

Article VII - Executive Council Elections Procedures:

A. The officers of the Executive Council consist of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Social Chair.

B. The vice president is the Elections Coordinator and will coordinate the election with the liaison from the Student Information Network (SIN). If the vice president is a candidate for election, the President will appoint a new Elections Coordinator from the Executive Council or GSA Representatives to perform these duties.

C. The election procedure shall be as follows:

a. Nominations

- i. The deadline to submit nominations is one week prior to the GSA meeting where candidates' give their presentations. A call for nominations will be distributed to all graduate students and departments within the College of Arts and Sciences at least two weeks prior to the presentations meeting.
- ii. Any graduate student in the School of Arts and Sciences can nominate any graduate student in the School of Arts and Sciences, including himself or herself, for any position.
- iii. A nomination must be accepted by the nominee in person, in writing, or via email to the Elections Coordinator prior to the deadline.

b. Presentations, Questioning and Discussion

- i. Candidate presentations, questioning, and discussion will be held at the GSA meeting preceding elections. All graduate students within the College of Arts and Sciences will be notified of this meeting at least one week prior to the chosen date.
- ii. Presentations will begin with candidates for the office of President. Each presidential candidate will make their presentation in the order in which their nominations were accepted. Presentations will follow in a similar fashion for each of the other offices in the following order: Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Social Chair.
- iii. All candidates for a position shall leave the room, except for the first candidate in order of accepted nomination, who shall remain in the room.
- iv. Each candidate will make a speech of no more than 3 minutes in length. If a candidate is unable to be present during the election process, they shall submit a written statement to the Election Coordinator to be read aloud during the meeting.
- v. After speaking, the candidate shall answer questions relevant to their speech and qualifications posed by attending members for 3 minutes. The Election Coordinator reserves the right to determine whether or not a question is relevant and appropriate.
- vi. When the question period is complete, the candidate shall leave the room, and the next candidate shall enter for their presentation and question

periods. This shall continue until all candidates have presented and answered questions.

vii. After all candidates for a position have spoken and answered the questions of the general body, a discussion of 3 minutes shall take place while the candidates are not in the room. This discussion period can be extended or cut short by a majority vote of the GSA Council.

viii. Candidates will be required to post written statements on the SIN GSA Elections web site no later than three days after nominations close.

c. Voting Procedure

i. Every student enrolled as a graduate student in the College of Arts & Sciences may cast one secret ballot in each race for which they are eligible to vote.

ii. Voters rank candidates in order, as #1, #2, #3, etc. A simple majority of votes is needed to win an election. In the event that a simple majority is not reached because there are more than two candidates, there will be an instant run off. In the runoff the candidate with the least #1 votes is eliminated from the race. The second choice votes from these ballots are then added to the tallies of the other candidates, and the process is repeated until someone has a majority of votes.

iii. Elections will take place on-line using the SIN.

iv. Voters have the choice of voting for any of the candidates or abstaining from the vote.

v. In the event that only one candidate is running for a position, voters can vote for or against the candidate or abstain.

vi. All graduate students in the College of Arts & Sciences will be notified of the date(s) of the election at least one week prior to their beginning.

vii. Elections will last 24 hours, from midnight to midnight and must take place on a weekday (Monday through Thursday) within one week following the candidate presentations.

viii. The election coordinator shall notify the winner of each race following the elections.

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