announce their candidacy for specific positions. Candidates are encouraged to announce their candidacy to the Council prior to contacting the Elections Director, but the Elections Director will make an official announcement of the candidates for each position at least three days before the election.

C. Candidates for internally-elected Executive Board positions shall be Alternate or elected Representatives.

D. Every candidate to be GPSC Assembly Chairperson, Treasurer, or Secretary, if he or she chooses to give a campaign speech, shall be allowed to speak for not more than five (5) minutes. If a candidate does speak for more than five minutes, he or she will receive a verbal warning from the Elections Director to stop speaking. If the candidate does not stop speaking within 15 seconds, he/she will be disqualified from the Officer election. When all Officer candidates’ speeches are finished, the Council shall vote by ballot. A person who is competing for multiple positions will be allowed only one minute for subsequent speeches.

E. The Elections shall be held in the following order: Assembly Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, any remaining positions. Eligible persons may be candidates for as many positions as they wish, but once they have been elected to a position they immediately forfeit their candidacy for all the remaining positions.

F. Proxy votes for the internal officer elections shall not be allowed, but absentee votes for particular candidates for particular positions may be submitted to the Elections Director. Such votes will be counted along with the written ballots that are collected by the Elections Director.

G. In the case of the elections for the Assembly Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary, the candidates receiving a plurality of votes will be elected to the respective positions.

H. Procedures for any internally-elected Executive Board positions not specified here are left to the discretion of the Elections Director with approval by a majority vote of the General Council.

**Article VI – Conduct of Elections**

**Article VI, Section 1 – Procedures**
The Elections Director shall refer to the Arizona Revised Statutes for all matters concerning conduct of elections not specifically provided for in the Code or the GPSC Constitution.

**Article VI, Section 2 – Election Dates**
A. All relevant election dates shall be set forth in the Elections Notification, as consistent with the GPSC Constitution.

B. Special elections shall be scheduled by the Elections Director and shall be governed by the rules set forth in Article VII of the GPSC Constitution.

C. Representative elections shall be completed no later than three (3) weeks after nominating petitions are due.

D. Election dates may only be changed after the Elections Commission submits a written finding to the Council that the constitutionally required timing of the election cannot be accommodated. Changes must be approved by a majority vote of the Council and apply only to the specific election under consideration.

**Article VI, Section 3 – Ballots**
A. GPSC elections will be held online.

B. Candidates’ names will be placed on the ballot according to a procedure of random selection carried out by the Elections Director.
C. Each qualified elector may cast a number of votes equal to a maximum of the number of Representative positions available for the elector’s constituent unit.
D. In the GPSC general election, each qualified elector may cast three votes for candidates to be GPSC At-Large Representatives.
E. Each qualified elector may cast one vote each for GPSC President and each GPSC Vice President.
F. An online ballot will be available for every constituent unit, including units for which there is no representative candidate. The ballot shall include space for a write-in candidate for each constituent unit and At-Large Representatives, respectively.
G. Every Elector may only give one vote to each candidate on the ballot.
H. Results from the election shall be posted no later than one (1) week after the last day of balloting.

**Article VI, Section 4 – Tabulation**
A. Tabulation of official ballots will be done electronically through the use of University Information Technology Services (UITS) software.
B. In the case of the elections for the President and Vice Presidents, the candidates receiving a plurality of votes will be elected to the respective positions.
C. In the case of Representative elections, where there may be one, two, or three positions, the one, two, or three candidates receiving the most votes will be elected to the position(s).
D. In the event of a tie between candidates to be a constituent unit Representative there will be a special election no later than two (2) weeks after the general election to determine which candidate will be a Representative of that Constituent Unit.
E. In the event of a tie between candidates to be an At-large Representative, there will be a special election no later than two (2) weeks after the general election to determine who will be an At-Large Representative.
F. In the event of a tie between candidates to be the GPSC President or GPSC Vice President, there will be a special election no later than two (2) weeks after the general election to determine who will assume the respective position.

**Article VI, Section 5 – Election to Multiple Posts**
A. As a part of the GPSC General Election, any qualified student may be a candidate to be a GPSC Representative and a GPSC Officer.
B. In the event that a candidate is elected to be both a GPSC Representative and the GPSC President or a GPSC Vice President, the candidate immediately forfeits his/her position as a GPSC Representative.
C. No person may be placed on the ballot for more than one of the following positions: GPSC President, GPSC Executive Vice President, and GPSC Administrative Vice President. Any person who submits candidacy materials for more than one position will be immediately informed of the problem, and the person shall immediately decide the post for which he/she will be a candidate.

**Article VI, Section 6 - Write-In Candidates for Representative**
A. Candidates for constituent unit or At-Large Representative who did not submit a Nominating Petition may be elected by having electors write in their name on the ballot, if they meet all candidacy requirements for eligibility under Article III, Section 1.
B. A write-in candidate is elected in accordance with Chapter 6, Section 6.4 if the candidate:
   i. Garnered two (2) or more votes in the election;
   ii. The candidate accepts his/her election within one (1) week after the election.
C. Vacancies for constituent unit Representatives for the units under Article IX are expressly excluded from this write-in provision.

**Article VII – Inauguration and Terms of Office**
Article VII, Section 1 – Inauguration
All Representatives and Officers elected through the process of the GPSC General Elections (including Assembly Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary) will be inaugurated at the last GPSC meeting of the spring semester. The inauguration shall include administration of the GPSC oath to each newly elected Officer and Representative.

Article VII, Section 2 – Terms of Office
The terms of office for Representatives and Officers shall begin upon inauguration and end once the next general assembly is inaugurated, barring resignation, impeachment, or recall.

Article VIII – Elections Director and Elections Commission

Article VIII, Section 1 - Elections Director
A. The Elections Director shall be charged with conducting annual GPSC elections pursuant to the Code, and with recommending amendments to the Code when necessary.
B. In the event the Elections Director is unable to fulfill his or her obligations, the Program Coordinator shall assume the role of interim Elections Director until the council has appointed a new Elections Director.
C. The Elections Director may not preside over any GPSC election in which he/she is a candidate. The Elections Director may not become a candidate in any GPSC election if he/she serves as Elections Director for at least one (1) day during the academic term in which that election is planned or held. In the event that the Elections Director wishes to be a candidate in any GPSC election, he/she must resign from the post of Elections Director and inform his/her supervisor prior to the end of the first day of the academic term in which the GPSC election is planned for.
D. The Elections Director shall take an oath to uphold the Code and the GPSC Constitution.

Article VIII, Section 2 – Elections Commission
A. The Elections Commission will assist the Elections Director, upon request and with reasonable notice, with all aspects of the election process.
B. The Elections Commission shall consist of the Elections Director and three Representatives who are not themselves candidates for election.
C. The Elections Commission will handle all elections disputes and provide the executive committee with all relevant information regarding possible Representative removal actions.
D. The Elections Director will preside over the Elections Commission.

Article IX – Alternate Graduate and Professional Student Governing Bodies

Article IX, Section 1 – The Master’s of Business Administration Student Association
A. The MBA Student Association will determine the MBA Representative to the GPSC according to its own internally determined procedure. The MBA Student Association has jurisdiction over this procedure, and the conduct of the procedure is exempted from the preceding chapters of the GPSC Elections Code, save that the Representative must be a student who is currently enrolled in the MBA program at the U of A. The MBA Student Association may choose to delegate the election of the MBA Representative to the GPSC Elections Director.
B. In the GPSC general election, each MBA may cast votes for candidates to be GPSC At-Large Representatives up to a maximum of the number of candidates, and may cast one vote each for GPSC President and GPSC Vice President.
C. The MBA Representative to the GPSC shall be inaugurated by the GPSC.
D. The duly elected incoming MBA Representative may run to be a GPSC officer and may vote in the Elections of the internally-elected Executive Board positions. The duly elected outgoing MBA Representative may vote in the Elections of the internally-elected Executive Board positions.

Article IX, Section 2 – The College of Medicine Student Government
A. The College of Medicine Student Government will determine the Medicine Representative to the GPSC according to its own internally determined procedure. The College of Medicine Student Government has jurisdiction over this procedure, and the conduct of the procedure is exempted from the preceding chapters of the GPSC Elections Code, save that the Representative must be a student who is currently enrolled in the College of Medicine program at the U of A. The College of Medicine Student Government may choose to delegate the election of the Medicine Representative to the GPSC Elections Director.
B. In the GPSC general election, each College of Medicine student may cast votes for candidates to be GPSC At-Large Representatives up to a maximum of the number of candidates, and may cast one vote each for GPSC President and GPSC Vice President.
C. The Medicine Representative to the GPSC shall be inaugurated by the GPSC.
D. The duly elected incoming Medicine Representative may run to be a GPSC officer and may vote in the Elections of the internally-elected Executive Board positions. The duly elected outgoing Medicine Representative may vote in the Elections of the internally-elected Executive Board positions.

Article IX, Section 3 – The College of Law Student Bar Association
A. The College of Law Student Bar Association will determine the College of Law’s two Representatives to the GPSC according to its own internally determined procedure. The College of Law Student Bar Association has jurisdiction over this procedure, and the conduct of the procedure is exempted from the preceding chapters of the GPSC Elections Code, save that the Representative must be a student who is currently enrolled in the College of Law program at the U of A. The College of Law Student Bar Association may choose to delegate the election of the College of Law Representatives to the GPSC Elections Director.
B. In the GPSC general election, each College of Law student may cast votes for candidates to be GPSC At-Large Representatives up to a maximum of the number of candidates, and may cast one vote each for GPSC President and GPSC Vice President.
C. The College of Law Representatives to the GPSC shall be inaugurated by the GPSC.
D. The duly elected incoming College of Law Representatives may run to be a GPSC officer and may vote in the Elections of the internally-elected Executive Board positions. The duly elected outgoing College of Law Representatives may vote in the Elections of the internally-elected Executive Board positions.

Article IX, Section 4 – The College of Pharmacy Ph.D. Student Government
A. The College of Pharmacy Ph.D. Student Government will determine the College of Pharmacy Ph.D. Representative to the GPSC according to its own internally determined procedure. The College of Pharmacy Ph.D. Student Government has jurisdiction over this procedure, and the conduct of the procedure is exempted from the preceding chapters of the GPSC Elections Code, save that the Representative must be a student who is currently enrolled in the College of Pharmacy Ph.D. program at the U of A. The College of Pharmacy Ph.D. Student Government may choose to delegate the election of the College of Pharmacy Ph.D. Representative to the GPSC Elections Director.
B. In the GPSC general election, each College of Pharmacy Ph.D. student may cast votes for candidates to be GPSC At-Large Representatives up to a maximum of the number of candidates, and may cast one vote each for GPSC President and GPSC Vice President.

C. The College of Pharmacy Ph.D. Representative to the GPSC shall be inaugurated by the GPSC.

D. The duly elected in-coming College of Pharmacy Ph.D. Representative may run to be a GPSC officer and may vote in the Elections of the internally-elected Executive Board positions. The duly elected out-going College of Pharmacy Ph.D. Representative may vote in the Elections of the internally-elected Executive Board positions.