

2021 Student Government Association Election Rules

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. Executive Office candidates shall maintain a 2.75 cumulative grade point average throughout his/her term of office.
- C. The President and Vice President shall be of at least junior standing the beginning in the fall semester following their election.
- D. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be of at least sophomore standing beginning in the fall semester following their election.
- E. 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, unless on Co-op status with Tennessee Tech
- 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. Failure to maintain a major within the college elected will result in automatic resignation or re-installment.

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

All candidates must submit the following by **8:00 AM CST on the day of Candidate's Meeting**:

- 1. Acknowledgement of these rules
- 2. Candidate information form (Legal names must be used for ballot information)
- 3. Headshot (for voting ballot and SGA election promotions)
- 4. Petition

Petitions

- 1. Executive Office candidates must submit 100 signatures, eligible from all current students.
- 2. Senate candidates must submit 25 signatures, eligible from current students within the candidate's college.
- 3. Candidates are permitted to share their petition via mass communication and social media, so long as they are not promoting themselves as if they are already running for election. Example Statement: Please sign my petition to help me run for SGA [insert position title].

3. Candidates' Meeting

The official candidates' meeting for executive officer candidates and senate candidates will be **Tuesday, March 30th** at 11:00 AM CST via an online videoconferencing platform. All candidates that have submitted the Candidate Information Sheet, Petitions, and Acknowledgement of Rules by 8:00 AM CST will receive an invite to the meeting. The invite will be sent to your Tennessee 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. Any tabling or events on campus must be registered through Event Management System.

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 Election Commission Chairperson by:
 - Executive: **April 14, 2020 at 12:00 PM CST**
 - Senate: **April 21, 2020 at 12:00 PM CST**
- 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 13 from 8:00 AM CST until 4:30 PM CST.**
- B. Legislative (Senate) elections will take place on **Tuesday, April 20 from 8:00 AM CST until 4:30 PM CST.**
- 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. Links to the voting server will also be emailed to students for Executive Office and their respective colleges' Senators.
- E. Polls will close at 4:30 PM CST and counting will begin immediately following.
- F. The election results will be posted on the SGA website: <https://www.tntech.edu/sga/elections> and social media.

7. Prohibited Conduct

- A. 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.
- B. It is the responsibility of the candidate to inform their respective organizations of the SGA election rules.
- C. The collection of TNumbers and/or PIN numbers will be strictly prohibited.
- D. 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.
- E. No endorsements from colleges, academic departments, campus departments, employees or contractors of the University
 - a. Endorsements include but are not limited to distributing campaign material, posting on social media, and/ or taking part in photo ops with any candidate
 - b. Colleges and academic departments are permitted to inform students in their unit of their respective candidates

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: If a candidate is found guilty for a minor Campaign Violation, the candidate will be put on probation. This period will stand for the duration of campaigning until election polls close.
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: Within a probationary period, if the candidate is found violating the rules again before the final budgets and receipts are approved, the candidate is disqualified.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Election Commission Chairperson, sgavicepres@tntech.edu

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