

Student Government Association Election Rules 2020

1. Candidate Requirements

-Executive Branch

- A. All elected members of the Executive Branch shall be full-time students of the University, unless on Co-op status with Tennessee Tech, and shall not serve more than two years in the same office.
- B. The President and Vice President shall be of at least junior standing the beginning in the fall semester following their election.
- C. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be of at least sophomore standing beginning in the fall semester following their election.
- D. Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates must have served SGA for at least one academic year, including, but not limited to: the Senate, the Supreme Court, Executive Office, and/or the Executive Cabinet.

-Legislative Branch

- A. Senators shall be full-time students during their term of office.
- B. Senators shall maintain a 2.75 cumulative grade point average throughout his/her term of office.
- C. Senators from colleges and schools shall maintain a major within the college or school from which they were elected.

2. Candidate Information Sheet, Headshot, Petitions, and Acknowledgement of Rules

All candidates must submit the following by 11 AM on Tuesday, April 7th:

- 1. Candidate information sheet
- 2. Headshot (for voting ballot and SGA election promotions)
- 3. Petition
- 4. Acknowledgement of these rules

Petitions

All candidates (Executive and Legislative) must have a minimum of 25 signatures from current students.

3. Candidates' Meeting

The official candidates' meeting for executive officer candidates and senate candidates will be **Tuesday, April 7th** at 11:30 AM via an online videoconferencing platform. All candidates that have submitted the Candidate Information Sheet, Petitions, and Acknowledgement of Rules by 11 AM will receive an invite to the meeting. The invite will be sent to your Tech email.

4. Active Campaigning

- A. Active campaigning shall begin after the official candidates meeting.
- B. Active campaigning shall not interfere with the academic life or integrity of the student body or the individual students.
- C. Active campaigning includes the all activity on social media that promotes any campaign, advertisement in campus news and/or radio, email, phone/video calls, or any other media where the candidate is asking at mass for support from voters.
- D. Due to concerns related to COVID-19, no in person campaigning is allowed on campus.

5. Budgets

- A. Campaign funds shall be limited to \$750.00.
- B. Each budget should itemize all purchases and donations in connection with the candidate's campaign. This budget should not exceed \$750.00.
- C. Candidates must turn in an itemized and all receipts to the SGA President by:
 - Executive: April 22, 2020 at 12:00 PM
 - Senate: April 29, 2020 at 12:00 PM
- D. Budgets should be prepared for each candidate. No pairs or groups of candidates may combine budgets or campaign material unless the candidates agree to a combined budget that does not exceed \$750.00.
- E. Candidates, or any organization of the candidates, shall not apply for SOLO funding for the purpose of promoting a candidate or the promotion of the election.
- F. If a candidate does not comply with the set budget, it will result in an immediate disqualification from the election.

6. Election Day

- A. Executive Branch elections will take place on Tuesday, April 21 from 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM.
- B. Legislative (Senate) elections will take place on Tuesday, April 28 from 8:00 AM until 4:30 PM.
- C. Elections will be held online. The link to the voting server will be posted on the SGA website and social media on the day of the election.
- D. Polls will close at 4:30 PM and counting will begin immediately following.
- E. The election results will be posted on the SGA website: tntech.edu/sga and social media.

7. Prohibited Conduct

- A. No campaigning (physically) on campus will be allowed in including posters, advertisements, etc.
- B. No candidate, nor agents of candidates, shall bribe or coerce students into voting. Bribes include but are not limited to: the promise or exchange of goods, favors, and/or drawing entries for raffles for promised votes.

- C. It is the responsibility of the candidate to inform their respective organizations of the SGA election rules.
- D. The collection of T-numbers and/or PIN numbers will be strictly prohibited. With proof of the collection of any student voter login information, the candidate will be immediately disqualified from the election and referred to the Dean of Students.

8. Campaign Violations

The SGA Election Commission Committee shall determine and enforce all rules regarding SGA elections. If an alleged violation is filed against a candidate, the candidate will be notified and have an opportunity to appear before the commission or submit a short statement/explanation regarding alleged violation prior to a ruling by the Election Commission. The Election Commission Committee will follow strict guidelines to ensure fair and ethical rulings are made based on the violation.

Possible consequences for being found in violation of the rules are as follows:

1. Probation
 - A probationary period means that if the candidate is found violating the rules again before the final budgets and receipts are approved, the candidate is disqualified.
2. Subtraction of Votes
 - The Election Commission may find that a candidate has given themselves an illegal or unfair advantage in the election and may choose to take away that advantage by the subtraction of votes based on the severity of the violation. No more than two-hundred and fifty (250) votes may be subtracted.
3. Disqualification

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the SGA President.
sgapresident@students.tntech.edu

As a candidates for Student Government Association office, you agree to conduct yourself and your campaign in an ethical manner that best represents Tennessee Tech University.