

Senate Meeting
March 7, 2015
5:30 PM

Meeting Agenda

- A. Trumpet Ensemble performance 5:30
- B. Constitutional Amendments – 5:41
 - a. President introduces preamble and defends purpose of this section
 - Question raised on need to separate grad student body and grad student council as two entities
 - Proposal to change “voice” and “organization” to government, debate on need for organization to change resolved with change to voice only in preamble
 - Vote to include “government” instead of voice – 27 for, 0 against, 1 abstain,
 - Vote for preamble as changed – 27 for, 0 against, 1 abstain
 - b. President discusses changes to elections for executives and senators to take place in the month of April but not a specific week
 - Question on broad reference to this change, discussion on need for clarity and present this will be cleared on the bylaws not in the constitution
 - Vote for change on election time frame - 28 for, 0 against, 0 abstain
 - c. President discusses changes to senator elections section
 - Question raised on what process would be if no one ran for an office, stated as a change of process which will take time, discussion continues on need to state alternative method in constitution
 - Question on recourse for students if they question election process and feel election was truly an appointment or unfair, response that this issue would be sent to potential Judicial Branch
 - Second question on need for this statement in constitution
 - Question on possible change of statement to “elected or appointed”, question on when the senator elections should take place
 - Potential change to say “elected by his or her academic department”
 - Discussion on change of wording from “senator appointment” to “senator elect” and “elected” to “representative of”
 - Discuss change to “chosen” or “selected” instead of “elected” to limit specifics of statement, discuss that the purpose of this change to specify representatives are to be elected as representatives
 - Clarification that word elected as defined for either appointed, chosen, or elected
 - Vote on addition of word “elected” in place of appointment” – 17 yes, 6 no, 1 abstain
 - Vote on added sentence on “elected by his or her peers” – 3 yes, 19 no, 1 abstain
 - Question on need to clarify elected within each department
 - d. President introduces section on summer senate addition
 - Clarification that SGA body does have a functioning summer senate, additional comments from former SGA senator on function of summer senate as check and balance system and

helps new senate transition easily

- Question on why term does not extend to summer term, discuss not all serving senators are present in summer due to personal, professional reasons
 - Question on why 10 senators, discuss this reflects SGA format and is percentage of full senate
 - Question on why need to follow SGA format, discuss we model areas of SGA that we feel align to our needs but do not see need to duplicate everything they do
 - Question is at least 10 or 10 is max
 - Question on wording of appointment and role of incoming senators, clarification on ability of incoming senators having the ability to serve on summer senate as well as those having served last year, why not allow for open election in last senate meeting, discuss process and need to codify process as senate decision and not appointment by president, suggested changes to be included in bylaws, counter ideas that word “selected” implies lack of choice by senate, suggest change to “identified by president” and “elected by by a simple majority”
 - Vote on original proposed language 19 yes, 6 no, 2 abstain
 - Proposed change to “identified by the president” and “elected by simple majority”
 - Vote 22 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain
- e. President introduces addition of judicial branch to the grad student government body
- Question to propose including statement justices should be “confirmed by the senate”
 - Question on process of appointing justices, clarify would be students who volunteer to serve and are vetted by president
 - Question need for judicial branch and if need could be met by current system
 - Question on how judiciary would have power to imply vote within an election in a department was unfair or problem, discuss the body would have power to decide on anything in the GSC constitution with understanding any decision GSC makes is not official policy
 - Vote on addition of confirmation by senate statement – 23 yes, 0 no, 3 abstain
 - Clarification discussion on role and need for body
 - Propose addition of “and confirmed by senate simple majority” to section on advocate general
 - Vote – 23 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain
 - Vote on full addition of judicial branch – 21 yes, 3 no, 1 abstain
- C. Call to Order/Roll Call/Reading and Approval of Minutes – 7:10 pm
- D. 5 minute recess
- E. Reports of Officers, Standing and Special Committees

a. President – 7:24

- Senator Darla in hospital, card and information for care package exec will take to her this week
- SSF presentation made, requested increase in travel grant funding, decisions not out yet
- Meeting with president, discuss academic success center to be built in sage hall, discussed need for grad student support, writing and statistical support suggested, request for senators to find what support their students need from this type of center
- NT Daily working with GSC to better represent our work and needs of graduate students
- Vice Provost for Toulouse, sitting on search committee for this position, 4 candidates to be interviewing March 25th, GSC invited to be involved with process to meet candidates
- Big Event communication and sign up sheet to participate in this event
- Programming highlights, career center event and quiz bowl, caffeine and productivity going well, senator suggested the event on caffeine and productivity be extended to discovery park, career center offered mock interviews for grads very last minute but was successful, new career center advisor hired for graduate students
- GSC office encourage senators and students to stop by

- b. Vice President of Administration and Finance 7:38
 - Started semester with budget \$25,286, March 1 budget still being settled due to blackout, spent \$4,602 approximately and event fund spent \$2,182 with 7 organizations
 - LAD NAGPS 4 senators and executives attending, budgeted \$4,000 but likely not all will be sent
 - \$18,502 remaining in budget at this point but off slightly for pending charges
 - 4 college tours remaining to be scheduled
- c. Vice President of Communications and Marketing
 - Introduces new website, change to emails on legislation page
 - Tabling event last week at library, new one at discovery park March 25th
 - April 7th graduate student appreciation week, International Student event at Marquis Hall first floor
- d. Vice President of Programming and Outreach
 - Grad student appreciation week: need volunteers for events, bring people to event!
- e. Parliamentarian
 - New senator Rosa Jimenez welcomed
 - If you have legislation ideas prepare for April meeting, final chance to make real changes, if left to May meeting it may not take effect for a while
 - Weekly newsletter additions allowed, email Christian for inclusion
 - Speed Reading course at Learning Center
- F. Old Business: N/A
- G. New Business – deferred to online voting
 - a. Resolution Spring 2016-2 (Senator Aditya Ayyagari)
 - b. Resolution Spring 2016-3 (Senator Aditya Ayyagari)
 - c. Bill Spring 2016-4 (GSC President Jesus Valero)
 - d. Bill Spring 2016-5 (GSC President Jesus Valero)
- H. Announcements – none
- G. Adjournment 8:03 pm



Constitution

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Preamble

We, the Graduate Students of the University of North Texas, in order to promote the interests and opinions of the Graduate Student Body, to undertake and promote programs and projects which are of benefit to the Graduate Student Body, to serve as the official voice of the Graduate Student Body on matters of Graduate Student welfare, campus policy, and the implementation of this policy, do hereby ordain and establish this Constitution of the Graduate Students, by the Graduate Students, and for the Graduate Students as the binding Constitution of the Graduate Student Body and the Graduate Student Council.

Article I—Name

The organization of the Graduate Student Body as a whole at the University of North Texas Denton campus shall be known as the Graduate Student Council.

The organization is a student organization at the University of North Texas.

Article II—Objectives

The purposes for which the Council is organized are:

To serve as the central and all encompassing graduate student organization on campus.

To serve graduate students by facilitating communication between graduate students and the University of North Texas administration.

To recognize, foster, and promote outstanding leadership and high academic achievement among graduate, doctoral, and professional students.

To encourage and support other organizations at the University of North Texas.

To provide a forum for the presentation of innovative ideas to the benefit of the University community.

To support professional development, networking opportunities, and promote interdisciplinary collaboration.

Article III—Membership

Section 1—Membership Criteria

Membership in this organization is limited to any graduate student who is currently enrolled at the University of North Texas.

Membership is open to all students without regard to race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, political affiliation, disability, marital status, ancestry, genetic information, citizenship, or veteran status.

Article IV—Officers

Section 1—Eligibility

To be eligible to serve as an officer of this organization, an active graduate student member shall possess (at the time of election and during their term of office) at least the minimum requirements regarding enrollment, GPA, and disciplinary standing as stated in UNT Policy 18.4.2 (Student Organization Policy).

An active graduate student member who fails to meet any one of the requirements is automatically ineligible to serve as an officer until all criteria are met.

Section 2—Election of Officers

The officers of this organization are the president, vice president of administration and finance, vice president of programming and outreach, and vice president of communications and marketing.

Officers will be elected by majority vote (either written or electronic) by GSC members voting.

Election of officers will take place ~~in the first last full week of~~ April of the spring semester.

Section 3—Term of Office

Officers will assume office for the period of one year beginning June 1.

All officers shall comprise the Executive Committee of the organization. The Executive Committee may meet in addition to regular organization meetings, and shall appoint such committees that are needed to carry out organizational goals.

Section 4—Removal of Elected Executives

The President or Vice Presidents may be removed from office by an absolute two thirds (2/3) majority vote of members of the Graduate Student Body voting in an election called by an absolute two thirds (2/3) majority vote of all seated Senators or such an election called by a verifiable petition of two hundred (200) members of the Graduate Student Body.

A removal election shall not coincide with a regular Student Election.

Article V—Advisor

The advisor shall be selected by the officers.

To be eligible to serve as the advisor, the person must be a full-time UNT faculty or staff member.

The advisor has no term limit as long as they remain eligible.

Article VI—Amendments and Ratification

Amendments to this constitution or bylaws must be submitted in writing at a regular meeting of the organization.

This constitution and bylaws may be amended by 2/3-majority vote of those voting.

Voting on amendments must be conducted after a minimum notice of 2 weeks.

Ratification of this constitution shall become effective upon approval by a 2/3-majority vote of those voting.

Article VII—Not-for-profit Statement

This is a not-for-profit organization.

Article VIII—Statement of Non-discrimination

This organization shall not discriminate on the basis of age, color, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, national origin, disability or handicap, race, religion, sexual orientation, Vietnam Era veteran status. This policy will include, but is not limited to, recruiting, membership, organization activities or opportunities to hold office.

Article IX—Financial Obligations

A specific member or members, designated by this organization shall be responsible for payment in full of all debts accumulated by the organization not covered by funds on deposit.

Article X—Statement of Non-Hazing

This organization will not engage in hazing, participate in hazing, or commit any act that causes or is likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to any fellow student or person attending the institution.

Article XI—Statement of Compliance with Campus Regulations

This organization shall comply with all University and campus policies and regulations and local, state, and federal laws.

Article XII—Duties & Responsibilities of GSC Executives, Directors & Senators

Section 1—Executive Committee Positions and Duties

1. President
 - a. Coordinates all activities of the organization
 - b. Presides over the GSC Senate
 - c. Liaison to University community
 - d. Appoints GSC Directors
 - e. Calls regular and special meetings
 - f. Appoints GSC representatives to University & organizational committees as requested
 - g. Presents annual budget request for Student Service Fee Committee
2. Vice President, Administration and Finance
 - a. Assumes duties of president, when necessary
 - b. Maintains accurate and current account of all organizational funds
 - c. Manages GSC budget and resource allocation processes
 - d. Is responsible for preparing annual budget request for Student Service Fee Committee hearings
 - e. Maintains records of GSC Executive meetings
 - f. Reports directly to GSC President
3. Vice President, Programming and Outreach
 - a. Coordinates professional development and social activities
 - b. Coordinates programming partnerships with other University entities
 - c. Manages and identifies new community outreach and service opportunities for GSC constituents
 - d. Reports directly to GSC President
4. Vice President, Communications and Marketing
 - a. Is responsible for all GSC print, electronic communications, and website
 - b. Is responsible for marketing GSC initiatives to relevant target audiences
 - c. Reports directly to GSC President
5. Parliamentarian
 - a. Appointed by the Graduate Student Council President and confirmed by a majority vote of the Graduate Student Council Senate.
 - b. Assists the Graduate Student Council President with Senate meetings by taking minutes, keeping time on agenda items, and assist with motions.
 - c. Assists Senators with the drafting of bills and resolutions.
 - d. Reports directly to GSC President

Section 2—Director Positions and Duties

1. Director of Programming
 - a. Assists with organizing and executing GSC social events
 - b. Reports directly to the Vice President of Programming and Outreach
2. Director of Outreach
 - a. Assists in identifying and maintaining partnerships with communities in Denton and the surrounding area
 - b. Reports directly to the Vice President of Programming and Outreach
3. Director of Communications

- a. Assists with designing and maintaining GSC communications materials and website
 - b. Reports directly to the Vice President of Communications and Marketing
- 4. Director of Marketing
 - a. Assists with designing and implementing GSC marketing initiatives
 - b. Reports directly to the Vice President of Communications and Marketing
- 5. Director of Administration
 - a. Assists with the management of the organization, including planning, organizing, staffing, directing, coordinating, and budgeting internal affairs
 - b. Reports directly to the Vice President of Finance and Administration

Section 3—Officer and Director Requirements

Officers of this organization must meet the following requirements

1. Have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 and meet that minimum GPA in the semester immediately prior to the election/appointment, the semester of election/appointment, and the semesters during the term of office. In order for this provision to be met, the prospective officer must hold at least part-time status for graduate students for the semesters under consideration.
2. Be in good standing with the university and be enrolled for at least part-time status for graduate students.
3. Be ineligible to hold office should the student fail to maintain the requirements as prescribed in 1 and 2 as listed above.

Section 4—Meetings

Meetings will be open to all graduate students, faculty, and the Student Activities and Organizations representatives. A notice of at least 2 weeks will be given prior to all meetings. The meetings are to be organized and controlled by officers and active members.

Section 5—Graduate Student Council Senate

1. Purpose of the Senate

To provide a forum for representation of graduate students and the discussion of issues relevant to the graduate student body.
2. Selection of Senators

The Chair or Graduate Advisor of every academic department in the university that has graduate students shall notify the Graduate Student Council of their senator appointment. Each eligible department is entitled to one seat in the Graduate Student Council Senate. **The Senator must be elected by his or her peers within the academic department.** ~~and retains discretion to determine the procedure by which their senator is selected.~~
3. Qualifications for Senators

Must have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 and meet that minimum GPA in the semester immediately prior to their appointment, the semester of appointment, and the semesters during the term of office. In order for this provision to be met, the prospective Senator must hold at least part-time status for graduate students for the semesters under consideration.

Must be in good standing with the university and be enrolled for at least part time status for graduate students.

Will be ineligible to hold office should the student fail to maintain the requirements as prescribed in 1 and 2 as listed above.

4. Duties and Responsibilities of Senators

Provide an official channel of communication between the Graduate Student Council and the department represented by the Senator.

Represent graduate students in their academic department through communicating issues relevant to and advocating for those students.

Attend all scheduled meetings of the Graduate Student Council Senate.

Serve on at least one university committees—representing the graduate student perspective of university life.

Serve on or chair at least one GSC Standing Committee to work toward generating solutions for issues important to the graduate student community.

5. Recall of Senators

Student Senators may be recalled and removed from the Student Senate by the Graduate Student Body by a simple two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the voting members of their constituency after such a vote is called by a verifiable petition of fifty one percent of their constituency.

Student Senators may also be removed from the Student Senate by majority vote of all seated Senators on the grounds of neglect of office, absence from Student Senate sessions, moral turpitude, dereliction of duty, or gross malfeasance of Office.

6. Meetings

Regular meetings of the Graduate Student Senate shall be scheduled once a month during the academic year by the Graduate Student Council President.

Only Senators shall have voting privileges during Graduate Student Senate meetings.

All meetings shall be presided over by the Graduate Student Council President.

The Graduate Student Council President may call emergency meetings of the Senate under extenuating circumstances to consider urgent business as long as 24 hours' notice is given to Senate members.

7. Summer Senate

The Summer Senate shall consist of ten (10) Senators who have been selected to serve on a regular Senate term, which includes the Spring semester immediately preceding or the Fall semester immediately following the Summer term in question.

These Senators shall be selected by the President on a volunteer basis and must be confirmed by a simple majority vote of the GSC Senate.

The Summer Senate shall exercise all duties and powers of the GSC Senate to exclude the impeachment and removal of the GSC President, Vice Presidents, and Parliamentarian.

Article XIII - The Judicial Branch

Section 1: Composition of the Judiciary

The Judicial Branch shall consist of the seven-member Supreme Court and the Advocate General.

Section 2: Composition of the GSC Supreme Court

1. The GSC Supreme Court shall consist of seven Justices appointed from the Graduate Student Body by the GSC President who are in good standing with the University and who are not a current Senator or member of the Executive Branch.
2. The Supreme Court will elect from their number a Chief Justice to preside over all judicial proceedings and administer the business of the Judicial Branch.

Section 3: Terms of Justices

Supreme Court Justices shall be appointed to serve terms coinciding with the Fall, Spring, and Summer semesters of one academic year.

Section 4: The Advocate General

1. The Advocate General shall be appointed by the GSC President to serve a term coinciding with the Fall, Spring, and Summer Semesters of one academic year.
2. The Advocate General will advise the Graduate Student Council in legal matters and represent the GSC in judicial proceedings before the Supreme Court.
3. The Advocate General must be in good standing with the University.

Section 5: Jurisdiction

1. The Supreme Court shall have binding original jurisdiction over disputes arising over this Constitution, the Graduate Student Council Bylaws and its component documents, actions of the GSC Senate, and GSC Elections.
2. The Supreme Court shall have non-binding jurisdiction over disputes brought before it by Graduate Students or Graduate Student Organizations.

Section 6: Procedures of the Judicial Branch

1. The procedures of the Judicial Branch shall be enumerated in the Graduate Student Council Bylaws.
2. The Supreme Court shall meet regularly at least once per month, unless it has no business to consider.



Bill Spring 2016 - 2

WHEREAS the bus service to connecting discovery park and the main campus runs reduced hours on Fridays, the last service departing discovery park is at 17.23 hours

WHEREAS graduate level activities several undergraduate classes extend well beyond 18.00 hours on Fridays

WHEREAS the next service is the *UNT eride* which serves students from 21.00 hours, and there is no bus service available between 17.23 hours and 21.00 hours to several students

WHEREAS this is causing students inconvenience, especially in the winter months

LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the UNT bus service extend the regular bus service till 19.00 hours instead of current 17.23 hours and *UNT eride* begin services form 20.00 hours instead of current 21.00 hours

Respectfully Submitted,

Aditya Ayyagari

In Witness thereof, I hereby certify the Student Senate of the University of North Texas Graduate Student Council has approved this document and is referred to the office of the GSC President.

Parliamentarian

Date

Presidential Action:

- Vetoed
- Approved

GSC President

Date

Associate Dean of Toulouse Graduate School

Date



Bill Spring 2016 - 3

WHEREAS the printing facilities at the Discovery Park campus are available at the Engineering library and at the General Access Laboratories located on the first and second floor

WHEREAS the library closes at 19.00 hrs, and the General Access Laboratories close at 21.00 hrs on working days, and are fully or partially closed on weekends

WHEREAS several students working late into the night and on weekends do not have access to any kind printing facility while at Discovery Park, thus causing students inconvenience.

WHEREAS smart solutions like wireless and remote printing facilities are accessible in other parts of the campus like the Sage Hall.

LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT students be provided with access to printing facilities on the campus by installing two wireless printers on each side of the campus.

Respectfully Submitted,

Aditya Ayyagari

In Witness thereof, I hereby certify the Student Senate of the University of North Texas Graduate Student Council has approved this document and is referred to the office of the GSC President.

Parliamentarian

Date

Presidential Action:

- Vetoed
- Approved

GSC President

Date

Associate Dean of Toulouse Graduate School

Date



Bill Spring 2016-4

WHEREAS The Graduate Student Council is in need of a process by which Executive Officers and Senators are elected by the graduate student body at UNT

WHEREAS The current Bylaws of the GSC do not provide specifics by how officers and Senators must be elected

WHEREAS It is important that a transparent and fair election process be established by the GSC

LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT Article VI: Election Code be adopted as part of the GSC Bylaws (see attachment).

Respectfully Submitted,

Jesus Valero (on behalf of the GSC Governance Committee)
GSC President

In Witness thereof, I hereby certify the Student Senate of the University of North Texas Graduate Student Council has approved this document and is referred to the office of the GSC President.

Parliamentarian

Date

Presidential Action:

- Vetoed
- Approved

GSC President

Date

Associate Dean of Toulouse Graduate School

Date



Bill Spring 2016-5

WHEREAS The GSC is currently comprised of a Legislative and Executive Branch

WHEREAS It is important that the GSC be comprised of a government structure that maintains an effective checks and balances system

WHEREAS The GSC does not have any body by which conflicts in relation to the interpretation of our Constitution and other legal matters can be addressed

WHEREAS Student governments traditionally have a third branch, namely the Judicial Branch, which is responsible for hearing student cases in relation to our Constitution and other legal matters

LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT The GSC Bylaws incorporate the addition of the internal workings of a Judicial Branch as outlined in the attachment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jesus Valero (on behalf of the GSC Governance Committee)
GSC President

In Witness thereof, I hereby certify the Student Senate of the University of North Texas Graduate Student Council has approved this document and is referred to the office of the GSC President.

Parliamentarian

Date

Presidential Action:

- Vetoed
- Approved

GSC President

Date

Associate Dean of Toulouse Graduate School

Date

Article VI: Election Code

Section 1: General Provisions

- A. This section shall apply to all aspects of the electoral process for the Graduate Student Council (GSC) of University of North Texas at Denton with special provisions for Senator Elections. Candidates for any election, opponents/proponents for any referenda on the ballot (“Referendum Parties”), and members of the Election Board shall be responsible for the regulations provided herein. Ignorance of these regulations shall not be an acceptable defense in response to any violation in any election, either by the candidates or Referendum Parties themselves or by individuals campaigning on behalf of a candidate or Referendum Party.
- B. These regulations are subject to interpretation only by the Election Board, interpretation of which is subject to review only by the GSC Supreme Court. Additionally, any liberties of interpretation given specifically to the Election Commissioner are subject to review by the GSC Supreme Court. No other member of GSC or the Election Board is authorized to provide interpretations of the Election Code.
- C. Candidates and Referendum Parties may contact the Election Commissioner for the purpose of consultation pertaining to the election. The Election Commissioner shall be contacted via UNT e-mail, and the Election Commissioner will make reasonable attempts to respond to queries within two (2) business days.
- D. The Election Code is intended to provide for the fairness, equitability, and efficiency of all GSC elections with respect to candidates, Referendum Parties, and voters. In the absence of established guidelines, rulings concerning elections should be made with this principle in mind.

Section 2: Election Board

- A. The Election Board shall consist of six members and an Election Commissioner appointed by the GSC President. Election Board must be vetted through an application process.
- B. The role of the Election Commissioner will be to serve as a liaison between the Election Board and other entities on campus. The Election Commissioner shall oversee ~~of~~ Election Board meetings, represent the Election Board in any public situation, draft the final election report, and only vote in an Election Board decision in the event of a tie.
- C. The Election Board shall have the power to rule on matters pertaining to Elections, including but not limited to: interpretations and violations of the Election Code, questions of candidate eligibility not covered in Article II, Section 1A and Article V, Section 1B of these Bylaws, candidate and Referendum Party complaints and concerns, questions of referendum eligibility, filing dates and deadlines, and the certification of any election results.
- D. Appointees must be approved by the GSC Senate at the second Senate meeting of the fall semester and must be present to be confirmed, unless the appointee has class during this time, as verified by the GSC Advisor.
- E. Election Board members must meet the executive committee eligibility requirements as stated in Article II of these Bylaws. No member of the Election Board shall be an active member of any branch of GSC while serving on the Election Board.
- F. In case of a vacancy in the Election Board, the GSC President must immediately appoint a replacement. This replacement must be present at the next GSC Senate meeting to be confirmed, unless the appointee has class during this time, as verified by the GSC Advisor.
- G. All Election Board meetings will be open only to Election Board members and the GSC Advisor. The Board shall keep written minutes of all meetings, including hearings. Quorum for all Board

meetings, including election certification meetings, shall be defined as three Board members plus the Election Commissioner.

- H. Election Board members and Commissioner shall maintain the right to vote on all GSC elections.
- I. Election Board members and Commissioner may be removed from office by a simple two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the GSC Senate.

Section 3: Election Calendar

- A. The Election Board shall present a list of Official GSC Restricted Zones and an Election Calendar to the GSC Senate. The calendar shall include dates for filing periods, mandatory meetings, referenda deadlines, campaigning, general elections, run-off elections, and release of the final election report.
- B. Dates for Special Elections shall be established by an act of the GSC Senate or ballot referendum at least three (3) full academic weeks before the week of the election proposed by the legislation.
- C. Dates for Senator elections shall be established by the Election Board and provided to departments.

Section 4: Rules on Candidacy for Executive Officers

- A. To be eligible for candidacy, an individual must meet active member eligibility requirements as stated in the GSC Constitution and Article II, Section 1A of these Bylaws. An individual must meet these requirements prior to the beginning of campaigning. These requirements shall only be confirmed by the GSC Advisor.
- B. An individual must file for candidacy via the designated application. At the close of the application, the Election Commissioner will notify applicants, by email, of their eligibility for candidacy.
- C. Each candidate must attend an Election Code meeting hosted by the Election Commissioner; attendance at all mandatory meetings is required for election eligibility.
- D. Only in the event that a position is running unopposed shall a write-in candidate be allowed.
 - a. After the application closes, write-in candidates may file a Voluntary Compliance notice with the Election Board. This notice shall bind write-in candidates to election regulations and subject the candidate to disciplinary action in accordance with said regulations. This notice shall also allow such a write-in candidate to participate in forums, debates, election guides, or other events or activities deemed appropriate by the Election Commissioner. Write-in candidates shall not be able to participate in such activities without such a notice. The required content of the notice shall be determined by the Commissioner. A write-in candidate shall never be placed on an official ballot by means of this notice.
 - b. If elected, write-in candidates shall be accepted provided they meet the active member eligibility requirements as stated in the GSC Constitution and Article II, Section 1A of these Bylaws. These requirements will be confirmed by the GSC Advisor.
 - c. Upon release of the final election report, elected write-in candidates must submit the following to the Election Commissioner within two (2) business days:
 - i. A Statement of intent to serve in the elected position.
 - ii. An expense report, if required by that position.
 - d. If a write-in candidate fails to submit these documents, or exceeds the campaign expenditure limit for the position in which they are elected, then they shall be disqualified.
- E. Any candidate may withdraw his/her name from the ballot any time prior to 5 p.m. on the business day before the election by submitting written notification to the Election Commissioner. The Election Commissioner shall verify said notification and provide notice to the GSC Advisor.

Section 5: Rules on Campaigns

Subsection 1: General Campaign Rules

- A. Candidates and Referendum Parties shall take reasonable measures to ensure that every individual campaigning on behalf of or volunteering for the candidate/Referendum Party is aware of campaign regulations and guidelines. Candidates/Referendum Parties may be liable for the campaign infractions of their campaigners and volunteers even if the candidate/Referendum Party did not specifically direct the offending action.
- B. Candidates and Referendum Parties may only begin publicizing their campaigns after the Election Code meetings have been held and on the date set forth on the Election Calendar. If candidates or Referendum Parties are found actively campaigning in any way before the above dates, it is grounds for disqualification.
- C. Candidates and Referendum Parties shall abide by all University policy, which supersedes Election Board mandates and Election Code regulations.
- D. Candidates and Referendum Parties shall not damage any University property and shall be responsible for any damage caused by said candidate's/Referendum Party's campaign materials.
- E. Candidates and Referendum Parties shall not unduly disrupt the normal activities of the University.
- F. Candidates and Referendum Parties shall assume responsibility for the accuracy and truthfulness of their statements and campaign materials.
- G. No University, State, or public funds may be used by Candidates or Referendum Parties. This includes the utilization of university employee work time (i.e., university position of Teaching Fellow, Research Assistant, Teaching Assistant, Graduate Student Assistant, etc.). No Candidate or Referendum Party may solicit campaign assistance from a university employee during the employee's work hours.
- H. The Election Commissioner and Election Board members have the right to solicit the names of all members of a campaign from the affiliated candidate or Referendum Party.
- I. All posters and signs must be placed in accordance with University policy and may not exceed 18x24 inches. All campaign materials must follow university policy.
- J. No more than 20 ground signs may be placed on campus, but other promotional items are not limited in quantity. Promotional items must be approved by the Election Board.
- K. Each candidate and Referendum Party shall be responsible for the removal of their campaign materials from public areas and buildings by the Monday following the final election report. Failure of Candidates and Referendum Parties to remove their materials may result in a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Subsection 2: Rules on Executive Officer Campaigns

- A. Executive committee candidates may spend up to \$300 USD on their campaign.
 - a. An additional \$100 USD may be spent in the event of a run-off election.
- B. A typed expense report must be filed with the Election Board at the close of polling. These reports must include itemized receipts of all purchases made pertaining to the candidate team's campaign.

Subsection 3: Rules on Election Board-Sponsored Campaigns

- A. In the interest of increasing graduate student engagement and voter turnout, the Election Board may produce campaign materials or host campaign events.
- B. Such materials or events shall not endorse any one candidate or item on the ballot, but shall give unbiased information about the election, candidates, and referenda.
- C. Such events and materials may include, but are not limited to: debates, town halls, forums, and election guides.

Subsection 4: Rules on Special Buildings and Areas

- A. *GSC Office*
No campaigning may take place within the GSC Office. Any materials that are campaign related may not be stored or left in the GSC office/space.
- B. *Campus Housing*
All campaigning and campaign material in or on the property of UNT Housing requires the expressed consent of the Director of UNT Housing & Residence Life or designee, and must abide by UNT Housing policies. Door-to-door campaigning shall not be permitted under any circumstances.
- C. *UNT Libraries*
No campaigning may take place inside of any UNT Library, or within 50 feet of its front doors.
- D. *Restricted Zones*
Candidates and Referendum Parties shall not campaign or display in any manner campaign material within fifty (50) feet of Restricted Zones. Restricted Zones will be defined by the Election Board, and presented with the Election Calendar each semester.

Section 6: Ballot Referenda

- A. Ballot referenda for any legal purpose may be proposed by a two thirds (2/3) absolute majority vote of the GSC Senate or by a verifiable petition of 5% of the members of the graduate Student Body.
 - i. All proposed referenda must be submitted at least seven (7) weeks prior to the end of the semester in Fall and at least two (2) weeks prior to Campaign Week opening in Spring.
 - ii. Any action proposing a ballot referendum must specify whether the issue shall be considered in the immediately following general election or in a special election called for that purpose and must state the requirements for the passage of any such referendum.
 - iii. Meeting the requirements for the proposal of referenda shall be considered sufficient grounds and merit for the calling of such an election.
 - iv. No petition may call for the re-vote of a student election without evidence of gross violations of election regulations as stated in Article VI of these Bylaws. The validity of a petition for a re-vote will be determined by the Election Board or the GSC Supreme Court.
- B. For referendum items affecting the entire student body, referendum processes shall be governed by the most current Memorandum of Understanding with the Student Government Association.

Section 7: Rules on Elections for Executive Officers

- A. General Elections shall be held in April.
 - a. The Fall General Election shall exist for the election of referenda by the graduate Student Body, if necessary.
 - b. The Spring General Election shall exist for the election of President and Vice-Presidents, and referenda by the graduate student body.
- B. Polls must be open for a minimum of three (3) school days in any election.
- C. Elections shall be held solely via GSC's voting platform.
- D. At the close of polling, the Election Commissioner will create a final election report. The report shall be certified by the signatures of the Election Commissioner, every member of the Election

Board present at the election certification meeting, and the GSC Advisor. The final election report shall be considered official 24 hours after being certified. The report shall include:

- a. The total number of votes cast for each candidate;
 - b. The total number of consenting and dissenting votes in any referenda and whether they passed or failed;
 - c. Any written rulings issued by the Election Commissioner;
 - d. The minutes of any Election Board hearings;
 - e. Information about any election irregularities or problems reported to date; and
 - f. Any other appropriate information deemed necessary by the Election Commissioner.
- E. Unofficial results shall not be released to any party, under any conditions.
- F. In the event that no Presidential/Vice-Presidential candidate receives a simple majority of votes, a run-off election will be held.
- G. Candidates in a run-off election will be given at least 72 hours to campaign.

Section 8: Rules on Oversight

Subsection 1: Election Commissioner Rulings

- A. Any candidate or Referendum Party in a GSC election wishing for clarification may request a ruling on any part of the Election Code by submitting a request in writing to the Election Commissioner.
- B. The Election Commissioner shall honor all requests within two business days and post rulings on the GSC web page and distribute them to all candidates by e-mail.
- C. The Election Commissioner's ruling shall be considered binding until overturned by the GSC Supreme Court.
- D. The Election Commissioner shall not make any ruling beyond interpretation of the Election Code.

Subsection 2: Election Code Violations

- A. Failure to comply with the regulations of the Election Code may result in disciplinary action being taken by the Election Board. Any alleged Election Code violation is subject to a hearing by the Election Board. Furthermore, if the Election Code violation is also a University policy violation, this may result in disciplinary action being taken by the Dean of Students office and/or the Toulouse Graduate School.
- B. All complaints regarding violations of election regulations shall be submitted in writing to the Election Board within 24 hours of the close of polling. Complaints shall include details of the presumed violation, such as date, time, and name(s) of involved individuals. Evidence shall be provided when appropriate.
- C. Upon receiving a complaint, the Election Board shall have 72 hours to conduct a hearing. Each involved party will be given a reasonable amount of time to state their case, during which period any Election Board Member may ask questions.
- D. After hearing all applicable evidence, the Election Board will deliberate on a ruling of candidacy. A majority vote of Election Board Members present, assuming quorum is met, is required to render any decision. The Election Commissioner may vote only in the event of a tie. Any decision of the Election Board shall be made public immediately.
- E. Should a hearing be unable to be scheduled before the release of the final election report, the election results affected by the complaint will be withheld until after the Election Board ruling. All other election results shall be published according to the approved Election Calendar.

Section 9: Senator Elections & Succession

- A. Pursuant to Article V, Section 1 of the GSC Bylaws, Senators must be elected by graduate students within each graduate degree granting department at UNT.

- B. Call for Senator elections are to be sent out twice a year in order to initially fill seats and replace vacant seats: Summer/Fall and Spring semesters.
- C. Each graduate degree granting department may design an election process that best fits their needs and interests. Once a Senator has been elected, the department chair or graduate advisor must inform the GSC Parliamentarian or President of the election outcome.
- D. In the event that an elected Senator vacates their seat, the following process shall take place:
 - a. The Parliamentarian will contact the department that the vacating Senator represents. The graduate advisor and department chair will be informed of the vacant seat and will be notified of the need of a second election for a student senator. Once that election takes place, the department chair or graduate advisor must submit the student's name and contact information to the Parliamentarian.

Article VII: Rules on the Judicial Branch

Section 1: Supreme Court Hearings

- A. A case may be submitted to the GSC Supreme Court by any member of GSC. Members of the GSC include all graduate students.
- B. To submit a case, a case brief must be submitted to the GSC President. If the President is unavailable, then the brief must be submitted to the GSC Vice President of Administration and Finance or GSC Advisor. The brief must include what party the case is against, the issue to be decided, a detailed explanation of the case, any relevant background information, a list of witnesses, and any evidence to be presented.
- C. Each party must be notified by the Chief Justice of the set hearing date and time a minimum of 2 business days prior to the hearing.
- D. Upon notification, the court will have one week to begin hearings. Hearings must be held between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. and may not conflict with a previously scheduled GSC meeting.
- E. Each party and the Advocate General, if applicable, will be given a reasonable amount of time to state their case while in the hearing, during which period any Justice may interrupt to ask questions.
- F. After hearing all germane evidence, the Justices shall retire to deliberate on their verdict. A majority vote of the five justices is required to render any verdict or Court Order.
- G. Any decision of the court must be made public within twenty-four hours of that decision being reached.
- H. No Justice may speak on the merits of a case until a final decision is made public. All procedures of the Supreme Court must be made clear to all parties by all reasonable attempts prior to the delivery of testimony in any case.
- I. A formal presentation of the vote count of the Supreme Court must be presented to both parties immediately after the Justices have rendered their decision.

Section 2: Appeals

- A. Procedural Appeals may be filed with the GSC Senate within one week of a Supreme Court Decision.
- B. The GSC Senate, in consultation with the Advocate General, may rule by passage of legislation that correct procedure was not followed and declare a mistrial.
- C. Substantive appeals based on the merit of a case must be filed directly to the Supreme Court within one week of a Supreme Court Decision.
- D. Each party shall be granted one appeal in which they may submit any new information or argument that may have changed the outcome of their case.
- E. Any appeals must be presented to the pertinent parties in writing.

