



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

The Elections Code

CHAPTER 700: REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICE

700.1 Presidential Candidates

- a. Must be registered as a full-time student as defined by the President's degree or program of study and must have an institutional G.P.A. of at least a 2.75 on a 4.0 scale prior to the start of the campaign period.
- b. Shall run as an executive ticket with the Vice President and Treasurer.
- c. Shall, as an individual, submit a petition with 200 signatures from any registered undergraduate student.
- d. Shall be elected by the student body in a secret ballot no later than April 30th.
- e. May serve no more than two terms as either President, Vice President, or Treasurer.
- f. Must be capable of fulfilling obligations of the office during the summer term.

700.2 Vice Presidential Candidates

- a. Must be registered as a full-time student as defined by the Vice President's degree or program of study, and must have an institutional G.P.A. of at least a 2.75 on a 4.0 scale prior to the start of the campaign period.
- b. Shall run as an executive ticket with the President and Treasurer.
- c. Shall, as an individual, submit a petition with 200 signatures from any registered undergraduate student.
- d. Shall be elected by the student body in a secret ballot no later than April 30th.
- e. May serve no more than two terms as either President, Vice President, or Treasurer.
- f. Must be capable of fulfilling obligations of the office during the summer term.

700.3 Treasurer Candidates

- a. Must be registered as a full-time student as defined by the Treasurer's degree or program of study, and must have an institutional G.P.A. of at least a 2.75 on a 4.0 scale prior to the start of the campaign period.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

- b. Shall run as an executive ticket with the President and Vice President.
- c. Shall, as an individual, submit a petition with 200 signatures from any registered undergraduate student.
- d. Shall be elected by the student body in a secret ballot no later than April 30th.
- e. May serve no more than two terms as either President, Vice President, or Treasurer.
- f. Must be capable of fulfilling obligations of the office during the summer term.

700.4 Senatorial Candidates

- a. Senators of Schools and Colleges shall be elected from each of the individual schools and colleges of the University of Georgia in proportion to the student enrollment within the school or college using the formula of one Senate seat for every one-thousand students enrolled, or a portion thereof, and one Senate seat for any school or college with less than one-thousand enrolled.
- b. Senators must be registered as full time students as defined by their degree or program of study and must have an institutional G.P.A. of at least a 2.75 on a 4.0 scale prior to the start of the campaign period.
- c. Senators must be enrolled in the school or college in which they stand for election.
- d. If a Senator ceases to be enrolled in the school or college he or she was elected to represent, then he or she will be up for review by the Supreme Court.
- e. Shall submit a petition of signatures with the lesser of 100 or 10% of the students enrolled in the school or college in which they stand for election.
- f. Senators can serve unlimited terms following each annual election that they successfully win.

g. Student Life Senators

- i. The purpose of Student Life Senators is to represent the extracurricular needs and interests of the student body. Student Life Senators shall be comprised of two categories of representatives: Campus Life Senators and At-Large Senators for Student Affairs.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

- ii. Campus Life Senators shall represent aspects of social identities of students that do not have an alternative organized, legislative voice at the University. They shall have defined constituent bases as determined by the Elections Committee.
- iii. At-Large Senators for Student Affairs shall exist to serve the evolving needs of students at the University that are not addressed by college or campus life senate seats.

h. Composition

- i. One Student Life Senator shall be elected for every two-thousand undergraduate students.
- ii. The ratio of Campus Life Senators to At-Large Senators for Student Affairs shall be determined by Elections Committee annually and presented by the final senate of the fall semester, confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the Senate separate from the Elections Code and Timeline.
- iv. In determining the number of student life seats allocated to Campus Life Senators and At-Large Senators for Student Affairs, the percentage of each shall not fall below 25 percent of the total number of student life seats available.

i. Petition and Election Process for Campus Life Senators

- i. Shall be registered as a full-time student with a minimum GPA of 2.75.
- ii. Shall submit Declaration of Candidacy forms as defined by the Elections Committee in the Elections Code.
- ii. If the Elections Committee determines a candidate cannot effectively serve as a representative for the Campus Life seat to which they are applying, the Elections Committee shall have the ability to reject an individual's petition for candidacy.
- iii. If an interested individual's petition for candidacy is rejected, said individual can appeal the decision before the Supreme Court.
- iv. If an interested individual's petition for candidacy for a Campus Life seat is rejected, said individual may participate in the elections process for an At-Large Senator for Student Affairs seat.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

v. Shall be elected by the student body in a secret ballot and inaugurated no later than April 30.

j. Petition Process for At-Large Senators for Student Affairs

i. Shall be registered as a full-time student with a minimum GPA of 2.75.

ii. Shall submit eligibility forms as defined by the Elections Committee in the Elections Code.

iii. Shall be elected by the student body in a secret ballot and inaugurated no later than April 30.

k. Duties

i. Shall represent and advocate on behalf of students within their respective Student Life category.

ii. Each senator shall have one vote in Senate.

700.4. Vacancy in the Seat of a Student Life Representative Senator shall be approved by Legislative Cabinet with a representative from the same Student Life category and confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

700.5 No cross-filing for any two offices is allowed.

700.6 Only students enrolled in undergraduate classes at the Athens campus of the University of Georgia are eligible to run for office in this Student Government Association.

CHAPTER 701: ELECTIONS TIMELINE

701.1 Shall be the official timeline of the elections process, detailing all deadlines and restrictions outlined in the Elections Code.

701.2 Shall be set by the Elections Committee during the Fall semester for the Spring elections.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

701.3 Shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of Senate no later than the first Senate meeting of the Spring semester.

701.4 Shall be distributed to all candidates at the Candidate Seminar.

701.5 After passage of the timeline by the Senate, the Elections Committee shall have the power to amend the timeline as needed. The Attorney General must communicate any amendments approved by the Elections Committee to the Senate and any other outlets deemed appropriate within three school days of passage.

CHAPTER 702: CANDIDATE SEMINAR AND EXECUTIVE SEMINAR

702.1 The Candidate Seminar shall be held within five school days of the filing deadline. The exact time and place shall be determined within the Elections Timeline and announced by the Elections Committee no later than the beginning of the time of filing.

702.2 It is the duty of the Elections Committee to use the Candidate Seminar to inform potential candidates of all policies within the Elections Code, as well as presenting the Elections Timeline and answering any questions candidates might have.

702.3 Executive Seminar

- a. The Executive Seminar shall be held within five school days of the filing deadline. The exact time and place shall be determined within the Elections Timeline and announced by the Elections Committee no later than the beginning of the time of filing.
- b. The Elections Committee and the sitting Student Government Association executive officers shall be responsible for thoroughly informing Executive Candidates of their duties of office.
- c. Failure of an individual candidate to attend the Executive Seminar shall result in disqualification to run.
- d. Executive Candidates are still required to attend the Candidate Seminar.

702.4 Candidate Absence Policy



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

- a. Any candidate who is unable to personally attend or send an agent to the Candidate Seminar shall contact the Attorney General prior to the meeting and report their reason for absence.
- b. Any candidate who fails to attend the seminar, personally, by agent, or who fails to contact the Attorney General, will not have his or her name printed on the ballot.

702.5 The Use of Agents

- a. A candidate may send an agent to represent them at the Candidate Seminar.
- b. Any person claiming to be an agent of a candidate shall be required to show written verification, signed by the candidate, identifying the person as an agent.

702.6 Staff Absence Policy

- a. It is recommended that all campaign staff attend the Candidate Seminar in addition to the candidates.
- b. If a staff member cannot attend the Candidate Seminar, they do not need to notify the Attorney General or send an agent; however, they shall be held responsible for knowing all Elections Code policies and adhering to them.

CHAPTER 703: FILING OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

703.1 Statement of Intent

- a. All candidates shall file a statement of intention to run for office with the Elections Committee.
- b. The Statement of Intent shall be posted on the Elections Committee's organization site on the University of Georgia Involvement Network and shall include the candidate's name, current address, phone number, e-mail address, position for which he or she shall stand for election,



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

names of any individual campaign staff, staff phone numbers, and staff e-mail addresses.

- c. All candidates shall sign a grade release statement enabling the Elections Committee to check grade qualifications of the candidates.
- d. A candidate may change the office he or she seeks to run for up until the close of the filing period at which time changes will be prohibited.
- e. Staff may be added or removed by the candidate until the close of the filing period at which time a campaign staff roster will be filed with the Statement of Intent. Staff may be added or removed by the candidate until the start of campaigning, at which time an updated roster will be turned in to the Elections Committee. A final staff roster will be turned in to the Elections Committee at the beginning of the voting period.
- f. The Statement of Intent shall be submitted online. An electronic confirmation will be sent to the candidate; if no confirmation is received, it is the responsibility of the candidate to notify the Attorney General within 24 hours of the issue.
- g. Failure by a candidate to submit the Statement of Intent by the deadline as defined in the Elections Timeline will result in automatic disqualification of the candidate unless extenuating circumstances are otherwise determined by the Elections Committee.

703.2 Petition of Signatures

- a. In addition to the Statement of Intent, each candidate will submit a Petition of Signatures to the Attorney General by the deadline set in the Elections Timeline.
- b. The number of signatures required for Executive Candidates can be found in sections 703.1 , 703.2, and 703.3 of this document.
- c. The number of signatures required for Senatorial candidates can be found in section 704.e of this document.
- d. Failure to submit a Petition of Signatures will result in an incomplete application.

703.3 Senator Party Affiliations



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

- a. Any group of candidates who choose to form a senator party (hereinafter referred to as party) shall submit a party affiliation form as provided by the Elections Committee.
- b. The Party Affiliation Form shall include the party's name, list of all senatorial candidates in the party and their associated positions, and any party-wide staff.
- c. Candidates and staff may be added or removed from the party until the close of the filing period at which time a campaign staff roster will be submitted with the Statement of Intent. Staff may be added or removed by the candidate until the start of campaigning, at which time an updated roster will be turned in to the Elections Committee.
- d. Parties may only be composed of students from within the school for which they are running.
- e. Parties may only submit one name for every position available within each school. No party will have more candidates than available seats for each school.
- f. A candidate cannot appear on more than one Party Affiliation Form.
- g. A party may not include an executive ticket.
- h. A party may not endorse an executive ticket.
- i. A party running in one school or college may endorse another party running for seats in a different school or college.
- j. All candidates within the party shall be elected individually.

703.4 A prospective candidate may request the identity of any other students who have already filed for any office or position at any time.

703.5 Any tampering of election documents will result in the disqualification of the tampering person or the candidate they represent.

703.6 Candidates will be notified of eligibility following the filing deadline, before any scheduled debate.

703.7 Any organization, person, or party that a candidate or ticket is claiming endorsement from must complete and file the Endorsement Form provided by the Elections Committee.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

- a. An organization, person, or party that is self-proclaiming endorsement of a candidate or ticket, without the candidate or ticket advertising the endorsement, does not have to fill out the Endorsement Form.

CHAPTER 704: CAMPAIGNS

704.1 The campaign period will be set by the Elections Committee.

704.2 Campaigning may begin for candidates and parties on the date and time specified by the Elections Timeline, after each candidate files all necessary documents, attends the mandatory candidate seminar, and after notification of eligibility has been communicated by the Elections Committee.

- a. Any forms of campaigning done prior to the date specified by the Elections Committee will result in disciplinary action, as defined by the Elections Committee.
- b. All candidates and registered staff members will be accountable for adhering to the campaign guidelines, as defined in this section. Failure to adhere to said guidelines will result in disciplinary action, as defined by the Elections Committee.

704.3 Restrictions on Campaign Expenses

- a. Individual executive tickets may spend a maximum of \$1500 on their campaign.
- b. Individual candidates for Senate may spend a maximum of \$250 on their campaign.
- c. Senate Parties may spend a maximum amount based on the sum of \$100 for every candidate seeking a Senate seat.

704.4 Restrictions on Campaign Materials

- a. All campaign materials must be approved by the Elections Committee at least one week prior to the official beginning of the campaign period.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

- i. Campaign material shall be defined as an advertisement, document, or other medium that is intended to promote the electoral prospect of a particular candidate, party, or ticket.
- ii. Campaign material shall also include, but will not be limited to the following:
 - a. An electoral advertisement
 - b. A printed document containing an electoral matter (a how-to-vote card, a candidate or party platform, etc.)
 - c. A message presented in a way which is intended to promote an electoral matter, candidate, party, or ticket.
 - d. Any social media or traditional media platform intended to promote an electoral matter, candidate, party, or ticket.
 - i. These platforms include, but are not limited to: privately acquired websites, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, and GroupMe.
- iii. Campaign materials will not include postings on the aforementioned platforms after the beginning of the campaign period.
 - a. Postings include, but are not limited to Facebook status updates, tweets, Instagram posts or stories, or Snapchat stories.
 - b. These postings will, however, be seen as an extension of the candidate, staff, party, or ticket associated with said platform and as such be held to the disciplinary standards as defined by the Elections Committee.
- b. Only approved postings may be posted.
- c. If an individual candidate, senate ticket, or executive ticket wishes to alter any respective posting after its approval, the new changes must also be approved by the Elections Committee.
- d. All postings within the UGA campus must abide by the UGA Campus Promotion Guide, Computer Use Policy, Housing policies, Food Services policies, and any other applicable code of a UGA governing body.
- e. If no decision is made within twenty-four hours by the Elections Committee as to the approval of a submitted posting, then it is automatically approved.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

- f. A link to all applicable codes must be made available on the Student Government Association “Elections” website prior to the Candidate Seminar.
- g. Each candidate is responsible for seeing that their postings are removed by 5:00 p.m. the day following the announcement of the election results.
- h. If a candidate is involved in a run-off, they need not remove their postings until the day following the announcement of the run-off results.

704.5 General Regulations

- a. a.No person other than a member of the Elections Committee, the respective candidate, or member of the respective candidate’s staff or party shall willfully destroy, deface, obscure, move, or remove postings.
- b. The Elections Committee shall only handle campaign materials in the case of a violation of this Elections Code and shall alert the respective candidate within one business day.
- c. No candidate or any individual working on a campaign may intentionally damage the character of another candidate, staff member, or Elections Committee member with false information.
- d. No candidate or any individual working on a campaign may publicly state any false or misleading information about a candidate, staff member, Elections Committee member, or party.
- e. e.All candidates, staff, parties, and tickets will abide by the Student Government Association’s Code of Ethics as defined in this document.
- f. Chalking and all other forms of defacing University property are prohibited.
- g. Candidates and staff may not distribute campaign materials in campus dining areas.
- h. Door-to-door campaigning in residence halls is prohibited.
- i. Candidates may not hand out campaign materials inside university buildings.
- j. No candidate shall claim to be endorsed by any individual or organization, other than a party, unless the candidate has secured a written statement of endorsement from the endorsing individual or organization and presented it to the Elections Committee.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

- k. When a candidate is being interviewed by media outlets (i.e. all print media, television, and online venues), it is his/her responsibility to state any party affiliation and position within the party.
- l. When a candidate or staff member is being interviewed by media outlets, reserving space, or campaigning, it is his/her responsibility to present himself or herself as a candidate, and not as a member of the Student Government Association.
 - i. Statements of prior or current active membership in the Student Government Association are permitted.
- m. All candidates must abide by all Campus Reservations, Events, and Technical Services (CRETS) guidelines as outlined at the Mandatory Candidate Seminar.

704.6 Executive Ticket Regulations

- a. An executive ticket shall run independently of senator candidates.
- b. An executive ticket shall not endorse any candidate for senator.
- c. An executive ticket will be held accountable as one entity, and not as individual candidates.

704.7 Campaigning Outside of Campus

- a. Any campaign materials posted on public property in Athens-Clarke County are subject to its own laws and policies, along with this Code.
- b. In order for candidates to post campaign materials on private property, they must first obtain written consent from the owner of the property and follow all applicable policies of the governing body that has jurisdiction over that property.

704.8 Debates

- a. The Elections Committee shall set a time and place for an Executive Debate. One debate is to be held during the week prior to the days of the



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

General Election. Attendance at the debate is mandatory for all respective candidates on an executive ticket.

- b. If an executive ticket candidate is unable to attend the debate, it is his/her responsibility to make arrangements to participate via any form of communication deemed acceptable by the Attorney General.
- c. The format of the debates shall be determined by the Elections Committee.
- d. It is the responsibility of the Elections Committee to publicize the Executive Debate through relevant media outlets.
- e. Candidates for office may organize their own debates between either executive tickets or Senate candidates; such debates are not subject to the rules or format of the debate hosted by the Elections Committee.
 - i. These debates, however are subject to the rules of the Elections Code, and must be approved by the Elections Committee no later than one week prior to the scheduled debate.

704.9 Responsibilities of Campaign Staff

- a. All individuals who are actively representing an individual or party are considered to be staff and must be registered with a Statement of Intent or Party Affiliation.
 - i. Active representation does not include people who have only participated in the campaign with social media posts.
- b. Candidates and parties are responsible for the actions of their staff.
- c. Campaign staff will adhere to the Student Government Association's Code of Ethics, the Elections Code, and the University of Georgia's Code of Conduct.

704.10 Campaign Liaison

- a. Each party will be responsible for establishing one member of their campaign staff to be the Campaign Liaison.
- b. All individual complaints within the party must be sent to the Liaison, who will be the only member allowed to submit an official complaint to the Elections Committee.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

- c. The Liaison may represent a candidate or staff member of he/she is unable to attend a scheduled hearing.

CHAPTER 705: ELECTIONS

705.1 Elections Period

- a. The elections shall be held on the last week of the campaign period.
- b. Candidates and staff shall respect the students' right to a secret ballot by not exerting any undue influence over a voter.
- c. The Elections Committee shall supervise the elections and be available for assistance and ruling in any and all matters during the elections process.
- d. Copies of the official enrollment numbers for the University of Georgia shall be obtained by the Elections Committee from the Office of the Registrar at the beginning of the Spring semester to determine the number of Senate seats available for candidacy.

705.2 Voting

- a. Only individuals who are officially registered as undergraduate students at the Athens campus of the University of Georgia may participate in Student Body elections.
- b. One person submitting a ballot using the identity of another student, regardless of the willingness of the student, is prohibited.
- c. The counting of votes shall be under the supervision of the Elections Committee.

705.3 Results

- a. Results of the election will be announced following the end of the elections period at a time specified by the Elections Committee within the Elections Timeline.
- b. The incoming President, Vice President, Treasurer, and members of Senate elected in the elections shall take office after the ratification of the



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

elections results by the Student Government Association Senate, and before April 30th.

- c. A vote to ratify the elections results must be made in the first Senate meeting of the outgoing Student Government Association after the receipt of the report of the Elections Committee by the Attorney General.
- d. If the Senate chooses not to ratify the results, then it shall instruct the Elections Committee to carry out remedies.

705.4 Recount

- a. Any individual desiring a recount must petition the Elections Committee within twenty-four hours after the elections results are announced.
- b. All candidates involved in a recount shall be notified within twenty-four hours of the request.
- c. The recount shall be conducted by the Elections Committee within seven days of the request and must be done in the presence of two representatives of both parties.

705.5 Irregularities

- a. The Elections Committee shall have the power to withhold the certification and results of an election in which it finds substantial evidence that irregularities may have occurred and such irregularities may have influenced the outcome or results of the election.
- b. The Elections Committee shall have one day to investigate and rule on the irregularity.
- c. The Elections Committee may, if deems necessary, call a new election to be held within the limits of this Elections Code at the earliest convenient time.

705.6 Run-off Elections

- a. A run-off between the top two tickets shall be held for the executive tickets when a ticket does not receive more than forty percent of the votes cast.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

- b. The Elections Committee will set an appropriate date for the run-off election.
- c. In the case of a run-off election, the Financial Disclosure Form will not be due until 5:00 p.m. on the Monday following the run-off election.

CHAPTER 706: FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

706.1 Candidates

- a. Each candidate is required to keep accurate and up-to-date records of all campaign receipts and expenditures.
- b. Contributions and expenditures of non-monetary assets shall be listed and valued at their fair market value.
- c. Each candidate shall be required to file a complete Financial Disclosure Form at least twenty-four hours prior to the start of the campaign period; this form must be updated with an amendment on the day voting commences, as well as with a third update no more than twenty-four hours after the results of the election are announced.
- d. Each candidate's financial records shall be available for public inspection.

706.2 Parties

- a. a.Each party is required to keep accurate and up-to-date records of all campaign receipts and expenditures for the party and associated party members and staff.
- b. Contributions and expenditures of non-monetary assets shall be listed and valued at their fair market value.
- c. Each party shall be required to file a complete Financial Disclosure Form at least twenty-four hours prior to the start of the campaign period; this form must be updated with an amendment on the day voting commences, as well as with a third update no more than twenty-four hours after the results of the election are announced.
- d. Each party's financial records shall be available for public inspection.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

706.3 Any discrepancy between receipts provided and expenditures listed shall be considered a violation of this Elections Code and will result in a hearing before the Elections Committee and possible disqualification.

706.4 No outside organization may provide physical assistance to a candidate, party, or ticket.

- a. Outside organizations include but are not limited to:
 - i. University of Georgia registered student organizations
 1. Excluding the Student Government Association
 - ii. Recreational Sports
 - iii. Greek Councils
 - iv. Political Action Committees
 - v. Non-profit organizations
 1. Including but not limited to 501(c) and 527 organizations
- b. Physical assistance includes but is not limited to finances, campaign materials, or personnel.
- c. Candidates may receive an endorsement, without physical assistance, from an organization upon completion of an Endorsement Form.

706.5 A candidate, ticket, or party may receive physical assistance from an individual who has submitted an official Endorsement Form.

706.6 Failure to disclose physical assistance from an individual via an official Endorsement Form, or the receipt of any assistance from an outside organization, will result in disciplinary action by the Elections Committee.

- a. All physical assistance will be recorded on a candidate, ticket, or party's Financial Disclosure.
- b. All physical assistance will be valued at fair-market price and will be deducted from a candidate, ticket, or party's campaign budget.

CHAPTER 707: REFERENDUMS AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

707.1 Constitutional amendments, referendum issues, and other questions may be submitted to the student body at the same time as any election governed by this Code.

707.2 The Elections Committee, under instructions from the Student Government Association Senate, may call a special election while classes are in session during any fall and spring semester.

CHAPTER 708: TRANSITION

708.1 The Student Government Association transition period shall begin immediately following the announcement of the election results and will end with the swearing in of the new Student Government Association Executive Officers and Senators.

CHAPTER 709: OATH OF OFFICE

709.1 The President-Elect shall be administered the Oath of Office by the presiding Chief Justice of the Student Government Association at a time and date set by the Elections Committee, provided that this date is before April 30th.

709.2 The Vice President-Elect, Treasurer-Elect, Senators-Elect, and any appointed Constitutional officers shall be administered the Oath of Office by the new President of the Student Government Association.

CHAPTER 710: ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

710.1 The Elections Committee shall be formed in accordance with Article V, Section 6, Paragraph A of the Constitution of the Student Government Association of the University of Georgia.

710.2 Impartiality

- a. In the case where the Attorney General stands for election to an office or is otherwise deemed incapable of remaining impartial by the Elections



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

Committee, they will be responsible for submitting a designee to the President of the Student Government Association to fulfill their duties on the Elections Committee.

- b. The designee must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Student Government Association Senate.
- c. No voting member of the Elections Committee shall be a candidate for office in the Student Government Association while serving on the Elections Committee.
- d. No voting member of the Elections Committee shall assist with a campaign for office in the Student Government Association while serving on the Elections Committee.

710.3 Duties

- a. Shall interpret, execute, and enforce all election laws provided in this Elections Code.
- b. Shall supervise all campaigns by candidates and parties for Student Government Association office as well as elections related to referendum issues, proposed Constitutional amendments, and other questions appearing on the official ballot.
- c. Shall assess and execute the remedies and sanctions provided in this Elections Code if it finds violation of either provisions of this Code or Elections Committee rulings.
- d. May promulgate rules and regulations to the extent that they are necessary in providing an equal opportunity to all candidates during the whole election process.
- e. Shall have the authority to submit news items and election results to campus and community news disseminating organizations.
- f. Shall have the authority to reserve University facilities for events related to any election.
- g. Shall take all minutes of meetings and hearings, and keep records of all opinions, rulings, and filings required of candidates under this Elections Code.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

CHAPTER 711: ELECTIONS HEARINGS AND APPEALS

711.1 Complaints

- a. The Campaign Liaison shall submit all complaints on behalf of candidates in a party to the Attorney General and will be responsible for representing the candidate filing the complaint if he/she is unable to attend a hearing that ensues.
- b. Any individual candidate not running in a party will be responsible for attending a hearing that results from a complaint he/she files.
- c. The Elections Committee must act on all complaints within three school days after they are received by dismissing them or calling a hearing.
- d. All hearings and sanctions must be completed within forty-eight hours after the announcement of the election results.

711.2 Dismissal

- a. The Elections Committee may dismiss a complaint if the complaint was not filed within two school days of the conclusion of all election procedures.
- b. The Elections Committee may dismiss a complaint if the Elections Committee lacks jurisdiction over the subject or a party in the dispute.
- c. The Elections Committee may dismiss a complaint if the complaint fails to state a cause of action for which relief may be granted.
- d. The Elections Committee may dismiss a complaint if the complaint is not registered in good faith and is primarily for the purpose of harassment.

711.3 Hearings

- a. The Elections Committee shall set the time and place of the hearing.
- b. The Elections Committee shall notify the involved parties of the time and place of the hearing.
- c. Shall be open to the public.
- d. Require at least three Elections Committee members to be in attendance with the chair presiding. In their absence, the responsibility shall fall to a designated Elections Committee member.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

- e. The Elections Committee shall determine the format for the hearing in such a manner where all parties are represented equally and the information necessary to make a decision is provided.
- f. The presentation by witnesses or testimonies is allowed.
- g. The complaining party shall bear the burden of proof.
- h. Ignorance of the Elections Code, either by candidates, staff, parties, or members of the Elections Committee, shall not be an acceptable defense in response to any offense committed in any election governed by this Code.

711.4 Decisions, orders, and rulings of the Elections Committee shall be announced as soon as possible after the hearing and must be concurred to by the majority of the Committee.

711.5 Remedies and Sanctions

- a. Possible remedies and sanctions may include disqualification from office or candidacy; removal of candidate from the ballot; suspension from campaigning; probationary period; removal of campaign materials; or formal reprimand.
- b. This list is not exhaustive; other remedies and sanctions may be assigned if deemed necessary by the Elections Committee.

711.6 Sanctions

- a. A candidate may not receive multiple numerical sanctions for the same incident, only steeper remedies if so deemed.
- b. Three sanctions will, at least, result in automatic probation as defined by the Elections Committee.
- c. A sanction while on probation will, at least, automatically suspend the candidate, ticket, or party from further campaigning.
- d. A sanction while suspended will automatically disqualify any candidate from the election process.
- e. A total of five sanctions will automatically disqualify any candidate from the election process.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

- f. If after a hearing, the Elections Committee finds that the candidate has willfully and blatantly violated the ruling of the Committee, the Committee may disqualify the candidate.
- g. Any decision by the Elections Committee other than a formal reprimand shall be considered a sanction.
- h. The Elections Committee has the discretion to take any action that is deemed appropriate with regard to the complaint.

711.7 The Constitutionality of the decisions, orders, and rulings of the Elections Committee shall be subject to review by the Supreme Court.

- a. Within 24 hours of the Elections Committee's release of its decision to the relevant parties, the subject(s) of the initial hearing can appeal the Committee's decision to the Supreme Court should they believe that the Committee did not adhere to its guiding principles in making its decision.
- b. In making an appeal, the appellant must clearly indicate the sections of the Elections Code, Statutes, or Constitution that they believe was violated by the Elections Committee.
- c. Should the candidate or ticket appeal its decision after the prescribed 24 hour period, the Supreme Court shall not consider the appeal, and the Committee's decision shall stand.
- d. Should the candidate or ticket appeal its decision within the 24 hour period, the Supreme Court shall contact all relevant parties within 36 hours to schedule an appeals hearing.
 - i. Allowed parties in an appeals hearing include:
 - 1. Candidate appealing decision
 - 2. One additional representative of the appellant
 - 3. Chair of the Elections Committee
 - 4. One additional representative of the Elections Committee
 - 5. Any witnesses called by either party
- e. The appeals hearing shall take the following structure:
 - i. The appellant shall make an opening statement outlining its grievances
 - ii. The Chair of the Elections Committee shall make an opening statement defending its decision.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

- iii. The appellant shall present any evidence or witnesses.
- iv. The Supreme Court may ask clarifying questions.
- v. The Elections Committee may present any evidence or witnesses in its defense.
- vi. The Supreme Court may ask clarifying questions.
- vii. The appellant shall make a closing statement.
- viii. The Elections Committee shall make a closing statement.
- ix. The appellant may deliver a rebuttal if deemed necessary.
- x. The Supreme Court may question either party until they leave for deliberation.
- xi. The Supreme Court shall deliberate as to the validity of the Elections Committee's ruling and the appealed decision.
- xii. Deliberation shall take place in a sequestered environment with only the Supreme Court present.
- f. A majority vote is required to overturn the Elections Committee's decision.
 - i. The Supreme Court, if overturning the initial decision, reserves the right to develop its own sentence against the appellant.
- g. A majority opinion must be written by the court and delivered to the appellant, Elections Committee, and other relevant parties.
- h. Concurring or dissenting opinions may accompany the majority opinion.
- i. Justices are free to issue dissenting opinions which shall also be presented to the appellant, Elections Committee, and other relevant parties.
- j. Upon the delivery of the Supreme Court's opinion, the deliberations and sanctions remedied by the Court are final.

CHAPTER 712: RATIFICATION

712.1 Upon ratification by a two-thirds vote in the Student Government Association Senate, this Elections Code shall supersede all previous governing documents regarding elections, which shall be deemed null and void.



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Student Government Association

CHAPTER 713: AMENDMENTS TO THE ELECTIONS CODE

713.1 Every year the Elections Committee shall convene in the Fall semester to review the Elections Code before the elections process begins in the following Spring semester.

713.2 If any amendments are deemed necessary to the Code by the Elections Committee, they shall be presented by the Attorney General to the Student Government Association as a Bill before the Senate no later than the first Senate meeting of the Spring semester.