



Texas A&M University  
Graduate and Professional Student Government  
**Election Code**

Last amended by the Governance Board of the Graduate and Professional Student Government on January 24, 2022.

## Section A. Election Commission

- i. The Election Commission (henceforth referred to as the Commission) shall facilitate the election processes of the GPSG President and the GPSG Senators.
- ii. The Election Commission shall be chaired by the Election Commission Chair and is responsible for the execution of all election-related activities including but not limited to screening applicants for eligibility, clarifying procedures for students wishing to run for office, and adherence to campaign rules.
- iii. The Graduate and Professional Student Body President shall be responsible for interviewing and appointing the Commission. A call to fill the position of the Election Commission Chair shall be sent out via email to all graduate and professional students by the third Monday of November. The position must be filled by the final day of the fall semester as defined by the TAMU Academic Calendar.
- iv. The Commission Chair shall assemble a committee to assist with facilitating the election process. All members must be chosen and informed by the third Monday of February. Members of the committee are chosen at the purview of the commission chair, where the recommended number of committee members is three to five. Committee members must be currently enrolled as graduate and professional students at Texas A&M and not seeking election for any GPSG Office or Senator positions in the following academic year.
- v. All elections will open on the first Monday of April and remain open till midnight of the first Friday of April. The Commission shall send an email on the first and last days with instructions on how to access the voting portal.

## Section B. Election of the Graduate and Professional Student Body President

- i. The responsibilities of the Graduate and Professional Student Body President shall be as defined in the GPSG Bylaws.
- ii. The Election Commission Chair shall send out a call for applications for the Graduate and Professional Student Body, and all other officer roles, via email to the graduate and professional student body no later than February 1. The following information will be included in the email:
  - i. Description of all officer roles.
  - ii. Application procedure.
  - iii. Deadlines for all steps of the procedure.
  - iv. Salary and benefits offered for the President and the benefits offered to the Speaker of the Senate.
- iii. The following requirements must be fulfilled by all candidates before they are eligible to be included in the final ballot. These steps must be completed in the order presented below:
  1. Have been enrolled under a classification of G, D, L, M, P, or V for at least one semester prior to the election.

2. Meet eligibility criteria outlined by Student Activities for all Student Leaders.
3. Obtain written consent from both GPSG Advisors by filling out the Intent to Run form.
4. If applicable, obtain written consent from their Committee Chair by completing the “Intent to Run” form. The applicants’ Department Chair may sign in lieu of the academic advisor.
5. Submit completed “Intent to Run” form and application to the Election Commission Chair by 11:59 PM February 28/29.
6. A majority Vote of Confidence from the GPSG Senate.
  - i. All applicants will be presented with the opportunity to present to the GPSG Senate at the Graduate and Professional Student Body President Candidates Town Hall on the first Tuesday of March.
- iv. All candidates for Graduate and Professional Student Body President will be listed alphabetically by their last names on the ballot. There will be no write-in options for the Graduate and Professional Student Body President election.
- v. All current graduate and professional students at Texas A&M are eligible to vote for the Graduate and Professional Student Body President.
- vi. Instant Runoff Voting procedures will be used to ensure a majority vote for a candidate<sup>1</sup>.
  1. The initial round of counting shall be a count of the first choices marked on each ballot. If any candidate receives a majority of the first choices, that candidate shall be declared the winner, pending ratification.
  2. If no candidate receives a majority of first choices, there shall be a second round of counting. The last-place candidate shall be eliminated, and all the continuing ballots shall be recounted. Each continuing ballot shall be counted as one vote for that ballot’s highest ranked advancing candidate.
  3. If no candidate receives a majority at the second round of counting, there shall be a third round of counting, continuing in the manner prescribed above.
  4. The process of eliminating the last-place candidates and recounting all the continuing ballots shall continue until one candidate receives a majority of the votes in a round. The candidate who receives a majority of the votes in a round shall be declared the winner, pending ratification.
  5. When a ballot does not list a preference for any given round, it shall not be counted in that round or any subsequent round.
  6. If there are not sufficient second and lower choices for any candidate to receive a majority, the candidate with the highest number of votes shall be declared the winner, pending ratification.
  7. When a ballot becomes an exhausted ballot it shall not be counted in that round or any subsequent round.
- vii. Candidates are encouraged to meet with the current Graduate and Professional Student Body President to understand the role and responsibilities.
- viii. Candidates are encouraged to reach out to various student organizations for endorsements.
- ix. Each candidate for the Graduate and Professional Student Body President will have a limited budget of \$100 paid out-of-pocket. GPSG and the Election Commission will not reimburse candidates for expenditures. Candidates are highly encouraged to

- create digital campaign materials to mitigate costs. Candidates will have to provide receipts of purchases they have made for their campaign, as well as a spreadsheet with their purchases, to ensure purchases do not exceed \$100. The spreadsheet, as well as receipts of purchases, is due by 5:00 PM on the final day of voting. Candidates that exceed this amount will be placed under review by the Commission Committee.
- x. Candidates may only send out two (2) email campaigns total to student organizations/senators. These email campaigns are not allowed to be sent through listserv's, including, but not limited to, your campus, college, or department listserv(s).
  - xi. Candidates cannot be publicly or privately supported/backed by the current Graduate and Professional Student Body President or Election Commissioner.
  - xii. A candidate may drop out of the election at any time by informing the Election Commission Chair.
  - xiii. Candidates who violate any Texas A&M University rule will be subject to immediate disqualification.

### Section C. Election Process for GPSG Departmental Senator

- i. The roles of the GPSG Senator shall remain as outlined by the GPSG Bylaws.
- ii. All GSO President's shall submit the results of their Senatorial Elections and a copy of their organizations election procedures to the Election Commission chair by the second Senate meeting of the Fall Semester
- iii. A centralized elections platform will be offered to all departments. Departments may choose to use this platform to facilitate departmental elections.

### Section D. Executive Vice-President / Speaker Elections

- i. The Executive Vice President / Speaker election shall be followed as outlined in the GPSG Bylaws.
- ii. In the event that the current Executive Vice President / Speaker wishes to run for a position in the upcoming election, the Election Commission chair shall facilitate the election of the Executive Vice-President, Vice-President of University Affairs, Vice-President of Information, and Vice-President of Finance.

### Sources

- [1] Sample Ranked Choice Voting Motion:  
[https://www.fairvote.org/sample\\_ranked\\_choice\\_voting\\_motion](https://www.fairvote.org/sample_ranked_choice_voting_motion)