GSC | GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL

Graduate Student Council (GSC) Rules on Campaigning

Good morning, I am Lowell Johnson and I serve the GSC as the Parliamentarian. I congratulate you on wanting to be involved in your Graduate Student Council. The desire to serve others as a representative is not to be taken lightly. As a fellow graduate student, I want my representatives to work with the graduate student community at UNT, celebrating our successes and working hard to make the graduate student experience at UNT enjoyable and fulfilling.

This brief video will cover the rules for campaigning and where the campaigning can and cannot be conducted. At the end of the video there will be an acknowledgement statement you will need to agree to before proceeding further with your campaign.

DEFINITION OF CAMPAIGNING

A. Campaigning is any activity by a candidate or ticket member that is intended or likely to affect how a voter casts a ballot. This includes the placement of any signs or the like on display and the solicitation of the vote of any UNT student. Campaigning includes but is not limited to:
    a. Distributing campaign materials (other than private distribution to campaign team members and affiliated staff) to potential voters.
    b. Seeking endorsement (excluding financial contributions) or voter support for a campaign at an official meeting of a registered student organization.
    c. Announcing or discussing potential candidacy and/or ticket names in print, broadcast, public forum, or any other media.
    d. Wearing accessories such as buttons, stickers, and/or similar items explicitly reflecting an affiliation with a candidate or ticket.
    e. Posting signage.
    f. Disseminating any campaign material via social media.

GENERAL CAMPAIGNING

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 any Election Code infractions made by their campaign team members and volunteers even if the candidates/Referendum Parties themselves did not specifically direct the offending action.
B. Candidates may only begin publicizing their campaigns after allthe Election Code Meetings scheduled on the Election Calendar have been held. Referendum Parties may only begin publicizing their campaigns on the date set forth by the Election Calendar. If candidates or

Referendum Parties are found publicizing their campaigns in any way before the above dates, it is grounds for disqualification.

C. Candidates and Referendum Parties shall abide by all University policies, which supersede 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 their campaign materials or by members of their campaign team or referendum party.
E. Candidates and Referendum Parties shall not unduly disrupt the normal activities of the University or interfere with students' education. This includes but is not limited to the posting of campaign signs and/or posters in classrooms and writing on chalkboards or similar devices.
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. For candidate campaigns, this includes the utilization of employee work time. No candidate may solicit campaign assistance from an employee during the employee's work hours. Referendum Parties shall be limited to spending no more than $650 in state or student fee funds for campaign purposes.
H. Candidates and Referendum Parties must prepare and provide the names of members on their campaign teams or Referendum Parties in the event that the Election Commissioner or Election Board requests such information.

RESTRICTIONS OF CAMPAIGN MATERIALS

A. All posters and signs must be placed in accordance with University policy and may not exceed 18x24 inches.
    a. No more than 20 ground signs may be placed on campus, but other promotional items are not limited in quantity.
B. No candidate or Referendum Party may make, wear, or distribute T-shirts that promote themselves or their campaign.
C. 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 to remove their materials may result in a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

RESTRICTIONS ON SPECIAL BUILDINGS AND AREAS

A. Candidates and Referendum Parties shall not campaign or display in any manner campaign material within fifty (50) feet of restricted zones. The following areas and buildings are off limits during campaigning.

a. The GSC Office--any materials that are campaign related may not be stored or left in the GSC Office.
b. Campus Housing--all campaigning or 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. All UNT Libraries
d. The 4th floor of the Union
e. Any UNT Restroom
f. Off Campus Bars

B. The Election Board reserves the right to add any other restricted zones they see fit during any given election period. Any additional areas must be presented to all Candidates and Referendum Parties along with the aforementioned areas and buildings.

DIGITAL CAMPAIGNING REGULATIONS

A. Campaigning does not include reporting by any media outlets of any referendum, petition, recall, or constitutional amendment.
B. LISTSERVs and E-Mails
    a. Before and during campaigning members of a private campaign LISTSERV run by candidates or campaign staff, including and limited to staff, volunteers, and candidates, are considered willful participants, and therefore may receive any email concerning candidacy or other election information.
    b. During campaigning presidents of any registered student organization, not considered Student Government, may be contacted by any candidate for the sole purpose of requesting to speak at that organization's meeting to seek its endorsement.
C. No candidate or Referendum Party may send out eagle-mail to any UNT student.
D. Social media may be used by any campaign.

RULES ON PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS

A. President/Vice-President, including Presidential write-in, candidate teams may spend up to $300 on their campaign.
B. A typed expense report must be filed with the Election Board at close of polling. These reports must include itemized receipts of all purchases made pertaining to the candidate team's campaign

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RULES ON SENATORIAL CAMPAIGNS

A. Senatorial, write-in Senatorial, candidates may spend up to $100 on their campaign.
B. In the event of a dispute, candidates must be able to provide a typed expense report, to include itemized receipts of all purchases made pertaining to the candidate's campaign.

RULES ON ELECTION BOARD-SPONSORED CAMPAIGNS

A. In the interest of increasing undergraduate student engagement and voter turnout, the Election Board may produce campaign materials or host campaign events to be promoted via GSC marketing channels.
    a. 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.
    b. Such events and materials may include, but are not limited to debates, town halls, forums, and election guides.

RULES ON OVERSIGHT

A. Any candidate or Referendum Party in an GSC election seeking 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 one (1) business day and post rulings on the GSC web page and distribute them to all candidates by email.
C. Failure to comply with the regulations of the Election Code may result in punitive action being taken by the Election Board. Any alleged Election Code violation could also be a University policy violation and may result in disciplinary action being taken by the Dean of Students office.
D. 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 involves individuals. Evidence should be provided when appropriate.
E. 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 this period any Election Board member may ask questions.
F. If the complaint is regarding a violation of University policy, the student(s) will be sent to the Dean of Students rather than the Election Board.
    a. After hearing all applicable evidence, the Election Board will deliberate on a ruling of violation. 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.

G. If a hearing cannot 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

By signing below, I hereby acknowledge that I have completely read and fully understand the GSC Rules on Campaigning.

Good luck and thank you again for choosing to be involved in the Graduate Student Council at UNT.