

Elections Code
Graduate and Professional Student Council
University of Arizona
Amended April 22, 2009

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Chapter 1 – General Provisions

Section 1.1 – 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 Articles III and IV 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.
- O. Shall means that the individual assigned a responsibility is required to fulfill that responsibility. Compare may. If no person is designated to fulfill a responsibility, the Elections Director is charged with it.
- P. Student means a person enrolled as a full-time or part-time graduate or professional student at the University of Arizona.
- Q. U of A means the University of Arizona.

Section 1.2 – Implementation

The Elections Director shall be responsible for implementation of, and compliance with, the provisions of the Code.

Section 1.3 – 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 Section 1.3.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.

Chapter 2 – Qualifications of Electors

Section 2.1 – 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 provide a valid official U of A student identification number.

Chapter 3 – Candidate Eligibility and Qualifications

Section 3-1 Candidate Eligibility and Qualifications

A student desiring to become a Candidate for any elected GPSC position must meet the following requirements:

- A. The student must currently be in good standing as defined by the U of A extracurricular eligibility requirements for his/her program.
- B. 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.
- C. The student must be enrolled as a graduate or professional student at the University of Arizona.
- D. 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.

Section 3.2 – 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.

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.
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 Representative 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 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.

Section 3.3 – 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.

Chapter 4 – Campaign Expenses, Conduct and Materials

Section 4.1 – Spending Limits

- A. Candidates shall not spend more than \$50.00 for all materials associated with the candidate's campaign.
- B. Violation of Section 4-1(A) may result in disqualification of the Candidate from the election.

Section 4.2 – 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 Section 4-1 has occurred.
- B. Failure to comply with requests for receipts may result in disqualification of the Candidate from the election.

Section 4.3 – Campaign Conduct

- A. No campaigning is allowed in the following areas: the U of A mall, classrooms while class is in session, or at any GPSC functions.
- B. All electronic communications originating from a candidate that are intended to persuade members of the student body to vote for or against any candidate, including but not limited to email messages and messages or posts through online networking sites such as Facebook, must be sent to individual addresses and must personally address the recipient. Campaigning

via list-serves or lists of e-mail addresses is prohibited. The use of list-serves or lists of e-mail addresses to promote voting in general is allowed.

- 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.

Section 4.4 – 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.
- 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.

Chapter 5 – Election of the GPSC Officers

Section 5.1 – Election of the GPSC President and the GPSC Vice President

The GPSC President and Vice President will be elected during the GPSC general elections by a vote of the UA graduate and professional student body.

Section 5.2 – Election of the GPSC Assembly Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary

- A. The GPSC Assembly Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary 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 to be the GPSC Assembly Chairperson, Treasurer, or Secretary shall contact the Elections Director at least five 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 to be Assembly Chairperson, Treasurer, or Secretary 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 Assembly Chairperson 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. 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.

Chapter 6 – Conduct of Elections

Section 6.1 – 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.

Section 6.2 – 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.

Section 6.3 – Ballots

- A.** GPSC elections will be held online through the University Information Technology Services (UITS).
- 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 GPSC Vice President.
- F. An online ballot will be available for every constituent unit, including units for which there is no representative candidate.
- G. Results from the election shall be posted no later than one (1) week after the last day of balloting.

Section 6.4 – 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 President, 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.

Section 6.5 – 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 the GPSC Vice President, the candidate immediately forfeits his/her position as a GPSC Representative.

- C. No person may be placed on the ballot for both GPSC President and GPSC Vice President. Any person who submits candidacy materials for both positions will be immediately informed of the problem, and the person shall immediately decide which post for which he/she will be a candidate.

Chapter 7 – Inauguration and Terms of Office

Section 7.1 – 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 loyalty oath required by A.R.S. § 3 8-23 to each newly elected Officer and Representative. Further, each newly elected Officer and Representative shall take an oath to uphold the GPSC Constitution.

Section 7.2 – Terms of Office

The term of office for Representatives and Officers elected through the process of the GPSC General Elections (including Assembly Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary) shall begin at 8:00am on the first Saturday of May, and end at 8:00am on the first Saturday of May of the following year, barring resignation, impeachment, or recall.

Section 7.3 – New Representative Orientation

Prior to the meeting at which the Assembly Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary are elected, the incumbent GPSC Officers will conduct an orientation of the newly elected GPSC Representatives. The orientation will focus on describing the duties of the three internally elected GPSC officers.

Chapter 8 – Elections Director and Elections Commission

Section 8.1 - Elections Director

- A. The President's Chief of Staff shall fulfill the role of Elections Director. In the event the Chief of Staff is unable to fulfill this obligation, the Assembly Chair shall assume the role of Elections Director. In the event that neither the Chief of Staff nor the Assembly Chair are available, an Elections Director will be appointed by the Executive Board.
- B. The Elections Director shall be charged with conducting annual GPSC elections pursuant to the Code, and with recommending amendments to the Code when necessary.
- C. The Elections Director shall file all loyalty oaths with the Graduate College, pursuant to A.R.S. § 28-233.
- D. The Elections Director's other responsibilities shall be determined by GPSC pursuant to the rules set forth in Article V of the GPSC Constitution.

- E. The Elections Director may not preside over any GPSC election in which he/she is a candidate. In the event that the Elections Director wishes to be a candidate in any GPSC election, he/she must immediately resign from the post of Elections Director.

Section 8.2 – Elections Commission

- A. The Elections Commission will assist the Election’s 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.

Chapter 9 – Alternate Graduate and Professional Student Governing Bodies

Section 9.1 – 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, and this inauguration shall include administration of the loyalty oath required by A.R.S. § 3 8-23, and an oath to uphold the GPSC Constitution.
- D. The duly elected in-coming MBA Representative may run to be a GPSC officer and may vote in the Elections of the GPSC Assembly Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary. The duly elected out-going MBA Representative may vote in the Elections of the GPSC Assembly Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Section 9.2 – The PharmD Student Government

- A. The PharmD Student Government will determine the PharmD Representative to the GPSC according to its own internally determined procedure. The PharmD 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 PharmD program at the U of A. The PharmD Student Government may choose to delegate the election of the PharmD Representative to the GPSC Elections Director.

- B.** In the GPSC general election, each PharmD 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 PharmD Representative to the GPSC shall be inaugurated by the GPSC, and this inauguration shall include administration of the loyalty oath required by A.R.S. § 3 8-23, and an oath to uphold the GPSC Constitution.
- D.** The duly elected in-coming PharmD Representative may run to be a GPSC officer and may vote in the Elections of the GPSC Assembly Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary. The duly elected out-going PharmD Representative may vote in the Elections of the GPSC Assembly Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Section 9.3 – 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, and this inauguration shall include administration of the loyalty oath required by A.R.S. § 3 8-23, and an oath to uphold the GPSC Constitution.
- D.** The duly elected in-coming Medicine Representative may run to be a GPSC officer and may vote in the Elections of the GPSC Assembly Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary. The duly elected out-going Medicine Representative may vote in the Elections of the GPSC Assembly Chairperson, Treasurer, and Secretary.