

Student Government Association Election Rules 2019

I. Candidates' Meeting

The official candidates' meeting for executive officer candidates and candidates for senate will be **Thursday, April 4th**, during dead hour (11AM) in the Student Involvement Center conference room (RUC 208). Candidates must be present or have a representative present during the meeting in its entirety. The candidates must sign and initial a copy of the election rules and complete the candidate application in order to be eligible to run.

II. 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.

III. Active Campaigning

- A. Active campaigning shall begin after the official candidates meeting if the candidate has turned in all information including, but not limited to, signed election rules and candidate information sheets.
- 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 distribution of campaigning material (handouts, posters, letters, cards, etc.), posting of campaign material on campus, advertisement in campus news and/or radio, scheduled public speeches and appearances in order to promote oneself for the election, setting tables or booths on or off campus to promote oneself, and asking at mass for support from voters.
- D. Online campaigning via social media or website is considered active campaigning and is strictly prohibited before active campaigning officially begins.

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IV. Approval of Campaign Material

- A. All material must be approved by the department office of the particular building in which the candidate wishes to place any campaign material.
- B. Materials used in the University Center must be approved by the Dean of Students office (RUC 214).
 - 1. Banners may be 2 feet tall by 5 feet wide and must contain all pertinent information. (LIMIT 1)
 - 2. Only one (1) 8 1/2" X 11" flyer is allowed per bulletin board on the ground floor of the University Center.
- C. Sidewalk art/chalk is only permitted on concrete walkways. (Please do not chalk on any buildings or brick surfaces). Only concrete walkways!
- D. NO signs, posters, or any other materials may be place on ANY painted surface, wall, door, or window.
- E. Tape shall NOT be used to adhere any material to ANY surface on campus.

V. Residence Halls

- A. All information to be posted in the Residence Halls must be approved by the Office of Residential Life. No posting may be greater than 8 1/2" x 11" with only one (1) per bulletin board.
- B. Door-to-door campaigning is not allowed in the Residence Halls.

VI. Budgets

- A. Campaign funds shall be limited to \$750.00 and a budget must be submitted to the SGA President by noon on Friday, April 19.
- 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 all receipts to the SGA President by noon on Friday, April 19.
- 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.

VII. Election Day

- A. On Election Day, Centennial Plaza is reserved for SGA elections. Each candidate may bring one table and decorations. Tables will not be provided by Tennessee Tech for Centennial Plaza. Candidates may NOT set up tables inside the RUC, but they can campaign in the 1st floor lobby.
- B. The candidate may be present or have one (1) representative present during the posting of the results on Election Day. Polls will close at 4:30 p.m. and counting will begin immediately following. The Student

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Government Association will post all election results outside the SGA Office (RUC 208) as soon as results are calculated and also will be announced on the SGA website and social media.

- C. SGA Executive Council Election Day will occur on Thursday, April 18th from 8:00am-4:30pm and SGA Senate Election Day will occur on Thursday, April 25th from 8:00am-4:30pm.
- D. 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.
- E. All campaign material is to be removed within 24 hours of completion of the election.

VIII. Prohibited Conduct

- A. No flyers may be put on cars.
- B. Mass mailings/messaging of any kind is prohibited.
- C. No campaigning will be allowed in the dining areas including posters, advertisements, etc.
- D. 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.
- E. It is the responsibility of the candidate to inform their respective organizations of the SGA election rules.
- F. 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.
- G. No campaigning will be allowed in the library under any circumstances.

IX. 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

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

My signature below certifies that I understand and will comply with the Election Rules stated above. As a candidates for Student Government Association office, I will conduct myself and my campaign in an ethical manner that best represents Tennessee Tech University.

Candidate's Signature

Date

Print Name

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