TITLE V

THE ELECTIONS ACT

of the

Graduate and Professional Student Government of UNC Charlotte

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ARTICLE I. PREAMBLE

WE the Graduate & Professional Student Government (GPSG) of UNC Charlotte and members of the Graduate Student Body hereby establish the free and open election of GPSG officers. This Elections Act shall set forth the procedures by which elections for GPSG officers shall be administered. This Elections Act hereby replaces Article VII of the GPSG Bylaws, and abolishes the election system in which only Graduate Student Organization (GSO) Senators had the right the vote for GPSG Executive Board members.

Since 1999, GPSG Executive Board has acted as primary representatives of graduate student interests, but has done so without direct consent from a plurality of the student body. By the ratification of this Act, the GPSG Senate, Executive Board, and other stakeholders in The Graduate School voice their support for increasing democratic representation of the graduate student body.

Through this Act, GPSG shall provide all graduate students an equal and fair choice in the election of their representatives.

This Act is hereby signed to demonstrate the support of the 2017-2018 GPSG Executive Board members.

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ARTICLE II. ELECTIONS PROCEDURES

SECTION I. Definitions

§2-1.1 Definitions.

The following terms shall be defined as follows throughout this act:

a) “Academic Calendar” refers to the calendar dates for University operations as approved and posted by the Office of the Registrar.

b) “At Large Graduate Students” refers to all graduate students who do not serve in a position on the GPSG Executive Board or as a GPSG Senator.

c) “Business Day” refers to any non-holiday day between Monday and Friday in which the University is operating on a normal schedule. Refers to a 24-hour period of 12:00 AM and 12:00 PM.

d) “Business Hours” refers to a timeframe from 9:00AM to 5:00PM Eastern Time.

e) “Campaign Committee” refers to the campaign entity for each candidate. This definition may include staff, volunteers, advisors, and any other individuals involved in the campaign.

f) “Candidate” refers to any enrolled graduate student who has declared their candidacy for a GPSG Executive Board office.

g) “Candidacy Forms” refers to all forms required to run for office.

h) “Election Cycle” refers to the period of time from the opening of the Candidacy Forms, to the certification of results at the Election Day Meeting.

i) “Elections Committee” refers to the entire entity responsible for planning, executing, and certifying each GPSG Executive Board election.

j) “Candidates Meeting” refers to the mandatory meeting of all candidates hosted by the Elections Committee per the schedule specified in this Act.

k) “Election Day Meeting” refers to the meeting that shall take place on the final day of the General Election.

l) “General Election” refers to the open election of all GPSG Executive Board members, in which each member of the Graduate Student Body is allocated one vote.

m) “Executive Board” refers to the positions of the GPSG Executive Board which are subject to a vote by the Graduate Student Body.

n) “Good Standing” refers to students who maintain a sound academic standing with The Graduate School. Students in good academic standing are not facing expulsion, academic probation, or other academic sanctions.

o) “Graduate Student Body” refers to the entire population of enrolled graduate and professional students at UNC Charlotte.

p) “GPSG Website” refers to the GPSG-managed website, hosted at gpsg.uncc.edu.

q) “University” refers to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, hereafter known as “UNC Charlotte.”

Definitions may be added to this Section as needed, without triggering a vote to amend this Act.
SECTION II. Occurrence of Elections

§2-2.1 General Election.

A General Election for GPSG Executive Board members shall take place in each spring semester. During the General Election, the Graduate Student Body shall vote for:
   a) President
   b) Vice President
   c) Treasurer

§2-2.2 General Election Timeline.

   a) Candidacy Forms Open: No less than ten (10) Business Days prior to the Candidates Meeting.
   b) Candidates Meeting: Takes place during the week following Spring Break.
   c) General Election: Takes place four (4) weeks after the Candidates Meeting, with Ballots open for a period of no less than two (2) Business Days, and no more than five (5).
   d) In the event that the calendar dates specified in this Act are inaccurate due to a change in the Academic Calendar, the Elections Committee shall set alternative timelines that closely follow the schedule in this Act.

SECTION III. Qualifications for Office

§2-3.1 Basic Qualifications.

Any member of the Graduate Student Body may run for any GPSG Executive Board position if they meet the following basic qualifications:

   a) Be enrolled in at least three (3) graduate credit hours during the Academic Year of service, and at the time of declaring candidacy. Exemptions may be given to this clause by the Elections Committee for special circumstances such as dissertation hours or independent study hours which may fall under the three (3) credit requirement.
   b) Be in Good Academic Standing with UNC Charlotte and The Graduate School.

§2-3.2 Conflicts of Interest.

Members of the Graduate Student Body who demonstrate a Conflict of Interest as specified in this Act may not seek a GPSG Executive Board office.

Conflicts of Interest include:

   a) Holding a Graduate Life Fellow position during the Election Cycle or during the term of service.
   b) Serving as an At-Large member of the Student Activity Fees Commission during the Election Cycle or during the term of service.
c) Serving as a Graduate Student Organization Senator in the term of service.
d) Holding a leadership position in any of the following organizations during the Election Cycle or during the term of service:
   i. Student Union Advisory Board
   ii. Student Government Association
   iii. Campus Activities Board
   iv. Niner Media

The following positions shall not cause a Conflict of Interest under any circumstances:

   a) Teaching or Research Assistantships in academic departments.
   b) Administrative Assistantships in academic, support, or UNC Charlotte Foundation departments.
   c) Officer of a Graduate Student Organization.

Membership on other campus advisory boards and other leadership positions shall be disclosed in the Candidacy Forms.

§2-3.3 Conflict of Interest Procedures.

The Elections Committee reserves the right to challenge a prospective candidate’s potential Conflicts of Interest prior to the Candidates Meeting.

Candidates may be disqualified from the General Election if the Elections Committee votes with more than a sixty (60%) majority ruling that the candidate demonstrates a Conflict of Interest.

Candidates who are disqualified for Conflicts of Interest may appeal the decision to the GPSG Senate, who may reinstate their candidacy in the General Election with more than a fifty (50%) percent majority vote.

SECTION IV. Declaring Candidacy for Office

§2-4.1 Candidate Responsibilities

Any member of the Graduate Student Body seeking election to a GPSG Executive Board office shall be responsible for:

   a) Submitting a declaration of a candidacy form online during the time period specified in Article II, Section II of this Act.
   b) Communicating with the Elections Committee to ensure efficient processing of all Candidacy Forms.
   c) Attending the Candidates Meeting, the Election Day Meeting, and any other required candidate meetings called by the Elections Committee, GPSG Executive Board, or GPSG Senate.
   d) Complying with all rules and regulations found in this Act.
§2-4.2 Candidacy Forms.

The Elections Committee shall post an online Declaration of Candidacy form each year pursuant to the timeline specified in Article II, Section II of this Act. This form shall include the following information, but is not limited to:

a) Candidate’s first and last name
b) Candidate’s degree program and class year
c) Candidate’s UNC Charlotte student identification number
d) Candidate’s acknowledgement of eligibility
e) A statement of purpose describing the candidate’s interest in the GPSG Office they are seeking
f) A digital photo of the student to be used on the GPSG website

The Elections Committee reserves the right to request additional information on the Candidacy Forms that they feel is necessary and appropriate to facilitate the election process.

§2-4.3 Extended Filing Period.

In the event that only one (1) or zero (0) candidates declare their candidacy for a given GPSG Executive Board Office, the Elections Committee shall reopen the Candidacy Forms for a period of no more than five (5) Business Days.

If only one (1) candidate has declared their candidacy after the extended filing period, that candidate shall run for the position unopposed. If zero (0) candidates have declared their candidacy after the extended filing period, then the Candidacy Forms shall remain open until at least one graduate student has declared their candidacy.

§2-4.4 Announcement of Candidates.

Within twenty-four (24) hours of the close of the candidacy forms, the Elections Committee shall release the names of all candidates for each office on the GPSG Website. It is the responsibility of the candidate to contact the Elections Committee if the information made available to the public in the announcement is incorrect.

§2-4.5 Filing Restrictions.

The following restrictions apply to the filing process:

a) No member of the Graduate Student Body or GPSG Executive Board may seek election to multiple GPSG Executive Board positions in the same Election Cycle.
b) No third-party nominations shall be accepted. Candidates must submit their Declaration of Candidacy on their own accord.

§2-4.6 Candidate Withdrawal.
Candidates may withdraw at any time during the Election Cycle by contacting the Chair of the Elections Committee in writing (email) at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the opening of the Polls. Withdrawal requests after this forty-eight (48) hour period shall be honored, but the name of the withdrawn candidate may still appear on the ballot.

SECTION V. Balloting and Polling Procedures

§2-5.1 Final Certification of Candidates.

The Elections Committee shall release a final ballot no less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the opening of the Polls. This online final ballot shall contain the exact language, format, and structure of the Ballot that shall appear before the Graduate Student Body during the election. The final ballot shall be shared on the GPSG Website.

§2-5.2 Ballot Format.

The Ballot shall include, but is not limited to:

a) The name of each candidate
b) The Office that each candidate is seeking
c) The degree program of each candidate

Each candidate’s name shall be ordered alphabetically by last name.

The ranking of the Offices shall be as follows:

a) President
b) Vice President
c) Treasurer

§2-5.3 Senator Ballot Format.

The Senator’s Ballot shall be in the same format as specified in Article II, Section V of this Act. The Senator’s Ballot shall be administered separately, and shall only be accessible to Senators. The names, UNC Charlotte email addresses, and student identification numbers shall be collected for each voting Senator no later than five (5) days prior to the General Election. Senators who failure to register their vote shall face an attendance violation as described in the GPSG Bylaws, Article V.

§2-5.4 Polling Methods.

All polling shall be conducting using online Ballots, which shall be made available through a secure server accessible on the GPSG Website. Members of the Graduate Student Body shall be required to sign in to verify their student status prior to voting.
Polls shall open at 12:00 AM on the first Business Day of the Election, and shall close two (2) hours prior to the Election Day Meeting.

§2-5.5 Voter Eligibility.

All enrolled graduate students at UNC Charlotte are eligible to vote in all GPSG Elections.

Senators who vote on behalf of a Graduate Student Organization are not permitted to vote twice as an At-Large graduate student.

§2-5.6 Senate Voting Requirements.

Pursuant to the principals upon which GPSG was established, each Graduate Student Organization Senator shall be required to cast a vote in all Elections.

In the event that a Senator fails to cast a vote on behalf of their Graduate Student Organization, the group shall face an attendance violation as described in the GPSG Bylaws, Article V.

Senators shall have a separate Ballot as specified in Article II, Section V of this Act.

Senators may only vote once, and may not vote as an At-Large graduate student. Senators who are found to have voted twice shall have both of their votes discarded, and shall face an attendance violation as described in the GPSG Bylaws, Article V.

§2-5.7 Election Day Meeting.

On the final day of the General Election, a meeting of the candidates, and members of the GPSG Senate, Executive Board, and Cabinet shall take place at a time set by the Elections Committee no less than one-month prior to the election. Graduate Student Organization Senators are required to be in attendance per the GPSG Bylaws Article V.

After conducting normal business, the Elections Committee Chair shall announce the vote counts.

Participating candidates shall be given the opportunity to give brief victory or concession speeches to the GPSG Senate.

SECTION VI. Determination of Results

§2-6.1 Determination of Winners.

Voters shall be asked to select one candidate for each office using the online voting system. The candidate with the most votes at the end of the election shall be named the winner.

§2-6.2 Ballot Counting.
Ballot counting shall be completed electronically and automatically at the time of each vote being cast. The vote counting process shall be overseen by the Elections Committee with assistance from the Business and Technology Applications Analyst for the Student Union, and support staff from The Graduate School.

§2-6.3  **Election Results.**

The Elections Committee shall announce the election results first at the Election Day Meeting.

§2-6.4  **Termination of Elections.**

After three (3) Business Days following the Election Day Meeting, the election results as determined by the Elections Committee shall be final and uncontestable by any Campaign Committee or individual.
ARTICLE III. ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

SECTION I. Elections Committee

§3-1.1 Establishment.

Each January, the GPSG Senate shall vote to confirm the members of an Elections Committee, chaired by the GPSG Parliamentarian, that shall be responsible for the planning, promotion, and execution of all GPSG Election procedures.

§3-1.2 Composition.

The Elections Committee shall be comprised of the GPSG Parliamentarian, who shall serve as Chair, and no more than six (6) members of the Graduate Student Body.

The Chair shall nominate one member of the Elections Committee to serve as Secretary, and they shall be confirmed by more than a fifty (50%+1) percent majority vote by other committee members. All members shall be nominated by the GPSG Parliamentarian, and shall be confirmed by more than a fifty (50%+1) percent vote of the GPSG Senate. The Elections Committee shall establish a quorum when at least fifty (50%) percent of its members are present.

The Chair shall strive to fill the Elections Committee with an even number of master’s and doctoral students, but equal representation is not required.

§3-1.3 Qualifications and Conflicts of Interest.

All Elections Committee members shall adhere to the following qualifications and guidelines:

a) No member of the Elections Committee including the GPSG Parliamentarian may be a candidate for any GPSG Executive Board Office in the Election Cycle for which they are serving on the Committee. Should an Elections Committee member decide to seek an Executive Board Office, they shall immediately resign their position on the Elections Committee.

b) The Chair of the Elections Committee shall be the GPSG Parliamentarian, unless that individual is seeking a GPSG Executive Board Office.

c) No Elections Committee member shall hold a leadership position in any of the following organizations:
   a. Student Government Association
   b. Campus Activities Board
   c. Niner Media

§3-1.4 Vacancies.

In the event that any Elections Committee member resigns for any reason, the GPSG Secretary or Chief of Staff shall volunteer to temporarily fill the vacancy. The Chair shall attempt to fill
any vacancy as expeditiously as possible. Replacement members shall be confirmed by more than a fifty (50%+1) percent vote of the existing Elections Committee members, including votes from any GPSG Executive Board members who are temporarily serving on the committee.

In the event that the Parliamentarian and Elections Committee Chair resigns, cannot complete the duties of their role, or otherwise is vacant, the GPSG President shall either:

a) Appoint two enrolled graduate students to serve as Co-Chairs of the Elections Committee
b) Reopen applications for the Parliamentarian position, and appoint a new Parliamentarian

§3-1.5 Meetings.

The Chair of the Elections Committee shall call at least one (1) meeting of the Elections Committee at least once prior to the Candidates Meeting. The Elections Committee shall meet no less than two (2) times between the Candidates Meeting and the start of the General Election.

The Chair shall inform the GPSG Executive Board meeting of all meeting dates and times at least five (5) Business Days prior to the meeting.

All Elections Committee meetings shall be open to the public, and shall provide space to accommodate no less than five (5) additional attendees.

§3-1.6 Parliamentary Governance.


§3-1.7 Elections Committee Responsibilities.

During any Election Cycle, the Elections Committee shall be responsible for:

a) Posting and maintaining all Candidacy Forms in accordance with the timeline specified in Article II, Section II of this Act.
b) Ensuring adequate advertisement of the candidate filing process.
c) Assisting prospective candidates with the filing process.
d) Reviewing all Candidacy Forms in a timely manner.
e) Communicating any Candidacy Form issues in a timely manner.
f) Verifying information with the appropriate authorities in The Graduate School to ensure compliance with the basic qualifications specified in Article II, Section III of this Act.
g) Setting the exact dates for General Election proceedings.
h) Creating and maintaining an online voting mechanism that restricts voting to the Graduate Student Body.
i) Sharing a draft final Ballot with all candidates no less than three (3) business days prior the opening of the Polls.
j) Correcting all necessary changes to the final Ballot no less than 12-hours prior to the opening of the Polls.

k) Verifying and certifying the results of each election, announcing the results at the Election Day Meeting, and posting the certified results on the GPSG Website.

l) Managing and enforcing all campaign finance reporting procedures.

m) Validating each reported campaign contribution or expense.

n) Setting and communicating specific dates for the campaign finance reporting schedules.

SECTION II. Committee Member Responsibilities

§3-2.1 Ex-Officio Members.

The following individuals shall be non-voting members of the Elections Committee, and shall provide impartial oversight to Committee operations:

a) The GPSG President
b) The GPSG Vice President
c) The Secretary of Internal Affairs
d) The Secretary of Public Relations
e) The Advisor of GPSG
f) The SAFC Business Manager

No individual seeking a GPSG Executive Board Office shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Elections Committee.

§3-2.2 Duties of the Chair.

In addition to all other responsibilities and duties described in this Act, the Chair of the Elections Committee shall:

a) Coordinate all activities and meetings of the Elections Committee.
b) Call meetings of the Elections Committee on a regular basis, considering the schedule of each member.
c) Provide frequent updates on the activities of the Elections Committee to the GPSG Senate.
d) Appoint and remove Election Assistants and other volunteers.
e) Submit and report all election results pursuant to the schedule specified in Article II, Section II of this Act.

§3-2.3 Duties of the Committee Secretary.

In addition to all other responsibilities and duties described in this Act, the Secretary of the Elections Committee shall:

a) Maintain accurate records and notes of all Committee activities.
b) Send all communications that are approved by the Committee.
c) Display publically the minutes of the Elections Committee meetings in digital format.

§3-2.4 Election Assistants and Volunteers.

The Chair of the Elections Committee shall appoint, without confirmation of the GPSG Senate, any number of volunteer Elections Assistants to assist with minor operations and general promotion of the GPSG General Election. Elections Assistants are not voting members on the Elections Committee.

Elections Assistants may not serve in any position in GPSG including the Executive Board, the GPSG Senate, or the Cabinet.

Elections Assistants shall be confirmed to their positions by more than a fifty (50%+1) vote of the Elections Committee members.

Elections Assistants shall serve a term beginning at confirmation, and ending at the Election Day Meeting.

SECTION III. Committee Operations

§3-3.1 Basic Operations and Duties.

The Elections Committee shall abide by all responsibilities specified in this Act, and shall execute all policies and regulations required to ensure a functioning Election Cycle.

§3-3.2 Election Dates.

The Elections Committee shall set dates for election proceedings pursuant to the schedule specified in Article II, Section II of this Act.

§3-3.3 Voting.

All voting members of the Elections Committee as specified in this Act shall be empowered to vote on all motions before the Committee. In the event of a tie vote, the Chair of the Elections Committee shall cast the tie-breaking vote, but shall otherwise not vote on motions which come before the Committee.

§3-3.4 Validation of Candidates.

The Elections Committee, in conjunction with the proper University authorities, shall validate the candidacy of all students seeking an Executive Board Office in accordance with the qualification requirements specified in Article II, Section III of this Act.

§3-3.5 Publicity and Marketing.
The Elections Committee shall coordinate with the GPSG Secretary of Internal Affairs, Secretary of Public Relations, and existing Executive Board to promote and publicize all election affairs.

The GPSG Treasurer shall allocate no less than $500 per academic year for the sole purpose of unbiased promotion of the GPSG General Election. All spending must be approved by more than a fifty (50%+1) percent majority vote of the Elections Committee. The Elections Committee shall coordinate all spending with the GPSG Treasurer and other appropriate University authorities.

All printed, digital, and broadcast advertisements shall contain impartial information regarding the General Election, and may not display the name of any one candidate. These materials may contain the names of all candidates seeking a given Office at the time of printing, but may not exclude any candidates for any reason.

§3-3.6 Candidate Debates.

Candidates may challenge one another to a debate by submitting a written letter to the Elections Committee. If a debate is called, the Elections Committee shall coordinate with Student Media and other appropriate University officials to facilitate a cordial debate of the issues.

§3-3.7 Candidates Meeting.

The Elections Committee shall organize and facilitate a meeting of all candidates pursuant to the schedule specified in Article II, Section II of this Act. At the Candidates Meeting, the Elections Committee shall provide crucial information to candidates concerning the Election Cycle, campaign regulations, and other policies.

The Elections Committee may disqualify any candidate who misses the Candidates Meeting at the discretion of the Chair. The Elections Committee should work with each candidate to ensure they can attend the Candidates Meeting. The Elections Committee shall not disqualify a candidate for any excusable absence from the Candidates Meeting including, but not limited to, illness, death in the family, unexpected transportation issues, religious holidays, or other extraneous circumstances.

§3-3.8 Enforcement.

The Elections Committee shall be responsible for enforcing the provisions in this Act pertinent to the facilitation of a fair and open election, and may investigate reported violations of this Act in conjunction with the GPSG Executive Board, and other appropriate University officials.

SECTION IV. Oversight and Enforcement

§3-4.1 Oversight Committee.

The Oversight Committee shall be established as a subcommittee of the Elections Committee, and shall consist of all ex-officio members as described in Article III, Section I of this Act.
The Oversight Committee shall be empowered to advise any actions and decisions made by the Elections Committee.

The Oversight Committee shall hold no official authority over the Elections Committee, but is responsible for reporting inappropriate behavior or actions to the GPSG Executive Board and the appropriate University authorities.

§3-4.2 **Tabulation and Certification.**

Tabulation of all elections results shall be certified by the Elections Committee and the appropriate University authority working with the online Ballot system.
ARTICLE IV. CAMPAIGN CONDUCT AND REGULATIONS

SECTION I. General Regulations

§4-1.1 Official Campaign Start.

The campaign officially begins immediately following the Candidates Meeting. Campaign Committees may form and candidates may begin certain campaign activities immediately upon submission of their Candidacy Forms.

Prior to the Candidates Meeting, no individual, candidate, Campaign Committee or other supporter shall:

a) Host mass events or tabling events
b) Distribute mass flyers or other campaign materials
c) Send mass email

Any Campaign Committee found in violation of this clause shall face disqualification from the election pending more than a fifty (50%+1) percent majority vote by the Elections Committee.

§4-1.2 Candidate Responsibilities.

All candidates and Campaign Committees shall be responsible for thoroughly understanding all provisions specified in this Act on their own accord. All violations of this Act are treated equally, regardless of whether the individual in violation was aware of the regulations. Candidates are responsible for the actions of all staff, volunteers, and any other actions by their Campaign Committee as a whole.

Violations of this Act shall be submitted against both the individual in violation and the related Campaign Committee. The candidate shall be responsible for communicating and enforcing all applicable regulations among their Campaign Committee.

§4-1.3 University Supplies.

No candidate for any GPSG Executive Board office shall use supplies paid for by the University, GPSG, or Student Activity Fees for the purposes of campaigning orelectioneering. This restriction applies to all materials made available through the Student Organizations Resource Center or any other University division.

§4-1.4 Printed Campaign Materials.

Campaign Committees may print and distribute printed campaign materials within the guidelines specified in this Act and other University policies. Candidates shall have the same right to post printed materials on public boards as all students enjoy, per each building’s posting policy.
Campaign Committees must purchase all printed campaign materials, and shall be reported to the Elections Committee per the financial regulations specified in this Act. Campaign Committees shall not accept donated printed materials, or materials that were otherwise printed for free.

§4-1.5 **Digital Campaign Materials.**

Campaign Committees may create and distribute digital campaign materials through digital venues such as websites, social media, and email. All digital campaign materials must follow the

§4-1.6 **Email and Social Networking.**

Campaign Committees may use email to communicate with supporters and potential voters, and are bound to the provisions found in this Act, and all relevant policies found in University Policy 304, Electronic Communication Systems.

No Campaign Committee is permitted to send mass emails to students without their express permission through verbal or digital opt-in.

Campaign Committees may establish social media accounts to promote the candidate. Campaign Committees are bound to both the provisions outlined University Policy Chapter 300, and general ethical guidelines for social media use.

No individual shall use a campaign’s social media to harass, discriminate, or otherwise verbally harm any other individual. Campaigns found in violation of this provision shall face immediate disqualification by the Elections Committee, and possible action involving the appropriate University authorities.

§4-1.7 **Building Advertising.**

Campaign Committees shall be responsible for obtaining and following the individual policy in each building regarding advertising.

§4-1.8 **Outdoor Advertising.**

Candidates and their Campaign Committees may use chalk to advertise their campaign. All Campaign Committees must follow all University policies regarding chalking including the guidelines specified in the Student Organizations Handbook. Campaign Committees are permitted to apply chalk only on horizontal, concrete surfaces, but shall not apply chalk on any bricks, buildings, benches, walls, or the tops of walls. Campaign Committees found in violation of these policies shall be referred to the appropriate University authorities.

Campaign Committees may purchase and place yard signs in appropriate areas given that they do not violate any University policy, including, but not limited to, the Student Union Posting Policy, Section 10.0. Yard signs shall not exceed the standard size of eighteen (18) inches in height by twenty-four (24) inches in width. Yard signs found in violation of this provision shall be removed immediately by Elections Committee members.
§4-1.9 Residence Halls Advertising.

Per University Housing and Residence Life policies, Campaign Committees shall not be permitted to conduct door-to-door campaigning in on-campus housing facilities.

§4-1.10 Social Functions and Campaign Events.

Campaign Committees may hold fundraising events to raise contributions. All donations raised at fundraising events pursuant to the campaign finance regulations specified in Article IV, Section II of this Act. Campaign Committees shall not hold joint fundraisers that benefit other candidates.

Campaign Committees may host mass events and other social gatherings both on and off campus. Candidates are responsible for enforcing all regulations and applicable University policies at these events.

§4-1.11 Removing Campaign Materials.

Campaign Committees are responsible for removing and properly recycling or disposing of all campaign materials distributed throughout the campaign. Candidates may be held responsible for any campaign materials that are found to be littered. Campaign Committees shall remove all campaign materials within ten (10) Business Days following the election.

§4-1.12 Other Restrictions on Campaigning.

No candidate or campaign shall actively campaign inside of the J. Murrey Atkins Library at anytime in or outside of a given Election Cycle.

Campaign Committees shall not establish unofficial polling locations, or otherwise provide the electronic equipment necessary to vote.

No Campaign Committee shall willingly remove, deface, cover, or destroy any printed, written, digital, or outdoor materials of another campaign.

SECTION II. Campaign Finance

§4-2.1 Spending Limits.

Each Campaign Committee for any Office shall spend no more than five-hundred ($500.00 USD) dollars on campaign expenses in a given Election Cycle. Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates running on the same ticket may spend a total of one-thousand ($1,000 USD) dollars on campaign expenses in a given Election Cycle.
§4-2.2 Contributions.

Candidates shall be permitted to establish a campaign fund, and collect contributions from individuals. The regulations of contributions are as follows:

a) No single individual shall contribute more than one-hundred ($100.00 USD) dollars to a single Campaign Committee.
b) Campaign Committees shall not accept contributions from business entities.
c) Campaign Committees shall not accept contributions from faculty members, UNC Charlotte staff, or departmental entities.
d) Campaign Committees shall not accept contributions from any student organization, but may accept individual contributions from student organization officers.

Candidates may self-fund their campaign up to the five-hundred ($500.00 USD) dollar limit specified in Article IV, Section II of this Act.

§4-2.3 In-Kind Contributions.

Campaign Committees must report the monetary all non-dollar (in-kind) contributions including, but not limited to, materials, physical space rentals, and transportation. The Elections Committee reserves the right to review, dispute, and adjust the fair market monetary value of reported in-kind contributions.

§4-2.4 Campaign Finance Reporting.

Campaign Committees shall collect and record all revenues and expenses throughout the Election Cycle, and are expected to report regularly following the schedule specified in Article IV, Section II of this Act.

Campaign Committees shall use the provided forms to document all revenues and expenses. These forms shall require Campaign Committees to report each contribution or expense in line-item format. If possible, expenses should include all applicable digital copies of receipts and invoices for each expense. Contribution forms shall require the amount, full name, email address, and phone number of each donor.

The Elections Committee reserves the right to review, dispute, and reject any questionable expense or contribution if adequate supporting documentation is not provided.

Candidates are required to submit a finance report at the specified dates under all circumstances, even if no contributions or expenses occurred during the given reporting cycle.

§4-2.5 Finance Reporting Schedule.

a) Candidates Meeting Report: Covers all campaign contributions and expenses that occurred prior to the Candidates Meeting.
b) *Mid-Election Report:* Covers all campaign contributions and expenses that occurred during a fourteen (14) day period immediately following the Candidates Meeting.

c) *Pre-Election Report:* Covers all campaign contributions and expenses that occurred immediately following the Mid-Election Report. This report is to be submitted to the Elections Committee no later than three (3) Business Days prior the General Election.

d) *Final Report:* This comprehensive report covers all campaign contributions and expenses that occurred during the entire Election Cycle, including activities prior to the Candidates Meeting. This report is to be submitted to the Elections Committee no later than three (3) Business Days following the Election Day Meeting.

§4-2.6  Enforcement and Penalties for Campaign Finance Violations.

Failure to submit campaign finance reports according to the schedule specified in Article IV, Section II of this Act may result in disqualification from the election by the Elections Committee pending more than a fifty (50%+1) percent majority vote by the Committee.
ARTICLE V. ENFORCEMENT AND APPEALS

SECTION I. Enforcement of Violations.

§5-1.1 Jurisdiction and Scope.

The Elections Committee shall act as the primary enforcement mechanism for all provisions in this Act. Candidates shall be regulated by the Elections Committee immediately upon submitting their Candidacy Forms, lasting until the conclusion of the Election Day Meeting.

§5-1.2 Reporting Violations or Other Offenses.

All reports of violations of this Act or other applicable University policy must be submitted in writing by email or hand delivered on a printed letter to the Chair of the Elections Committee. The statute of limitations on common violations and offenses is five (5) Business Days immediately following the alleged infraction. Any individual and the corresponding Campaign Committee accused of a violation or offense shall be notified in writing by email within two (2) Business Days of the initial report.

§5-1.3 Investigating Alleged Violations.

The Chair of the Elections Committee in consultation with the appropriate authorities in The Graduate School shall review all allegations of violations or other offenses. If the Chair determines that charges should be pursued, a violation hearing shall be called in front of the Elections Committee and the appropriate authorities in The Graduate School. The Elections Committee shall determine the appropriate course of action, and shall move to reprimand the accused pending more than a fifty (50%+1) percent majority vote by the Committee.

§5-1.3 Types of Sanctions.

The Elections Committee reserves the right to impose one or more of the following sanctions for violations of this Act or other relevant University policy:

a) Written Warning: The Elections Committee shall send a written warning through email asking the candidate to correct the behavior which resulted in the warning. Failure to adhere to written warnings may result in an immediate disqualification hearing.

b) Loss of Privilege: The Elections Committee may ban a Campaign Committee from using specific privileges for a designated amount of time.

c) Disqualification: Candidates may face disqualification for serious violations of any provision found in this Act, as determined by the Elections Committee and the appropriate authorities in The Graduate School.

SECTION II. Appeals

§5-2.1 Appealing Elections Committee Decisions.
Any member of the Graduate Student Body may file an appeal with the Elections Committee Oversight Committee, by submitting their appeal in writing through email. This communication must include the full name and contact information of the petitioner, as well as a brief description of the alleged violation by the Elections Committee.

§5-2.2 Appeals Hearing.

The Elections Committee Oversight Committee shall conduct a hearing on any appeals received, and shall notify the accused individual at least one (1) Business Day prior to the hearing. By voting with more than a fifty (50%+1) majority, the Oversight Committee may overturn the decision reached by the Elections Committee, and may order all corrective actions necessary.
ARTICLE VI.  AMENDMENTS

SECTION I.  Amendment Process

§6-1.1

Proposed amendments to this Act shall be proposed to the GPSG Senate, and shall be adopted by more than a sixty (60%+1) majority vote of all Senators present at the given meeting. All amendments shall be noted on the amendments page of this Act, along with its enactment date and the full name of the individual who proposed the amendment.

List of Proposed and Passed Amendments

- Proposed in January 2018
  - Temporarily Replacing Ranked Choice Voting Procedure with Simple Total Votes System
    - By Taylor J. Valley, GPSG President
    - Passed by GPSG Senate in January 2018

- Proposed February 2018
  - Updated §3-1.4 to reflect vacancy procedures for the GPSG Parliamentarian
    - By Taylor J. Valley, GPSG President
    - Awaiting Vote in March 2018
  - Updated §2-3.2 to clarify conflicts of interest for GPSG Executive Board office
    - By Taylor J. Valley, GPSG President
    - Awaiting Vote in March 2018