



# **ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

## *Student Government Association*

### **Elections Code**

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### **REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICE**

#### CHAPTER 700: EXECUTIVE TICKET CANDIDATES

##### 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. May serve no more than two (2) terms as either President, Vice President, or Treasurer.
- d. 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. May serve no more than two (2) terms as either President, Vice President, or Treasurer.
- d. 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.
- b. Shall run as an Executive Ticket with the President and Vice President.

- c. May serve no more than two (2) terms as either President, Vice President, or Treasurer.
- d. Must be capable of fulfilling obligations of the office during the summer term.

## CHAPTER 701: SENATORIAL CANDIDATES

### 701.1 Senators of Schools and Colleges

- 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 (1) Senate seat for every one-thousand (1,000) students enrolled in said school or college, and one (1) Senate seat for any school or college with less than one-thousand (1,000) students enrolled.
- b. Schools-and-Colleges Senatorial Candidates 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. Schools-and-Colleges Senatorial Candidates must be enrolled in the school or college in which they stand for election per their classification by the Registrar of the University of Georgia.
  - i. Intended candidates who are also intended majors of schools/colleges to which they have not yet been accepted are eligible to run for a Senate seat in their intended school/college before receiving an official acceptance. If the intended candidate terminates his or her enrollment (or fails to enroll) in a school/college for which he or she stands for election or has been elected to represent, his or her eligibility to contest a seat within the aforementioned school/college will be called into question as per Chapter V, Section 3, Paragraph B, Sub-section v of the Constitution.
- d. If, during the general campaign/elections period, a Schools-and-Colleges Senatorial Candidate ceases to be enrolled in the school or college in which he or she stands for election, his or her candidacy will be subject to review by the Elections Committee.
- e. Senators of Schools and Colleges shall be eligible to serve unlimited terms following each annual election that they win.

### 701.2 At-Large Senators

- a. At-Large Senators shall be elected from the student body as a whole, using the formula of one (1) Senate seat for every four thousand (4,000) students.
- b. At-Large Senators shall be registered as full-time students as defined by their degree or program of study and must have an institutional G.P.A. of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale prior to the start of the campaign period.

### 701.3 Campus Life Senators

- a. Campus Life Senators shall be elected from the student body as a whole, using the formula of one (1) seat allotted for Health & Humanities, one (1) seat allotted for Community Involvement, and two (2) seats allotted for Access & Opportunity.
- b. Campus Life Senators shall be registered as full-time students as defined by their degree or program of study and must have an institutional G.P.A. of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale prior to the start of the campaign period.

### CHAPTER 702: ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

702.1 No cross-filing for any two (2) or more offices is allowed.

702.2 All candidates for elected office must abide by the additional requirements and regulations listed in other sections of this Code. A candidate's failure to abide by these requirements will result in disciplinary action and/or disqualification.

### **PRE-CAMPAIGN INFORMATION**

### CHAPTER 703: ELECTIONS TIMELINE

703.1 The Elections Timeline shall be the official timeline of the elections process, detailing all deadlines and restrictions outlined in the Elections Code.

703.2 The Elections Timeline shall be passed upon approval by an absolute majority vote, defined by the Constitution as 50 percent plus one (1) vote, of the Senators present no later than the first Senate meeting of the Spring semester.

703.3 The Elections Timeline shall be distributed to all candidates at the Candidate Seminars.

703.4 After passage of the Elections 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 within three (3) school days of passage.

703.5 The General Filing Deadline shall take place no later than five (5) weeks after the beginning of the spring semester.

703.6 The voting period shall begin no later than ten (10) days after the beginning of the campaign period and shall last no longer than five (5) days, including a potential run-off election period.

703.7 The Inauguration of the President-elect, Vice President-elect, Treasurer-elect, and Senators-elect shall take place no later than three (3) weeks before the end of the Spring Term as defined by the Academic Calendar.

703.8 The exact dates and times of all mandatory candidate events shall be determined in the official Elections Timeline by the Attorney General and Elections Committee.

#### CHAPTER 704: CANDIDATE SEMINARS

704.1 The Elections Committee shall use the Candidate Seminars to inform potential candidates of all policies within the Elections Code, as well as to distribute the Elections Timeline and to answer any questions potential candidates might have.

#### 704.2 Executive Candidate Seminar

- a. The Executive Candidate Seminar shall be held within five (5) school days before the final deadline to submit the Statement of Intent Form. The exact time and place of the Seminar shall be determined within the Elections Timeline and announced by the Elections Committee no later than two (2) weeks prior to the final deadline to submit the Statement of Intent Form.
- b. At the Executive Candidate Seminar, the Elections Committee and the incumbent Student Government Association President, Vice President, and Treasurer shall be responsible for thoroughly informing potential executive candidates of their duties of office.
- c. Potential Executive Candidates are permitted, but shall not be required, to attend the General Candidate Seminar.

#### 704.3 General Candidate Seminar

- a. All potential candidates for Senate are required to attend the General Candidate Seminar prior to the start of the campaigning period.
- b. At the General Candidate Seminar, the Elections Committee and incumbent members of the Senate (including, but not limited to, the President of the Senate, the President Pro-Tempore, Senate Committee chairs, or other Senators designated to speak) shall be responsible for thoroughly informing potential candidates of their duties of office.

#### 704.4 Absence Policy

- a. Potential candidates who are unable to attend the Candidate Seminars are required to contact the Attorney General and request an excusal from the Elections Committee.
  - i. Excusal from any Candidate Seminar shall only apply for the following reasons: immediate family death or illness, personal medical emergencies, a university test or mandatory class meeting scheduled during the Candidate Seminar, or a unique and extenuating circumstance evaluated at the discretion of the Elections Committee.
  - ii. An absence from the Candidate Seminar shall only be considered excused pending the presentation to the Elections Committee of appropriate documentation, defined by the Attorney General, as well as the attendance of an

approved agent in place of the absent candidate(s).

- iii. Any potential candidate(s) who fails to attend the Seminar without an excuse as approved by the Elections Committee will be disqualified to run.
  1. Failure of an individual potential executive candidate(s) to attend the Executive Seminar without proper excusal shall result in disqualification to run, even if other members of the potential Executive Ticket are present.
  2. If a potential candidate(s)/Ticket(s) for any office does not attend the Candidate Seminars because he or she filed the Statement of Intent Form after the Candidate Seminars took place, it is the responsibility of that potential candidate(s)/Ticket(s) to schedule and attend a meeting with the Attorney General to review the information from the Seminars. This meeting shall be held within five (5) school days of the Statement of Intent Form submission deadline and shall include at least the potential candidate(s)/member(s) of the potential Ticket(s) and the Attorney General. Failure by a potential candidate(s)/member(s) of a potential Ticket(s) to schedule and attend such a meeting shall result in the disqualification to run of that potential candidate(s)/Ticket(s).
- b. It is highly recommended, but not required, that all campaign staff attend the Executive and/or General Candidate Seminar in addition to the candidates.
  - i. If a staff member cannot attend the Candidate Seminar(s), he or she does not need to notify the Attorney General.

## CHAPTER 705: FILING OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

### 705.1 Statement of Intent Form

- a. All potential candidates shall file a Statement of Intent Form to run for office with the Elections Committee.
- b. The Statement of Intent Form shall be posted on the Elections Committee's organizational page on the University of Georgia Involvement Network, and it shall include the potential candidate's name, phone number, UGA email address, position for which he or she intends to stand for election, names and positions of Designated Staff Members, Designated Staff Member phone numbers, and Designated Staff Member UGA email addresses.
- c. The Statement of Intent Form shall be submitted online. An electronic confirmation of receipt shall be sent to the candidate. If no confirmation of receipt is received, it is the responsibility of the candidate to notify the Attorney General within 24 hours of the initial submission.
- d. All potential candidates shall sign a grade-release statement enabling the Elections Committee to check grade qualifications of the potential candidates
- e. The potential Presidential candidate of a given potential Executive Ticket shall

submit only one (1) Statement of Intent Form on behalf of the entire potential Ticket.

- f. Before approval by the Elections Committee of the Statement of Intent Form of a potential individual candidate/Executive Ticket, said potential candidate/Ticket is considered to be a “potential candidate” for an office, and the potential candidate/members of said potential Ticket shall represent themselves as such.
- g. The Elections Committee reserves the right to request alterations to any Statement of Intent Form that conflicts with UGA copyright policy or contains purposefully inflammatory language or harmful messaging directed at any student, student organization, or group of students. If an adjustment to the Statement of Intent Form is requested, the ticket or candidate in question will be given 72 hours to complete the requested adjustment, regardless of proximity to the submission deadline.
- h. Upon approval by the Elections Committee of the Statement of Intent Form of a potential individual candidate/Executive Ticket, but before any said candidate/Ticket submits paperwork for the General Filing Deadline, said potential candidate/Ticket is considered to be “intending to run” for an office, and the intended candidate/members of said intended Ticket shall represent themselves as such.
- i. Failure by a potential candidate or Ticket to submit the Statement of Intent Form by the deadline as defined by the Elections Timeline shall result in automatic disqualification of the potential candidate/Ticket unless extenuating circumstances are otherwise determined by the Elections Committee.
- j. The Senatorial Ticket Affiliation Form shall be due at the Statement of Intent Form deadline, and information regarding this submission can be found in Chapter 707.7 of this Code. This Form shall not be required for individual candidates who do not intend to become affiliated with a Senatorial Ticket.

705.2 Upon approval by the Elections Committee of the Statement of Intent Form of an intended individual candidate/Executive Ticket, said intended candidate/Ticket may begin to make financial expenditures, solicit endorsements, and assemble a full campaign staff.

705.3 After the Statement of Intent Form’s final deadline, but before the beginning of the Campaign Period, intended candidates must adhere to the General Filing Deadline. The General Filing Deadline, hereafter referred to as the GFD, will require that intended candidates for office submit Part I of their Financial Disclosure Form, all Endorsement forms collected thus far, and a Staff Roster.

- a. Information regarding the submission of the Financial Disclosure Form can be found in Chapter 708 of this Code.

## b. Endorsement Forms

- i. An endorsement of a candidate or Ticket may be filed by said candidate/member(s) of said Ticket demonstrating support in one (1) or multiple ways via the submission of an Endorsement Form.
- ii. No candidate/Ticket, or any staff member acting on behalf of a candidate or Ticket, shall claim to be endorsed by any student organization unless the candidate/Ticket has secured a written statement of endorsement from the endorsing student organization and presented it to the Elections Committee in the form of the official Endorsement Form provided by the Elections Committee.
  1. An individual or student organization that is self-proclaiming endorsement of a candidate and/or Ticket, without the candidate/Ticket advertising, discussing, or promoting the endorsement, does not have to fill out the Endorsement Form.
    - 2a. Any registered student organization intending to endorse any ticket/candidate must poll all active members of said organization. An endorsement may only be made if a majority of votes cast are for said ticket/candidate. Failure to poll membership or falsification of the endorsement form are liable to be discarded and will be viewed as violations of this code.
    - 2b. In-person polls conducted by an organization must reach a quorum as defined in the organization's bylaws.
    - 2c. Polls hosted online must be available to all members for at least 24 hours.
    - 2d. In the case that a candidate unknowingly files an endorsement where the student organization falsifies any endorsement requirements, the candidate is not held liable.
  3. The use of a student organization's private resources by a candidate or by members of a Ticket or staff members for campaigning is prohibited unless explicitly allowed by the head(s) of said student organization. Permission by the head(s) of said student organization must be given in the form of an Endorsement Form, where the organizational head(s) states clearly which resources may be used.
- iii. An individual or student organization may retract, rescind, or otherwise cancel their endorsement of a candidate and/or Ticket at any time by notifying the Attorney General in writing, after which, the endorsement and any previous Endorsement Form that was filed shall be considered null and void.
  1. The Elections Committee shall notify the affected candidate/Ticket of this retracted endorsement as soon as possible.
  2. In this case, a candidate/Ticket must terminate all usage of said student

organization's resources, as well as terminate all advertisement, discussion, and/or promotion of their endorsement by said individual/student organization, including the deletion or elimination of this endorsement from any campaign materials or postings currently in circulation except in extenuating circumstances identified at the discretion of the Elections Committee. Failure to comply with this policy will result in a violation as per Chapter 705.3b.ii of this Code.

c. Staff Roster

- i. An intended candidate/Executive Ticket shall, through the Primary Liaison, submit a full Staff Roster by the GFD.
  - ii. The Staff Roster shall meet all requirements regarding the listing of Designated Staff Members, including the Designated Staff Members listed in Chapters 707 of this Code, and it shall meet all requirements regarding the designation of a Legal Team as per Chapter and 712.4 of this Code.
  - iii. This Staff Roster does not have to be the final iteration of a campaign's staff, but it must completely reflect the staff as of the GFD.
- d. Failure by any campaign to submit any required paperwork or documentation by the deadline as defined by the Elections Timeline shall result in an incomplete submission, which allows the Elections Committee to take disciplinary action against the intended campaign, including, but not limited to, disqualification to run, sanctions, or other remedies deemed necessary or appropriate by the Elections Committee.
- e. No candidate for election to any office within the Student Government Association shall be required to collect a Petition of Signatures, meaning that this Code hereby establishes the number of signatures required to stand for election at zero (0).
- f. No applicant for any vacant Senate seat shall be required to collect a Petition of Signatures. Thus, conformant to Article IX, Section 5, Sub-section i of the Constitution of the Student Government Association of the University of Georgia, which gives the Elections Code the authority to define the appropriate number of signatures required for application to a vacant Senate seat, this Code hereby defines said appropriate number of signatures as zero (0).

705.4 Upon approval by the Elections Committee of the GFD paperwork of an intended individual candidate/Ticket, said intended candidate/Ticket is considered to be an official candidate for office, and the candidate/members of said Ticket are permitted to represent themselves as a "candidate," or as the "[insert name here] Ticket," that is "running for [insert office title]."

705.5 Intended candidates and Tickets shall be notified of eligibility following the GFD at least one (1) week before any scheduled debate.

705.6 Any member of the student body may request that the Elections Committee provide the identity of any other student(s) who have already filed any paperwork for any office or



position at any time.

- 705.7 All forms submitted by any candidate (or potential or intended candidate) shall be made available for public inspection. However, phone numbers and email addresses, as well as any other contact information, shall be redacted to respect the personal privacy of the candidates and their staff members.
- 705.8 Any tampering of election documents shall result in the disqualification of the tampering person(s) and/or the candidate/Ticket they represent.
- 705.9 All forms necessary to complete the filing of required documentation shall be found and submitted on the Election Committee's page on the UGA Involvement Network. The Elections Committee reserves the ability to post or request the submission of any forms or documents through other mediums or methods deemed necessary and proper by the Committee.
- 705.10 Any forms or documents submitted by any candidate or Ticket through mediums or methods not designated or approved as correct avenues of submission by the Elections Committee shall be considered void and shall not be considered submitted. The Elections Committee reserves the ability to accept these documents in extenuating circumstances.

#### CHAPTER 706: CAMPAIGN STAFF AND PERSONNEL

##### 706.1 Responsibilities of Campaign Staff

- a. All individuals who are actively representing an individual or Ticket are considered to be staff and must be registered with a Statement of Intent Form and/or the official Staff Roster.
  - i. "Active representation" includes all methods of campaigning and representation established by Chapter 707.1a of this Code, but active representation does not include people whose only campaign involvement or participation has been through social media posts on their personal accounts.
  - ii. Social media accounts created for the purpose of campaigning must be reported to the Elections Committee.
- b. Campaigns and candidates are responsible for the actions of their staff.
- c. All candidates, members of a Ticket, and campaign staff shall adhere to the Student Government Association's Code of Ethics, the Elections Code, and the University of Georgia's Code of Conduct.
- d. All individuals participating as campaign staff must be registered with the Elections Committee prior to the beginning of the voting period.
- e. No staff member shall be registered with more than one (1) campaign.
- f. The participation of unregistered staff members shall result in disciplinary action from the Elections Committee.
- g. Unregistered staff members will be defined as individuals not on any staff roster

who are participating in campaign activities or campaigning as defined by this code.

## 706.2 Designated Staff Members

- a. Each campaign shall be required to designate specific staff members to submit specific forms/to perform specific tasks or actions as defined by the Elections Committee.
  - i. The Elections Committee can only require or compel the submission of those specific forms or the performance of those specific tasks/actions that are explicitly stated in the Elections Code.
- b. The Designated Staff Members representing a candidate or Ticket must include the following officials:
  - i. Primary Liaison – charged with the submission of all Staff Rosters and Endorsement Forms on behalf of the campaign, and he or she shall perform the duties of the Financial Liaison and/or Chief Counsel in the absence of those Designated Staff Members.
    1. The Primary Liaison shall be the sole member of the campaign staff responsible for interactions with Campus Reservations, Events, and Technical Services (CRETS) and shall make all reservations on behalf of the campaign. All candidates/Tickets, Primary Liaisons, and any other campaign staff must abide by all CRETS guidelines.
  - ii. Financial Liaison – charged with the submission of all financial disclosure forms on behalf of the campaign.
  - iii. Chief Counsel – shall be the campaign’s liaison to the Elections Committee. The Chief Counsel shall submit all complaints on behalf of the campaign, shall represent the campaign in all hearings, appeals, and any other appearances before the Elections Committee and Supreme Court, and shall lead the campaign’s Legal Team.
- c. A Senatorial Ticket shall not appoint any Designated Staff Members because the responsibilities of these Designated Staff Members shall lie with the individual candidates affiliated with a Senatorial Ticket and the staff of these individual candidates.
- d. A candidate or members of a Ticket may list themselves as performing one (1) or several of these functions.
- e. Designated Staff Members can perform more tasks than those that are enumerated in Chapter 706.2b, but these enumerated tasks are the minimum requirements.
- f. The registered Designated Staff Member shall be the only person authorized to perform the tasks associated with that office.

- i. Performance of these tasks by anyone other than the Designated Staff Member listed on the Statement of Intent Form or the Staff Roster shall be considered participation by an unregistered staff member(s) and shall result in disciplinary action pursuant to Chapter 706.1f of this Code.

## **CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS**

### **CHAPTER 707: CAMPAIGNS**

707.1 Campaigning may begin for candidates and Tickets on the date and time specified by the Elections Timeline, after each candidate files all necessary documents, attends the Executive and/or General Candidate Seminar(s), and after notification of eligibility has been communicated by the Elections Committee.

- a. Campaigning shall be defined as any and all actions intentionally undertaken with the purpose of promoting, publicizing, and securing support for a candidate(s) and/or Ticket, including dissemination of campaign materials and social media postings, as defined by the Elections Committee.
- b. Any forms of campaigning done prior to the date specified by the Elections Committee shall result in disciplinary action as defined by the Elections Committee.
- c. All candidates, Tickets, 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.

#### 707.2 Restrictions on Campaign Expenses

- a. Individual Executive Tickets may spend a maximum of \$1,500 USD on their campaigns.
- b. Individual Senatorial candidates not affiliated with a Senatorial Ticket may spend a maximum of \$200 USD on their campaigns.
- c. Individual Senatorial candidates affiliated with a Senatorial Ticket shall coordinate their spending so that their combined expenditures do not exceed the sum of \$150 USD for every candidate on said Ticket with a maximum of \$600.

#### 707.3 Campaign Material Regulations

- a. "Campaign material" shall be defined as an advertisement, document, or other medium that is intentionally disseminated with the intent to promote the electoral prospect of a particular candidate, Ticket, or other electoral matter. Campaign material shall include, but shall not be limited to the following:
  - i. An electoral advertisement
  - ii. A printed or digital document containing an electoral matter (a how-to-vote card, a candidate or party platform, etc.)

- iii. Any posting on any social media or traditional media platform intended to promote a candidate, Ticket, or other electoral matter.
  1. These platforms include, but are not limited to privately acquired websites, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, GroupMe, etc.
  2. "Postings" include, but are not limited to Facebook status updates, tweets, Instagram posts or stories, Snapchat stories, GroupMe messages, etc.
- iv. Any solicitation for financial contribution including, but not limited to in-person or online fundraising apparatuses (such as Venmo, GoFundMe, Kickstarter, canning, person-to-person money transfers), advertisements on social media, print advertisements, etc.
  1. However, any solicitation for financial contribution shall be permitted after the approval of a campaign's Statement of Intent Form.
  2. Such solicitation may not contain any other form of campaign material.
- b. All postings made and campaign materials disseminated by any registered staff member(s) shall be viewed as an extension of the candidate or Ticket associated with said staff member(s), and as such, said staff member(s) and candidate/Ticket shall be held to disciplinary standards as defined by the Elections Committee should an action worthy of discipline, at the discretion of the Elections Committee, occur.
- c. All campaign materials must abide by the requirements and restrictions established by this Code.
- d. All campaign materials posted on the UGA campus must abide by UGA policies. It is the sole responsibility of candidates/Tickets and campaign staff to be knowledgeable and mindful of any potential violations of UGA Campus policies.
- e. Any campaign materials posted on public or private property in Athens-Clarke County or in any other jurisdiction are subject to the laws and policies of those jurisdictions, along with this Code.
- f. Any campaign materials posted on public or private platforms, such as but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc., are subject to the policies and regulations of those platforms, along with this Code.
- g. All physical campaign materials posted by any candidate, Ticket, and/or staff member(s) must possess an identifying mark pre-approved by the Elections Committee. Failure to include this mark shall result in the removal of the offending material.
- h. Each candidate/Ticket is responsible for seeing that their campaign materials and postings are removed within 24 hours following the certification of the General Election Results.

- i. Postings on social media by individual staff members and individual candidates do not need to be deleted or removed, but all official campaign accounts must be deleted or made defunct via a change in publicity setting to “private” or a similar obfuscation method, and the account must be updated to reflect that it is an archived account that no longer represents an active campaign.
- i. If a candidate/Ticket is involved in a run-off election, they need not remove their campaign materials and postings until 24 hours following the certification of the Run-Off Election Results.

#### 707.4 General Regulations

- a. A link to all applicable codes and governing documents must be made available on the Student Government Association website prior to the Executive and General Candidate Seminars.
- b. No person other than a member of the Elections Committee, the respective candidate/members of the respective Executive Ticket, or a staff member of the respective campaign shall willfully destroy, deface, obscure, move, or remove campaign materials.
- c. The Elections Committee shall only handle campaign materials in the case of a violation of this Code and shall alert the respective campaign within one (1) business day.
- d. No candidate/no member of a Ticket or any campaign staff member may intentionally damage the character of another candidate, Ticket, staff member, or Elections Committee member with false information.
- e. No candidate/no member of a Ticket or any campaign staff member may disseminate campaign materials or postings containing false or misleading information about a candidate/Ticket, staff member, or Elections Committee member.
- f. Chalking and all other forms of defacing University property are prohibited.
  - i. This provision does not include methods of permitted advertisement, such as but not limited to painting at the Tate Bus Stop, as long as the campaign completes all necessary requirements to obtain approval to paint/advertise.
- g. Door-to-door campaigning in residence halls is prohibited.
- h. Candidates/members of Tickets and staff may not hand out campaign materials inside university buildings.
  - i. A “university building” shall be defined as any building owned or operated by the University of Georgia.
- i. Candidates/members of Tickets and staff may:

- i. Wear T-shirts, stickers, buttons, or other forms of electoral advertisement inside campus dining areas, residence halls, and/or other university buildings.
- ii. Discuss the election and advocate for themselves/the campaign with which they are associated via person-to-person interaction and speaking to classes or other assembled groups.
  - 1. However, no campaign materials may be physically distributed person-to-person, and candidates/members of Tickets and staff may not stand in common areas (such as but not limited to hallways, bathrooms, entrances and exits, etc.) and/or block, impede, or otherwise disrupt the flow of foot traffic or harass occupants of a building/location in order to promote a candidate, Ticket, or other electoral matter.
  - 2. If applicable, such behavior will be determined to be in violation of the above provisions of this Code at the discretion of the Elections Committee.
- j. When a candidate/member(s) of a Ticket or their staff are being interviewed by media outlets (including all print media, broadcast, and online outlets), or making campus reservations, or campaigning, it is their responsibility to present themselves as a candidate (or potential or intended candidate, or as a representative of the same) for office, 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, but the candidate/members of a Ticket and their staff may not speak or behave in a way that would present themselves as active representatives or agents of the Student Government Association in their specific roles as candidates for office.
- k. No candidate/member(s) of a Ticket or their staff shall use any live animal(s) as a means of campaigning or otherwise promoting a candidate, Ticket, or any other electoral matter via any means outside of social media posts, photographs, and/or videos.
  - i. These posts, photographs, and/or videos may not be made or captured in real-time (such as, but not limited to, a photo booth with animals, a social media livestream with animals, and/or any related concept at the discretion of the Elections Committee).
  - ii. It shall be permissible to use or stage animals in a campaign photo, video, or other similar medium that was pre-recorded, pre-photographed, or otherwise created before the date and time of release in a manner or location designed/used only for the purpose of content creation (and not active campaigning).
- l. No candidate/member(s) of a Ticket or their staff shall use methods of campaigning not listed that damage the integrity of the election cycle and the Student Government Association. The Elections Committee reserves the right to analyze and use discretion when determining appropriateness of campaign methods.

- i. Methods of campaigning that damage the integrity of the election cycle will be defined as methods that are found in violation of section 706.1c of this code in accordance with the SGA Code of Ethics.
- m. Absences by active members of the Student Government Association from their official governmental obligations for the purpose of campaigning shall be considered unexcused in all circumstances except for attendance at any mandatory Candidate Seminar, or at the Executive Debate, or at any hearing scheduled by the Elections Committee or the Supreme Court, or any extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the SGA Attorney General.
  - i. All methods of reporting absences and requesting excusal shall follow the rules and procedures established by Chapter 305 of the SGA Statutes.
- n. The Student Government Association as a registered student organization shall not endorse any candidate, Ticket, or any other electoral matter.
- o. No Student Government Association resources and/or platforms may be used in the promotion of, advocacy for, or campaigning on behalf of or in coordination with any candidate, Ticket, or any other electoral matter on the ballot. General announcement, notification, or publication of an upcoming election is acceptable, and general statements of encouragement to vote in said election are also permissible.

#### 707.5 Executive Ticket Regulations

- a. Members of an Executive Ticket shall choose a name under which all three (3) candidates shall run as an entity.
- b. Partial or non-complete Executive Tickets are not allowed.
- c. An Executive Ticket shall run independently of Senate candidates and Tickets.
- d. An Executive Ticket shall not endorse any candidate for Senate or any Senatorial Ticket.
- e. The members of an Executive Ticket, as well as its staff members, shall provide no contributions to any Senatorial candidate, Ticket, or campaign, or to any other Executive Ticket, including but not limited to financial contributions, volunteer work, non-monetary assistance/contributions, and/or any other contribution(s) and/or assistance that would impact said campaign(s).
- f. An Executive Ticket shall be held accountable as a single entity, not as individual candidates.

#### 707.6 Individual Senatorial Candidate Regulations

- a. An individual Senatorial candidate shall run independently of an Executive Ticket and of any other Senatorial candidate(s) unless that individual candidate forms or joins a

Senatorial Ticket.

- b. An individual Senatorial candidate shall not endorse any Executive Ticket.
- c. An individual Senatorial candidate shall not endorse any other candidate for Senate.
  - i. The only instance where this endorsement shall be permissible is when the individual Senatorial candidate(s) issuing the endorsement, as well as the recipient(s) of said endorsement, are affiliated with the same Senatorial Ticket.
- d. An individual Senatorial candidate, as well as his or her staff members, shall provide no contributions to any Executive Ticket or campaign, or to any other individual Senatorial candidate, including but not limited to financial contributions, volunteer work, non-monetary assistance/contributions, and/or any other contribution(s) and/or assistance that would impact said campaign(s). Such contributions can be made if said individual candidate forms or joins a Senatorial Ticket.
  - i. The only instance where such contributions shall be permissible is when the individual Senatorial candidate(s) providing the contributions, as well as the recipient(s) of said contributions, are affiliated with the same Senatorial Ticket.

#### 707.7 Senatorial Ticket Regulations

- a. Two (2) or more individual Senatorial candidates may form a Senatorial Ticket.
  - i. Senatorial Tickets may not consist of fewer than (2) individual candidates.
- b. Members of a Senatorial Ticket shall choose a name with which all members of the Ticket shall affiliate.
  - i. This Ticket shall not share a name (or a variation of a name) with any other Senatorial Ticket or with any Executive Ticket.
- c. All Senatorial Tickets must be registered with the Elections Committee.
  - i. Registration shall be defined as the submission of a Senatorial Ticket Affiliation Form by each member of the Senatorial Ticket, as well as subsequent approval of said Form by the Elections Committee.
  - ii. The deadline for this Affiliation Form shall be the same as the deadline to submit the Statement of Intent Form. A potential candidate may change his or her intended affiliation status until the Statement of Intent Form submission deadline, after which time changes will be prohibited.
  - iii. This Affiliation Form shall include the Senatorial Ticket's name, the constituency in which the Senatorial Ticket plans to run, and a list of each individual candidate affiliated with said Ticket.
    - 1. An individual staff member working on behalf of an individual candidate that



is affiliated with a given Senatorial Ticket shall be permitted to perform active representation, as defined by Chapter 706.1a.i of this Code, of any other candidate(s) affiliated with the given Senatorial Ticket, as well as for the Ticket at-large. However, this staff member may only appear on the Staff Roster of one (1) of the affiliated candidates.

iv. Upon approval by the Elections Committee of the Affiliation Form and of the Statement of Intent Form of all members of an intended Senatorial Ticket, said members may begin to make solicit endorsements for the Ticket at-large.

1. A Senatorial Ticket shall not make expenditures as an entity, and expenditures shall be made by the individual candidates, who are permitted to coordinate these expenditures with other candidates on their affiliated Ticket.

2. Financial Disclosure shall occur by individual candidates, not by the Ticket as an entity.

v. Failure by any member(s) of a potential Senatorial Ticket to submit the Senatorial Ticket Affiliation Form by the deadline as defined by the Elections Timeline shall result in automatic disqualification of the Ticket to form or to operate unless extenuating circumstances are otherwise determined by the Elections Committee.

1. In this specific scenario, this failure to file appropriate documentation in the correct way or by adhering to the Elections Timeline shall not disqualify the individual candidates who were intending to become affiliated with said disqualified Ticket, and these individuals shall still be capable of campaigning as individual candidates if their individual paperwork has been approved by the Elections Committee.

2. In the event that all but one (1)/several member(s) of a potential Senatorial Ticket submit their paperwork properly, the formation of the potential Senatorial Ticket shall be permitted, but the one (1)/several specific member(s) who did not properly submit their paperwork shall be barred from affiliating with said Senatorial Ticket.

a. If the omission of violating individual candidates reduces the anticipated number of Senatorial Ticket affiliates of a given Ticket to one (1) potential candidate, said Ticket shall not form conformant with Chapter 707.7a.i of this Code.

d. Senatorial Tickets may only be formed amongst individual Senatorial candidates running within a single constituency.

e. No Senatorial Ticket shall have more candidates than available seats for a given constituency.

f. If an individual Senatorial candidate chooses to be affiliated with a Senatorial Ticket, said candidate shall only be associated with one (1) Senatorial Ticket.

- g. A Senatorial Ticket shall campaign and run independently of individual Senatorial candidates not affiliated with said Ticket, as well as independently of any other Senatorial Ticket and/or Executive Ticket.
- h. Members of a Senatorial Ticket shall be elected independently of one another.
  - i. On the ballot, each candidate shall appear individually, but each member of each Senatorial Ticket shall be identified as being a member of their respective Ticket.
- i. Members of a Senatorial Ticket, or the Senatorial Ticket as a whole, shall not endorse any candidate(s) for Senate that is not a member of said Senatorial Ticket and shall not endorse any other Senatorial Ticket or any Executive Ticket.
- j. The members of a Senatorial Ticket, as well as any staff members working for said members, shall provide no contributions to any individual Senatorial candidate that is not affiliated with the Ticket at hand, or to any other Senatorial Ticket as a whole, or to any Executive Ticket, including but not limited to financial contributions, volunteer work, non-monetary assistance/contributions, social media posts, and/or any other contribution(s) and/or assistance that would impact said campaign(s).
- k. Members of a Senatorial Ticket shall be held accountable as an entity, where the elections committee deems appropriate.
  - i. The Elections Committee reserves the ability to reject the registration of or to dissolve a Senatorial Ticket (without disqualifying the Ticket's individual members) based on violations of this Code, including but not limited to the failure to file required documentation in the correct way or pertaining to the failure to adhere to the Elections Timeline.

#### 707.8 Debates

- a. The Elections Committee shall set a time and place for an Executive Debate. One (1) debate is to be held during the week prior to the days of the General Election.
- b. The Executive Debate shall be managed, arranged, and conducted in a neutral manner so that no Executive Ticket receives any institutional or systematic advantage over another.
- c. Attendance at the Executive Debate is mandatory for all candidates on an Executive Ticket.
  - i. Any Executive Ticket candidate that is unable to attend the debate must submit an excuse, in writing, to the Attorney General following the rules and procedures established by Chapter 305 of the SGA Statutes.
  - ii. An unexcused absence will result in disciplinary action. Pursuant to Chapter 707.5f of this Code, this disciplinary action shall be taken against the Executive Ticket as a whole.

- iii. If an Executive Ticket candidate is unable to attend the debate, they will not be allowed a proxy.
- d. The format of the debates shall be determined by the Elections Committee.
- e. The Elections Committee may choose a third-party outlet(s) and/or moderator(s) to moderate the debate. However, the Elections Committee shall not consider or contract for moderation any outlet(s) that has endorsed any candidate, Executive Ticket, or electoral matter on the ballot for the current election cycle. The Elections Committee also shall not consider or contract for moderation any moderator(s) that has endorsed any candidate, Executive Ticket, or electoral matter on the ballot for the current election cycle, or that is a registered staff member for any campaign, or that has given a monetary or non-monetary contribution to any campaign, or that has participated in any campaign in any way (registered or otherwise) that would create a reasonable doubt as to the neutrality of the debate at the discretion of the Elections Committee.
  - i. To ensure proper neutrality, the Elections Committee shall conduct appropriate vetting and investigation prior to the commissioning or contracting of any outlet(s) or moderator(s).
- f. It is the responsibility of the Elections Committee to publicize the Executive Debate.
- g. Candidates for office may organize their own debates, though such debates are not subject to the rules or format of the Executive Debate hosted by the Elections Committee.

## CHAPTER 708: FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

### 708.1 Candidates/Tickets

- a. Each candidate/Ticket is required to keep accurate and up-to-date records of all campaign receipts and expenditures.
- b. Each campaign's Financial Liaison shall be required to file all Financial Disclosure Forms on behalf of the candidate or Ticket he or she represents.
  - i. Part I of the Financial Disclosure Form shall be due at the General Filing Deadline, as established by the Elections Timeline.
  - ii. Part II of the Financial Disclosure Form shall be due prior to the start of the campaign period, as established by the Elections Timeline.
  - iii. Part III of the Financial Disclosure Form shall be due no later than 24 hours after the certification of the General Election Results, or, if an individual candidate or Executive Ticket is involved in a run-off election, 24 hours after the certification of the Run-Off Election Results.
  - iv. The financial records of each candidate/Ticket shall be available for public inspection.

- 708.2 Any discrepancy between receipts provided and expenditures listed may result in a hearing before the Elections Committee and possible disciplinary action. If a hearing is called regarding Senatorial ticket expenditures, tickets should be prepared to provide evidence of which candidate contributed funding for each item.

## **ELECTIONS PROCEDURE**

### **CHAPTER 709: ELECTIONS**

#### **709.1 Voting Procedure**

- a. Voting shall be conducted online using the elections feature of the UGA Involvement Network.
- b. Voting shall be conducted by secret ballot.
- c. Each student shall cast one (1) ballot during the election cycle.
- d. Any person submitting a ballot using the identity of another student, regardless of the willingness of said student, is prohibited.
- e. All candidates, Ticket members, and staff members shall not exert any undue influence over any voter.

#### **709.2 Results**

- a. Upon poll closure, the Elections Committee shall gather the results of the General Election. The Attorney General, acting on his or her authority as Chair of the Elections Committee, will then certify the General Election Results and will disseminate these results publicly.
- b. An Executive Ticket shall be elected when that Ticket achieves an absolute majority of the votes cast for the specific election that an Executive Ticket contests.
  - i. "Absolute majority" is defined by the Constitution as 50 percent plus one (1) vote.
- c. A Senatorial candidate contesting a constituency with a singular Senate seat shall be elected when that candidate achieves an absolute majority of the votes cast for the specific election that a Senatorial candidate contests.
- d. A Senatorial candidate contesting a constituency with multiple Senate seats shall be elected when that candidate receives enough votes to finish in at least the numerical place equivalent to the number of seats allocated to the specific constituency that a Senatorial candidate contests. (*e.g., If a constituency has five (5) seats, a Senatorial candidate must receive at least the fifth-largest number of votes in order to be elected.*) A Senatorial candidate does not need to win an absolute majority of votes cast in this election.

- e. The outgoing Senate must ratify the General Election Results in the next immediate Senate session following the certification of these results.
- f. If the Senate chooses not to ratify the results, then the Elections Committee shall carry out remedies.

### 709.3 Irregularities

- a. The Attorney General, in consultation with the Elections Committee, shall have the power to withhold the certification of the General or Run-Off Election Results should the Elections Committee find substantial evidence that irregularities may have occurred, and that such irregularities may have influenced the outcome or results of the election.
- b. The Elections Committee shall have 48 hours after the initial compilation of the results in question to investigate and rule on the irregularity.
- c. The Elections Committee may, if it deems necessary, call a new election to be held within the limits of this Elections Code at the earliest convenient time.

### 709.4 Run-off Elections

- a. A run-off election shall occur between any two (2) candidates/Executive Tickets that are contesting a singular office or election, but who fail to receive an absolute majority of votes cast for that specific office or election. The candidates/Executive Tickets that receive the highest and second-highest number of votes shall advance to a run-off election. Alternatively, a run-off election shall occur between any two (2) candidates/Executive Tickets that are contesting a single office or election, where both parties have received an exactly equal number of valid votes, and where this tied-vote total directly impacts the potential election of the affected candidates/Tickets.
- b. A Senatorial candidate/Executive Ticket shall be elected when that candidate/Ticket achieves the criteria established by Chapters 709.2b and 709.2c of this Code.
- c. The Run-Off Election Results shall undergo the same processes of certification, ratification, and rules regarding irregularities as the General Election Results.
- d. In the case of a run-off election, the Financial Disclosure Form shall be due within 24 hours of the end of the extended voting period.

## CHAPTER 710: REFERENDUMS, RECALL ELECTIONS, AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

710.1 Votes on Referendums and Constitutional Amendments, as well as recall elections, shall be subject to the rules and regulations found in this Code and in the Constitution of the Student Government Association.

710.2 Votes on Referendums and Constitutional Amendments, as well as recall elections, shall be carried out in accordance with the guidelines listed in Articles X and XIV of the

Constitution of the Student Government Association.

**ELECTIONS COMMITTEE AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

CHAPTER 711: ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

711.1 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.

711.2 The Elections Committee shall enforce the Elections Code of the Student Government Association of the University of Georgia.

711.3 The Elections Committee shall dissolve 96 hours after the certification of the General Election Results.

- a. This dissolution deadline becomes null and void should the Elections Committee identify any irregularities surrounding the General or Run-Off Election Results, or should the Senate refuse to ratify the General and/or Run-Off Election Results, which would require the Committee to remain assembled after the 96-hour deadline in order to execute its duties.

711.4 Impartiality

- a. The Elections Committee shall act in good faith, without bias.
  - i. Neither the Elections Committee as a whole nor any of its members individually shall, upon confirmation, render aid, assistance, help, or shall contribute to any candidate, Ticket, or electoral matter in any way.
  - ii. No member of the Elections Committee shall, upon confirmation, stand for election, or shall function as a registered staff member of any campaign, or shall perform any campaigning for any candidate, Ticket, or electoral matter, or shall advertise, promote, advocate for, or otherwise support any candidate, Ticket, or electoral matter in any way.
    1. In the case where the Attorney General stands for election to an office or is otherwise deemed incapable of remaining impartial by the Elections Committee, the Elections Committee shall be responsible for submitting a designee to the President of the Student Government Association to fulfill the Attorney General's duties on the Elections Committee.
      - a. This designee must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

711.5 Duties

- a. Shall interpret, execute, and enforce all election laws provided in this Elections Code.
- b. Shall supervise all campaigns 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 the provisions of this Code or of Elections Committee rulings.
- d. Shall have the authority to submit news items and election results to campus and community news-disseminating organizations.
- e. Shall take all minutes of meetings and hearings, and keep records of all opinions, rulings, and filings required of candidates and Tickets under this Elections Code and shall make these records public.

## CHAPTER 712: COMPLAINTS, HEARINGS, AND APPEALS

### 712.1 Complaints

- a. Any student shall be able to submit complaints about Elections Code violations to the Attorney General and shall be responsible for representing his or her position in any possible resulting hearing.
  - i. However, pursuant to Chapters 706.2b.iii and 706.2f of this Code, the Chief Counsel shall be the only person permitted to submit complaints on behalf of his or her respective campaign.
- b. The Elections Committee must act on all complaints within two (2) school days after they are received, or by any deadline for action assigned by this Code, either by dismissing them or by calling a hearing.
- c. All hearings and deliberations must be completed, and all sanctions and remedies must be assigned, before the certification of the General Election Results.
  - i. For any candidate(s)/Ticket(s) involved in a run-off election, all hearings and deliberations must be completed, and all sanctions and remedies must be assigned, before the certification of the Run-Off Election Results.
  - ii. Such a standard shall become null and void in the event that the Elections Committee finds substantial evidence of the occurrence of any electoral irregularities as determined by Chapter 709.3 of this Code.

### 712.2 Dismissal

- a. The Elections Committee may dismiss a complaint if the complaint does not adhere to the deadline requirements established by Chapter 712.1c of this Code.
- 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 submitted in good faith and is primarily for the purpose of harassment.
  - i. Complainants should make a reasonable effort to file complaints as soon as possible. Complaints found to be withheld with strategic intent to file at a later date shall be dismissed.
  - ii. If a potential code violation is addressed or corrected in the moment, it is left to the discretion of the Complainant whether to file a complaint.
- e. The Elections Committee may dismiss a complaint for lack of evidence or refusal of the complainant to testify or elaborate via hearing.

### 712.3 Hearings

- a. 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.
- b. The Elections Committee shall set the time and place of the hearing and shall notify the involved parties of the time and place of the hearing.
- c. Hearing proceedings shall be open to the public. Deliberations of the Elections Committee will take place in a sequestered environment.
- d. All decisions by the Elections Committee must be clearly reasoned and explained using citations from this Code, and/or any other governing documents of the Student Government Association.
- e. A quorum shall be required to hold a hearing. Pursuant to Article VI, Section 3, Paragraph B, Sub-Section vi. of the Constitution, "Quorum shall consist of four of the five voting members and the Attorney General."
- f. Any person who files a complaint shall be required to attend the possible resulting hearing.
  - i. A candidate/Ticket member(s) shall not be required to attend any hearing so long as this candidate/Ticket member(s) has a Chief Counsel who attends and represents the campaign instead.
- g. The presentation by witnesses or testimonies is allowed.
- h. The complaining party shall bear the burden of proof.
- i. Ignorance of the Elections Code, either by candidates, members of a Ticket, staff members, or by members of the Elections Committee, shall not be an acceptable defense in response to any offense committed in any election governed by this Code.
- j. To maintain an appropriate level of decorum and civility, to move the hearing process along, to afford equal opportunity to all involved parties, and to collect



sufficient details for the Elections Committee to make an informed ruling, the Attorney General reserves the ability to eject any unruly or otherwise disruptive individual(s) from any Elections Committee hearing at any time.

#### 712.4 Legal Representation

- a. The Chief Counsel shall be the primary representative of any campaign while said campaign is involved as a complainant or defendant in a case or hearing or appeal before the Elections Committee and/or the Supreme Court.
- b. The Chief Counsel shall have the ability to assemble a Legal Team to assist in the representation of the campaign with which the Chief Counsel is associated.
  - i. Members of a campaign Legal Team who are not the Chief Counsel and who are not the candidates themselves shall hold the title of Associate Counsel.
  - ii. A Legal Team shall consist of no more than one (1) Chief Counsel and two (2) Associate Counsel.
  - iii. Members of the Legal Team must be registered with the Elections Committee on the Staff Roster specifically as members of the Legal Team, and these Legal Team members shall be the only people, besides the candidates and/or members of a Ticket, authorized to represent their respective campaigns in hearings and/or proceedings of the Elections Committee and/or the Supreme Court.
  - iv. Performance of legal representation by anyone other than registered members of the Legal Team or a candidate/Ticket member(s) shall be considered participation by an unregistered staff member(s) and will result in disciplinary action pursuant to Chapter 706.1f of this Code.
- c. The Chief Counsel is required to attend all hearings and/or appeals in which the campaign that he or she represents is named as a complainant or defendant.
  - i. If the Chief Counsel is unable to attend a hearing, the Chief Counsel must notify the Elections Committee (or the Supreme Court if the anticipated absence is from a hearing where the Court has jurisdiction), and he or she must designate another member of the campaign's Legal Team to act as Chief Counsel.

712.5 No person appearing before the Elections Committee or Supreme Court shall knowingly and/or willfully:

- a. Make any false statement or representation; or,
- b. Create, present, or use any false, altered, or doctored evidence or document(s) knowing said evidence or document(s) to contain any false statement or representation; or,
- c. Falsify, conceal, or cover up any fact via the usage of any trick, device, or deception; or,
- d. Influence, obstruct, or impede (or endeavor to influence, obstruct, or impede) any

investigation, operation, or proceedings of the Elections Committee and/or the Supreme Court, of any other official vehicle or apparatus designated for the purpose of the administration, or potential administration, of justice.

- e. Influence, obstruct, or impede (or endeavor to influence, obstruct, or impede) any disciplinary action or penalty imposed.

#### 712.6 Ability of the Elections Committee to request attendance

- a. The Elections Committee shall hold the ability to request attendance of specific individuals in hearings to take necessary action to enforce the Elections Code.
- b. The Committee shall only hold this ability upon confirmation of a quorum of members of the Elections Committee, and these powers shall dissolve upon dissolution of the Elections Committee.
- c. The Committee shall be able to enforce this ability both to settle an ongoing matter originated by a complainant party or to enforce the Elections Code proactively, where the Elections Committee serves as the complainant party.
- d. The Committee shall possess the ability to request the physical appearance and testimony by a candidate, a member of a Ticket, a registered staff member, or an active member of the Student Government Association.
- e. The Committee shall notify the subject(s) of this request(s) via UGA email immediately upon issuance of said request(s). The subject(s) must respond to the Committee within 24 hours of notification of said request(s). If deemed necessary by the Elections Committee, a hearing shall be scheduled within 48 hours of the initial response by the subject(s).
- f. Refusal to comply with such a Committee request(s), with such refusal being defined as the refusal to reply to said request(s) by the subject(s), or as the blatant refusal of a subject(s) to appear, shall enable potential dismissal of a case as per Chapter 712.2e of this Code.

#### 712.7 Ability of the Elections Committee to bring a case

- a. In cases where the Elections Committee brings a charge against a candidate or Ticket to settle or address an ongoing matter originated by a complainant party other than the Elections Committee, the standards and procedures that govern a normal hearing and disciplinary process, as established by this Code, shall be upheld.
- b. The Elections Committee may only bring a case against a candidate or Ticket if the Elections Committee has verifiable, concrete evidence that a violation has occurred. The determination as to whether this evidence is verifiable or concrete shall lie with the Supreme Court, who can dismiss the case for failure to meet this threshold.
- c. The following circumstances shall be the only conditions under which the Elections Committee can bring a case against a candidate or Ticket:
  - i. In the event that a candidate or Ticket places any member(s) of the Elections Committee, or the Elections Committee as a whole, in a compromising situation by asking for or dispensing, or by endeavoring to ask for or dispense,

- a favor, bribe, or other comparable form of inducement or compensation.
- ii. In the event that a candidate or Ticket applies any undue pressure, or endeavors to apply such pressure, to any member(s) of the Elections Committee, or the Elections Committee as a whole, to persuade or influence in an inappropriate or unethical way the performance of the official duties of that member(s)/Committee.
  - iii. In the event that a candidate or Ticket places any member(s) of the Elections Committee, or the Elections Committee as a whole, in a position where said member(s)/Committee would be violating the Elections Code, Code of Ethics, or other pertinent governing documents by not bringing a case against the aforementioned candidate or Ticket.
  - iv. In all conditions under which the Elections Committee can bring a case against a candidate or Ticket, the Elections Committee must meet the standard established by Chapter 712.7b of this Code.
- d. In cases where the Elections Committee brings a charge against a candidate or Ticket, and where the Elections Committee is the original complainant, the following standards and procedures shall be upheld:
- i. The Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction.
  - ii. If the Supreme Court agrees to hear the case, the Supreme Court 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.
  - iii. The Supreme Court shall set the time and place of the hearing and shall notify the involved parties of the time and place of the hearing.
  - iv. The Elections Committee shall be the official complainant, and all official complaints, evidence, and supporting documents shall be submitted by the Attorney General on behalf of the Committee to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
  - v. The Elections Committee shall bear the burden of proof.
  - vi. The Attorney General shall argue on behalf of the Committee and shall be required to attend the hearing. If the Attorney General cannot attend, he or she is responsible for designating a member of the Elections Committee to represent the Committee in place of the Attorney General.
  - vii. Hearing proceedings shall be open to the public. Deliberations of the Supreme Court will take place in a sequestered environment.
  - viii. All decisions by the Supreme Court must be clearly reasoned and explained using citations from this Code, and/or the Statutes and/or Constitution and/or any other governing documents of the Student Government Association.

ix. The presentation by witnesses or testimonies is allowed.

x. Ignorance of the Elections Code, either by candidates, members of an Executive Ticket, staff members, or by members of the Elections Committee, shall not be an acceptable defense in response to any offense committed in any election governed by this Code.

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

712.9 The Attorney General shall write the decision of the Elections Committee and shall deliver it to the complainant(s) and defendant(s) of the hearing and to the public as soon as possible after the conclusion of said hearing.

i. In the event the Supreme Court has original jurisdiction, the Chief Justice shall, pursuant to Article VII, Section 4, Paragraph A, Sub-Sections iii and iv, align with a majority opinion or may elect to file a dissenting opinion jointly with the Associate Justices or individually, and he or she shall present the majority opinion of the Supreme Court, both verbally and in writing, to the Senate without disclosing personal information, including but not limited to health, legal, or academic records.

ii. The Chief Justice shall also deliver the decision to the complainant and defendant(s) of the hearing and to the public as soon as possible after the conclusion of said hearing.

#### 712.10 Remedies and Sanctions

a. Possible remedies and sanctions may include:

i. Disqualification from office or from candidacy

ii. Removal from the ballot

iii. Suspension from campaigning

iv. Probation

v. Removal of campaign materials

vi. Formal reprimand

b. This list is not exhaustive. Other remedies and sanctions may be assigned if deemed necessary by the Elections Committee (or the Supreme Court if the Court has jurisdiction).

#### 712.11 Regulations on Remedies and Sanctions

a. A candidate/Ticket may not receive multiple sanctions for the same incident, only steeper penalties than the original sentence with regard to the original sanction if so deemed.

- b. Accumulation of a third (3) sanction will result in automatic probation, the definition and terms of which will be established on a case-by-case basis by the Elections Committee.
- c. Accumulation of a fourth (4) sanction, or the accumulation of a sanction while on probation, regardless of the number of previous sanctions, will automatically suspend the candidate/Ticket from further campaigning.
  - i. "Campaigning" shall be defined by Chapter 707.1a of this Code.
- d. Accumulation of a fifth (5) sanction, or the accumulation of a second (2) sanction while on probation, regardless of the number of previous sanctions, or the accumulation of a sanction while a candidate/Ticket is suspended, regardless of the number of previous sanctions, will automatically disqualify said candidate/Ticket from the election.
- e. If after a hearing, the Elections Committee finds that the candidate/Executive Ticket has willfully violated the ruling and/or orders of the Committee, such violation shall enable disciplinary action to be imposed against the offending candidate/Ticket.
- f. Any decision by the Elections Committee other than a formal reprimand shall be considered a sanction.
- g. The Elections Committee has the discretion to take any action that is deemed appropriate with regard to any complaint.

712.12 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 complainant(s) and/or the defendant(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 the Elections Code and/or other governing documents of the Student Government Association in making its decision.
- b. The complainant(s) and/or the defendant(s) of the initial hearing are the only parties allowed to appeal a decision of the Elections Committee.
- c. In making an appeal, the appellant(s) must clearly indicate the section(s) of the Elections Code and/or other governing documents of the Student Government Association that they believe was violated by the Elections Committee.
- d. Appeals must be submitted by the Chief Counsel, in writing, to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
- e. Should the appellant(s) petition to appeal their decision after the prescribed 24-hour period, the Supreme Court shall not consider the appeal, and the Committee's decision shall stand.

- f. Should the appellant(s) appeal their decision within the 24-hour period, the Supreme Court can choose to accept the appeal or deny it for failure to cite the Elections Code, lack of standing, lack of jurisdiction, or failure to file the complaint with adherence to the deadline requirements established by Chapter 712.1c of this Code.
- g. Should the appeal be accepted by the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court shall contact all relevant parties as soon as possible in order to schedule an appeal hearing within 36 hours of the Court's agreement to consider the appeal.
  - i. The following parties officially representing and associated with the appellant(s) or the Elections Committee are allowed in an appeal hearing:
    - 1. Candidate(s)/member(s) of the Ticket(s) appealing the decision
    - 2. Chief Counsel of the appellant(s)
    - 3. Attorney General
    - 4. One (1) additional representative of the Elections Committee
    - 5. Any witness(es) called by either party
  - ii. All appeals hearings shall be open to the public.
- h. The appeals hearing shall take the following structure:
  - i. The appellant(s) shall make an opening statement outlining their grievances.
  - ii. The Attorney General shall make an opening statement defending the decision of the Elections Committee.
  - iii. The appellant(s) shall present any evidence or witnesses
  - iv. The Supreme Court may ask clarifying questions.
  - v. The appellant(s) shall make a closing statement.
  - vi. The Elections Committee shall make a closing statement.
  - vii. The appellant(s) may deliver a rebuttal if deemed necessary.
  - viii. The Supreme Court may question either party until they leave for deliberation.
- i. The Supreme Court shall deliberate as to the validity of the ruling of the Elections Committee and the appealed decision.
- j. Deliberation shall take place in a sequestered environment with only the Supreme Court present.

- k. A majority vote is required to overturn the Elections Committee's decision.
- l. The Supreme Court, if overturning the initial decision, reserves the right to develop its own sentence against the appellant(s).
- m. A majority opinion must be written by the Court and delivered to the appellant(s), Elections Committee, Senate, and other relevant parties.
- n. Concurring or dissenting opinions may accompany the majority opinion, which shall also be presented to the appellant(s), Elections Committee, Senate, and other relevant parties.
- o. Upon the delivery of the Supreme Court's opinion, the decision and sanctions issued by the Court are final.
- p. All decisions by the Supreme Court shall be made available to the public within 48 hours of ruling.
- q. To maintain an appropriate level of decorum and civility, to move the hearing process along, to afford equal opportunity to all involved parties, and to collect sufficient details for the Court to make an informed ruling, the Chief Justice reserves the ability to eject any unruly or otherwise disruptive individual(s) from any Supreme Court hearing at any time.

## **POST-ELECTIONS INFORMATION**

### **CHAPTER 713: TRANSITION**

713.1 The transition period shall begin immediately following the ratification of the General Elections Results (and the Run-Off Election Results if necessary) by the outgoing Senate and will end with the inauguration of the incoming Student Government Association Administration.

### **CHAPTER 714: INAUGURATION**

714.1 The President-elect, Vice President-elect, and Treasurer-elect shall be administered the Oath of Office by the presiding Chief Justice of the Student Government Association at a time, date, and location set by the Elections Committee.

714.2 Any newly appointed Constitutional officers shall be administered the Oath of Office by the newly inaugurated President of the Student Government Association upon confirmation by the newly inaugurated Senate (if the Constitution calls for said specific officer to be confirmed by the Senate).

## **ELECTIONS CODE**

## CHAPTER 715: AMENDMENTS TO THE ELECTIONS CODE

715.1 Because the Constitution considers the Elections Code to be defined in the Statutes, the Code does not require annual ratification and shall apply until amended through the introduction and passage of a Bill. If any amendments are deemed necessary to the Code, they shall be presented as a Bill before the Senate no later than the Senate session during which the Elections Timeline is passed.