

## **Memorandum of Understanding On Student Body Referendum Process**

Ballot referenda for any legal purpose may be proposed by a two-thirds simple majority vote in each of the Graduate Student Council Senate and the Student Government Association Senate, or by a verifiable petition<sup>1</sup> of 5% of the members of the Student Body.

A referendum will pass if it meets the following criteria:

- **A simple majority (more than 50%) of undergraduate and graduate votes combined.**
- **All proposed referenda must be submitted at least 4 weeks from the start of the semester and at least 4 weeks prior to the end of the semester.**

<sup>1</sup> The SGA and GSC advisors must oversee the petition verification process.

#### Definitions:

- *Conference Committee* refers to a committee established by both the GSC and SGA Executive leadership. The committee will include equal representation from each organization. The committee's sole purpose is to provide guidance to the student government leadership concerning referenda, either student presented or generated by the leadership bodies that affects the student body of UNT.
- GSC refers to the Graduate Student Council, as established by UNT policy in 1968 and through a student referendum in 2015.
- *Inoperative* refers to a situation where one of the student government organizations fails to form the necessary governmental legislative branches and act as the official representatives of their respective undergraduate or graduate student bodies.
- SGA refers to the Student Government Association, as established by UNT policy in 1948.

#### Key Provisions:

- The SGA/GSC Conference Committee will serve as a failsafe auxiliary committee who only convenes in the event the GSC and SGA leadership cannot come to terms with the writing, wording, or intent of any given referendum.
- Any SGA or GSC Constitutional changes may go straight to a referendum vote from their respective bodies.
- Fees that would be assessed to only one of the student bodies (undergrad or grad) may go straight to a referendum vote from their respective bodies.
- Issues only affecting one of the student bodies may go straight to a referendum vote from their respective bodies.
- If the Student Government Association or Graduate Student Council decides the issue affects the entire student body, the issue goes through the process outlined below.
- All other referenda must go through the process outlined in the chart below.

## Process for Non-Constitutional Referendum Proposals

The issue is discussed between the SGA President, SGA Vice President, GSC President, and GSC VP of Administration & Finance.

The phrasing and terminology of the referendum are authored by either SGA or GSC and revised and edited by the opposite body.

1. If the leadership of both bodies agrees with the referendum wording, the referendum is presented to the SGA and GSC Senates for approval.
2. If the leadership of both bodies does not agree with the referendum wording, they must present it to the SGA/GSC Conference Committee within 24 hours for further deliberation. It must then be represented to the SGA and GSC Leadership within 5 business days.
3. If the referendum is approved through SGA and GSC senates, the referendum is proposed to the University of North Texas Student Body.
4. If the referendum is approved through only one senate, it must be presented to the SGA/GSC conference committee.
5. For the referendum to pass, it must receive a simple majority (more than 50%) of undergraduate and graduate votes combined. If it does not receive more than 50% of the votes, it fails.
6. If either governing body's Senate or Election Board is inoperative, the referendum can continue. The operating governing body will function as the representative body for the entirety of UNT students.

### **Process for Referendum Party Complaints**

1. In the event of a violation of the election/ referendum party code, a complaint shall be submitted to the Election Board Commissioners of SGA and GSC.
2. The SGA Election Board Commissioner and the GSC Election Board Commissioner will work to schedule a hearing, and hold said hearing within 72 hours from the time the complaint was submitted.
3. The SGA and GSC Election Boards shall meet in conjunction, with two (2) members of the GSC Election Board and three (3) members of the SGA Election Board. Quorum for this meeting shall be no less than five (5) members of the combined SGA and GSC Election Boards.
4. The SGA and GSC Election Board Commissioners will work together to compile and release the meeting minutes from the hearing to both the SGA and GSC websites.

### **Structure of the SGA/GSC Conference Committee**

1. The SGA/GSC Conference Committee shall consist of (4) four delegates directly appointed by the SGA President and GSC President.
  - a. Two delegates appointed by SGA President
  - b. Two delegates appointed by GSC President
2. The role of the SGA/GSC Conference Committee is to deliberate and amend any referenda
  - a. Should the SGA and GSC Leadership not be able to come to an agreement with the referendum wording.
  - b. Should the proposed referendum be sent to the SGA/GSC Conference Committee by the SGA or GSC senates.

### Amending this Document

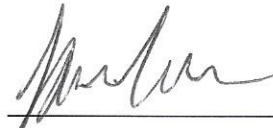
1. This document must be reviewed and renewed by the SGA and GSC leadership annually.
2. To amend this document, the SGA and GSC leadership must first discuss the proposed amendments.
3. Once the amendments have been created and agreed upon by both leaderships, this document must be presented and approved by both the SGA and GSC senates at the beginning of each fall semester.



SGA President



GSC President



SGA Vice President



GSC VP of Administration & Finance