



## **GPSA Elections Procedures and Deadlines**

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**NOTE:** The GPSA Elections Code consists solely of Title 3 of the GPSA Bylaws. The GPSA Elections Procedures and Deadlines are outlined in Section 3.1 of the GPSA Bylaws.

# **TITLE 3**

## **ELECTIONS**

### **3.1 Elections Procedures and Deadlines**

- 3.1.1 Elections for the following year shall be held by the GPSA Elections Commission during the Spring semester of the current academic year.
- 3.1.2 The Assembly President shall confirm Assembly seat allocations with the GPSA Elections Commissioner by the end of the nomination period.
- 3.1.3 Information Sessions
  - 3.1.3.1 The GPSA Elections Commissioner shall distribute information about GPSA elections during the nomination period in the spring, including a list of rules to follow during the election, responsibilities and benefits of being an Assembly Member, and the elections timeline.
  - 3.1.3.2 The Deputy Elections Commissioner for GPSA must schedule an information session, working with GPSA's Communications team and GPSA Assembly Members, for potential candidates at least one (1) week before the application deadline.
  - 3.1.3.3 The Deputy Elections Commissioner for GPSA must provide materials to educate candidates on the election rules as listed in the GPSA bylaws. Candidates will be required to sign, either digitally or in person, to signify their comprehension and compliance with said rules.
  - 3.1.3.4 At least one (1) of these information sessions must be offered with a virtual attendance option for those unable to attend in-person
    - 3.1.3.4.1 Virtual attendance opportunities are encouraged for all information sessions
- 3.1.4 Nominations Procedure
  - 3.1.4.1 Potential Assembly Members and Executive Officers shall be nominated during a Nominations Period.
  - 3.1.4.2 Candidates must be members of GPSA at the time of the election and must continue to be members for the duration of the positions term.
    - 3.1.4.2.1 Candidates for GPSA Executive positions may not serve concurrently as an ASASU staff member after the election if the candidate is awarded an executive position.
    - 3.1.4.2.2 Candidates for GPSA Assembly positions must have completed one semester of enrollment at the graduate or professional level prior to the close of nominations.
  - 3.1.4.3 Potential candidates must submit their self-nomination in writing via online form to the GPSA Elections Commissioner.

- 3.1.4.4 Individuals must complete the appropriate forms from the Office of the GPSA Elections Commissioner, any other forms required by the ASASU Elections Department, and submit their curriculum vitae or resume to the GPSA Elections Commissioner by the end of the Nomination Period.
- 3.1.4.5 Candidates shall have their names recorded by the GPSA Elections Commissioner to be placed on the Ballot, pursuant to confirmation by the ASASU Elections Department that conditions for eligibility are met, as outlined in the GPSA Constitution.
- 3.1.4.6 The Nominations Period shall last no less than two full calendar weeks and conclude before the end of February.
- 3.1.4.7 The Candidate Application form shall be made available no later than the first Monday in February.
- 3.1.5 In the event of unforeseen or extenuating circumstances, GPSA elections procedures may be modified at any time, provided such changes do not conflict with the ASASU Constitution, by the Assembly Operations Committee or a unanimous vote by the Office of the Assembly President, which is composed of the Assembly President, Assembly President Pro Tempore, and the Assembly Parliamentarian, referred to as the Office of the Assembly President, on behalf of the Assembly.
  - 3.1.5.1 These modifications must be presented in writing to the ASASU Elections Department and the GPSA Elections Commissioner by the Assembly President must be signed or otherwise verifiably endorsed by the Assembly President, the Assembly President pro tempore, and the Assembly Parliamentarian.
  - 3.1.5.2 These modifications must be presented to the full Assembly for ratification at the next regularly scheduled Assembly meeting. If the modifications fail the ratification process, they shall be considered null and void from that point onward, and the Office of the Assembly President shall not re-present the modification in question to the ASASU Elections Department or GPSA Elections Commissioner without Assembly consent.
- 3.1.6 Campaign Spending Limitations
  - 3.1.6.1 Campaign costs for any candidate running for any GPSA position may not exceed three-hundred (300) dollars.
  - 3.1.6.2 Receipts must be kept by the candidate and are subject to weekly review by the GPSA Elections Commissioner or their deputies. The comprehensive Final Expense Form must be submitted, with all receipts, no later than 5:00 pm on the day after the election.
  - 3.1.6.3 University policies and regulations as well as the laws, regulations, and policies of the cities where ASU campuses are based and the laws of

the State of Arizona concerning posters and signage are enforceable for the purpose of these elections.

3.1.6.4 The GPSA Elections Commissioner may request a candidate's updated Expense Form with itemized receipts at any time during a campaign. The updated Expense Form with itemized receipts shall be submitted to the GPSA Elections Commissioner or their deputies within forty-eight (48) hours of the request.

### 3.1.7 Campaign Complaints and Resolution Procedures

3.1.7.1 Any GPSA member, including but not limited to, nominees, potential candidates, candidates, Assembly Members, and Executive Officers or the GPSA Elections Commissioner, may file a written complaint for violations of these procedures.

3.1.7.2 All campaign complaints must be submitted in writing to the Assembly, the Executive Committee, and the Elections Director within three (3) calendar days of the violation of these procedures and up to three (3) calendar days after close of voting for violations that occur on the day of the GPSA or ASASU election.

3.1.7.3 Actions taken by the GPSA Elections Commission or the ASASU Elections Department that do not comply with these Bylaws shall be subject to review by the GPSA Supreme Court, and the Assembly shall have authority to take action on items resulting from such actions.

3.1.7.4 In the event of a complaint brought against a candidate for a GPSA election, the GPSA Elections Commissioner shall review the complaint for its veracity, credibility, and severity.

3.1.7.4.1 In the event that the GPSA Elections Commissioner finds that the complaint is indeed credible, the GPSA Elections Commissioner shall enforce the penalty mechanism described in 3.1.11.

3.1.7.4.2 In the event that a complaint is brought forth regarding an alleged violation of these procedures by the GPSA Elections Commissioner or candidates running for the position of GPSA Elections Commissioner, the GPSA Elections Commissioner shall not review the complaint but shall instead bring the complaint to the GPSA Supreme Court, which shall review the complaint about its veracity, credibility, and severity.

3.1.7.4.2.1 If the complaint is found to be credible, the GPSA Supreme Court shall notify the Office of the Assembly President, the GPSA Advisor, and the ASASU Elections Department, and shall enforce the penalty mechanism described in 3.1.11.

- 3.1.7.5 Candidates have one (1) business day following issuance of an ASASU Elections Department or GPSA Elections Commissioner decision to appeal to the GPSA Supreme Court.
- 3.1.7.6 Should a complaint be ruled upon by the GPSA Supreme Court, that ruling shall be final and binding.
- 3.1.8 Campaign Communication Limitations
  - 3.1.8.1 Candidates, supporters, and any person affiliated with the candidate(s) campaign, may not disseminate information about their campaign through any university maintained listserv.
    - 3.1.8.1.1 This is inclusive of compiled lists that are kept by any entity associated with Arizona State University, including, but not limited to, lists compiled by the University, Colleges, Schools, Departments, Clubs, Organizations, etc.
  - 3.1.8.2 Campaigning and advertising GPSA elections in classrooms that are in session is prohibited during the voting cycle.
  - 3.1.8.3 Candidates, programs, services, or departments may not use GPSA resources for the purpose of any campaign. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of computers, printers, paper, phones, or copy machines.
  - 3.1.8.4 Campaigning and the presence of campaign materials within GPSA offices is forbidden.
- 3.1.9 The criteria by which an election is won will be the candidate(s) with the most votes. In the case of a tie, a runoff election will be held if necessary, before the end of the semester.
- 3.1.10 Elections Dates
  - 3.1.10.1 The Elections Department shall schedule campaigning for the general election to begin on the first Tuesday after the conclusion of spring break.
  - 3.1.10.2 The general election shall begin two (2) weeks from the first Tuesday after the conclusion of spring break.
  - 3.1.10.3 If these dates conflict with any religious holidays, the Elections Department will decide on a suitable date for the general election.
  - 3.1.10.4 Campaigning cannot begin before the dates set by the Elections Department.
- 3.1.11 Penalty Mechanism for Violations of the GPSA Elections Code.
  - 3.1.11.1 All candidates running for elected positions in GPSA shall be subject to this penalty mechanism, which shall be evaluated on a point-based system.

- 3.1.11.1.1 Violations committed by members of the campaign team or who are associated with the candidate's campaign shall also result in violation points being assigned to the candidate.
- 3.1.11.2 Candidates who accrue nine or more points shall be disqualified from the election.
- 3.1.11.3 The GPSA Elections Commissioner or the GPSA Supreme Court, pursuant to 3.1.7.4.2 of these Bylaws, shall assign points within the ranges specified in these Bylaws.
- 3.1.11.4 The use of any GPSA funds, particularly those administered by current GPSA Executive Officers, directors, or Assembly Members, for one's own election campaign, shall be considered a 'level 4' violation and shall result in the candidate receiving nine (9) violation points, the candidate's immediate disqualification from the election, notification of the violation to the GPSA Assembly President, the GPSA President, GPSA Supreme Court, the GPSA Advisor, the immediate and irrevocable removal from any current office within GPSA by the violator, prohibition of the candidate from running for any elected office within GPSA and from being eligible to work in any leadership position or compensated position within GPSA in perpetuity.
- 3.1.11.5 The following shall be considered 'level 3' violations, and shall result in the candidate being assigned a minimum of nine (9) points and the candidate's subsequent disqualification from the election:
  - 3.1.11.5.1 Promising to anyone any paid or leadership positions within GPSA that would otherwise be filled after an interview process open to all graduate and professional students at Arizona State University.
  - 3.1.11.5.2 Abusing the complaint mechanism to harass opponents by sending numerous unsubstantiated or non-credible complaints to the GPSA Elections Commissioner.
  - 3.1.11.5.3 Intentionally violating Bylaws section 3.1.8 regarding campaign communication limitations.
    - 3.1.11.5.3.1 Exceptions to this rule include university-sponsored Town Halls, Open Doors, Debates, and other university-sanctioned or university-endorsed forums with the express purpose of educating voters on the candidates running for office.
  - 3.1.11.5.4 Exceeding the campaign spending limits described in 3.1.6.
    - 3.1.11.5.5.1 The GPSA Elections Commissioner or GPSA Supreme Court may, at their discretion, choose to lower the number of points assigned to this violation if the violation is due to exceeding the violation by no more than 10% of the maximum campaign contribution and that it is clear that the violation was unintentional

- 3.1.11.5.5.2. The GPSA Elections Commissioner or GPSA Supreme Court may not assign fewer than six (6) points for this violation.
- 3.1.11.5.6 The use or appropriation of any code or campaign materials from any current candidates' campaigns without those candidates' written approval
- 3.1.11.6 The following shall be considered 'level 2' violations and shall result in the candidate being assigned a minimum of three (3) violation points and a maximum of six (6) violation points:
  - 3.1.11.6.1 Violating Bylaws section 3.1.8 regarding campaign communication limitations unintentionally.
- 3.1.11.7 The following shall be considered 'level 1' violations and shall result in the candidate being assigned a minimum of one (1) violation point and a maximum of three (3) violation points:
  - 3.1.11.7.1 Violating 3.1.6.3 regarding the placement of campaign signs.
  - 3.1.11.7.2 Electioneering or campaigning within fifty (50) feet of an official, in-person GPSA polling place.
- 3.1.11.8 The GPSA Supreme Court may consult a representative from the Office of Student Engagement to solicit any necessary guidance for the successful and fair resolution of any disputes arising from the GPSA Elections Code.
- 3.1.11.9 Violations that also constitute a violation of the Student Code of Conduct may, in addition to being subject to the assignment of violation points by the GPSA Elections Commissioner, also be referred to the GPSA Advisor.
- 3.1.12 Announcement and Certification of Final Election Results
  - 3.1.12.1 In order to ensure that all violations and complaints have been properly tabulated and recorded and that all candidates are eligible for election by virtue of satisfying all eligibility criteria and having not earned nine (9) or more violation points during their campaigns, the final results of GPSA elections shall not be announced or certified until five (5) business days after the election has concluded.
    - 3.1.12.1.1 The GPSA Elections Commissioner or GPSA Supreme Court may extend this deadline by five (5) business days if they believe that it is necessary to resolve any lingering complaints regarding the election that may materially impact the results of the election.
    - 3.1.12.1.2 In the event that the announcement deadline is extended by five (5) business days by the GPSA Elections Commissioner, the GPSA Elections Commissioner may still announce the results of individual elections after the five (5) business day limit described in 3.1.12.1 of these Bylaws if any complaints regarding those elections have been

resolved while leaving the results of those races that are still contested unannounced.