Georgia Southern
Student Government Association
Elections Guidelines
Update Spring 2017

These guidelines are deemed final for the upcoming elections at the Spring Retreat.
No changes will be made after the Spring Retreat.
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ARTICLE I: Candidate qualifications:

1. Must currently be a student regularly enrolled and in good standing at Georgia Southern University.
2. Candidates must complete all appropriate forms of candidacy.
3. Candidates must attend one of the mandatory candidate’s meetings.
4. Candidates must not currently be on disciplinary probation.
5. Candidates must plan to be enrolled in fall and spring academic semesters.
6. Candidates must have a 2.50 minimum cumulative GPA at time of nomination and maintain this adjusted GPA throughout the entire term of office.
7. Candidates running for Executive Office must have one semester of SGA Experience.
8. Candidates running for President should identify a running mate to run as the Executive Vice-President. The President and Executive Vice-President will appear as one entity on the voting ballot (Myinvolvement).
9. Candidates must be enrolled for at least four (4) credit hours at Georgia Southern University at time of nomination, throughout each semester in office, and have paid student activity fees.
10. Once elected, candidates must continue to meet candidacy qualifications for the term of office.
11. Students involved in any University System of Georgia program which requires organizational involvement with Georgia Southern University shall be exempt from Article 3, Section A, Line item 1.
12. No part of this constitution shall be construed so as to prevent Executive Officers or Senators from holding an internship, Co-op, or student teach during his/her term of office, provided office hours are maintained, and the student is enrolled in no less than four (4) hours. In addition, Executive Officers enrolled in such programs shall maintain seventy percent of their office hours between 8 AM and 7 PM, Monday through Friday and Senators enrolled in such programs shall maintain their responsibilities as laid out in the Student Government Association Constitution.

ARTICLE II: Candidate Responsibilities:

1. Candidates must attend to the maintenance of posted materials, such as sheet signs, posters, flyers, etc. (please see attached Student Organizations Handbook—Publicity restriction pages).
2. Any campaigning material must comply with the rules of the building.
3. Candidates should maintain good taste in all campaign materials and displays. Slander and obscene language will not be permitted and candidates are encouraged to remain tactful.
4. Candidates must sign a contract and follow all election guidelines.
ARTICLE III: Elections Committee Responsibilities:

1. The elections committee shall regulate and monitor all candidates’ adherence to these campaign policies.
2. According to Article VI, Section A of the constitution, the Elections Committee shall be overseen by the Graduate Assistant of the Student Government Association and may be chaired by a Senator of his/her choosing. He/she is responsible for all election procedures and shall be the first level of appeals for election violations. This Senator will also serve as the official spokesperson that will represent the elections committee entirely.
3. Anyone can report irregularities of the Elections Committee and this can be reported to the Student Government Association Advisor (Dean of Students).
4. To be a member of the Elections Committee, you cannot be affiliated with the elections and returning to Senate in the following year.
5. The elections committee is not responsible for notifying any candidates about the campaign strategies and events of the other candidates.

ARTICLE IV: Campaigning Regulations:

1. Campaigning is defined as a series of coordinated activities, such as public speaking and demonstrating, designed to achieve a social, political, or commercial goal.
   a. Includes, but is not limited to:
      i. update or creation of public social media websites (ie. Twitter, Facebook, Instagram etc.)
      1. Includes biographies, profile and/or cover pictures, increase in followers/friends etc.
   b. Meetings regarding a campaign held with individuals that are not affiliated with Student Government Association and/or have not completed all requirements for candidacy.
      i. Any student attending a meeting for a campaign must be in compliance with all regulations listed in Section I: Candidate Qualifications.
   c. Announcing candidacy to any individual(s) not affiliated with Student Government Association and/or are not in compliance with all regulations listed in Section I: Candidate Qualifications.
   d. Any public announcement of candidacy in any form including verbal, written (by hand or by electronic mail), and social media posting or messages.
2. Posters and flyers will be restricted in size to 8 ½” x 14” in all facilities.
3. Please see attached for sheet signs guidelines.
4. Chalking on the pedestriun or outside buildings is prohibited.
5. No campaign material may be posted on the “pedestriun”.
6. Any candidate appearing on the official ballot may reserve a room/table in the Russell Union or on the Russell Union rotunda during the campaign period.
a. Reservations can be made for no more than two days per candidate (must be non-consecutive) and for no more than four hours per day (must be consecutive).

7. During the campaigning period, campaigning will be permitted inside computer labs and classrooms.

8. Campaigning in classrooms will be permitted at the discretion of each individual professor.

9. Campaigning will not be permitted inside any classroom or computer lab while polls are open.

10. The election committee can recommend penalties due to the lack of adhering to campaign policies.

11. There should be no campaigning in the Student Government Association Office (Russell Union 1010) during the SGA elections.

12. Campaigning is not permitted in any Residence Hall. Any requests for exceptions to this policy are to be sent to the Director of Residence Life.

13. Candidates must remove all campaign materials posted within three days after the election or run-off election.

14. All voting incentives shall be open to the entire student body.

15. Candidates are NOT PERMITTED to require SGA election voting confirmation in exchange for voting incentives.

16. If a candidate desires to be part of a “ticket”, she/he must make it known on the elections application. The way your name is written on your ticket is how it will appear on the election’s ballot (via Myinvolvement).

17. Each candidate will confirm their name on the ticket once contacted through e-mail by the Graduate Assistant. It is your responsibility to respond to the e-mail in order to confirm your spot on the ticket. If your name is not confirmed by the deadline via e-mail, your name will be removed from the ticket.

18. The number of individuals per college on your ticket may include executive board member positions ONLY.

19. Tickets are optional. If individuals decide to run with a ticket, the ticket may include all Executive Positions.

20. If an incumbent candidate desires to have the term “Incumbent” next to his or her name on the ballot, he/she must make it known on the elections application.

21. The term incumbent, for this purpose, is defined as an individual who is currently serving in the same capacity as the office they are running for in Georgia Southern University’s Student Government Association.

22. Campaigning is to begin the second Monday after Spring Break, at 12:00 a.m. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.
ARTICLE V: Campaign Violations:

Section A: Procedures for Reporting Campaign Violations

1. Formal complaints must be submitted to the Student Government Advisor within twenty-four hours of the alleged violation and must be in writing with a signature of the individual filing the complaint and the signature of a witness. The Student Government advisor will forward the complaint to the chair of the elections committee.
2. In order to determine the validity of the complaint, a meeting will be held by the elections committee after a formal written complaint has been filed.
3. If deemed necessary by the elections committee, a hearing will be held and moderated by either the Chair of the Elections Committee, the SGA Advisor, or his/her designee and all parties involved will be in attendance.

Section B: Fines for violations of election procedures:

1. All poster and banner violations will be subject to fines of $10 each. Fines are levied for violations per poster and banner. In addition, all material not removed within seventy-two hours following the election results will result in a $10 fine per violation.
2. Anyone campaigning within twenty-five (25) feet of a polling area (computer labs) shall be fined $10 per violation.
3. Fines should be paid to the current SGA Vice President of Finance within one week of notification of said violation. If a violator is delinquent in paying the fines, he/she may not be allowed to register for classes for the next semester. In addition, if the violator is elected, he/she will not be allowed to take office until all fines have been paid.
4. Fines will be levied to the individual(s) name(s) listed on the campaign material.

Section C: Grounds for Contesting the Election Results:

1. Irregularities by the election committee or violation of campaign rules by a candidate or anyone involved in the election procedures shall be grounds for contesting the election.
2. Any irregularity is defined as a violation whose penalty is not covered by the campaign regulations packet or whose ramifications could drastically alter the official results of the election.
3. The right to contest may extend to incidents where the campaign committee may have voluntarily or involuntarily taken actions that may have altered the outcome of the elections.
4. Violations of campaign rules by a candidate.
5. Other instances seen as irregular and/or disruptive by the Election Committee.

**Section D: Procedures for Contesting the Election Results:**

1. If a candidate wishes to contest the election, he/she must do so in writing within forty-eight (48) hours of the election, stating the reasons for contesting the elections to the Director of Student Conduct (weekends are not included in the forty-eight (48) hour time span).
2. The University Judicial Board will hold a hearing, if necessary as soon as possible after the election is contested to consider any candidate’s case. Only a recognized candidate can contest the Student Government Association election. **THE DECISION RENDERED BY THE UNIVERSITY JUDICIAL BOARD WILL BE CONSIDERED FINAL.**

**ARTICLE VI --- ELECTIONS**

**Section A: Voter Eligibility**

1. An eligible voter shall be defined as anyone who has paid their spring semester activity fees.
2. Each eligible voter will be allowed to vote only once.
3. Voting more than once will result in your disqualification as a voter and your ballot will be considered null and void.

**Section B: Candidates Procedures**

1. The nomination/application process shall be no less than one week.
2. A mandatory candidates meeting will be set and advertised by the Elections Committee.

**Section C: Electoral Procedures**

1. Elections will be held campus wide during the Spring Semester. There will be two options for electoral procedures. The Student Government Association reserves the right to select the option.
   a. **Option 1: Hand Ballot Elections**
      i. The Elections Committee is responsible for simultaneously holding 3 days of elections at no less than 3 locations. The results will be posted by 5 PM on the day following the final day of the elections in the Student Government Office.
   b. **Option 2: Online Elections**
Online elections will begin at 12 AM on the first day and end after 72 hours. The results will be posted no later than 12 hours following the completion of the elections.

Voting will occur on the third Monday after Spring Break, at 12:00 a.m. through the following Wednesday at 11:59 p.m.

ARTICLE VII: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Section A: Campus Sheet Sign Policy
1. Sheet signs are a unique and long standing tradition at Georgia Southern University. There are guidelines however, as to how and where you may hang the signs on campus.
2. Sheet signs should always be attractive and tasteful and have the sponsoring organization’s name clearly displayed. If a sheet sign becomes torn or unreadable it must be removed immediately or it will be removed by the University and charges will be assigned to the organization. Signs and guy ropes should be removed by noon on the work day after the event. Signs should not be displayed for more than two (2) weeks prior to the event. Signs should include the name, date and time of the event or an expiration date (i.e. Student Government Association - Welcomes Students 8/28/09.)
3. Sheet signs should be hung using rope or string. Do not nail or tack the signs to trees. The guy ropes shall not be more than 10 feet above the ground. This is due to OSHA considerations and to maintain the aesthetics of the campus.
4. The signs should not block a sidewalk, hinder pedestrian traffic in any way, or be hung on street corners that would block a driver’s view of oncoming traffic.
5. Sheet signs are not permitted on the pedestrain, Sweetheart Circle, gated entrances, buildings, Southern Drive, or any other entrance onto campus. Sheet signs should not be hung adjacent to academic buildings.
6. Any sheet signs hung near a residence hall must obtain permission from University Housing.
7. Signs removed by Physical Plant will be placed in a dumpster.

Section B: Campus Sheet Sign Locations
1. Banners and signs are prohibited within 100 feet of any entrance to the campus of Georgia Southern University. Specifically, the following locations are deemed to be entrances to campus:
2. Corner of Tillman Road and Fair Road
3. Intersection of Herty Drive and Fair Road
4. Intersection of Chandler Road and Fair Road
5. Intersection of Akins Blvd. and Veterans Memorial Parkway
6. Intersection of South Main Street (U. S. Highway 301 South) and Old Register Road
7. Intersection of South Main Street (U.S. Highway 301 South) and Parrish Drive
8. Intersection of South Main Street (U.S. Highway 301 South) and Southern Drive
9. Intersection of South Main Street (U.S. Highway 301 South) and Tillman Road
10. Signs are permitted in following locations:
11. Forrest Drive
12. Russell Union Entrance Roadway (Closest to Chandler and Fair Road Entrance)
13. Chandler Road
14. Akins Boulevard

To see entire Georgia Southern University Student Organization Handbook:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bw2qAUC5k9cTG9hRDR4YjVNR0U/view