

ELECTIONS

Suffrage

The Senate shall have the power to regulate the elections of the GSO or any of its suborganizations by means specified in the by-laws, provided that the by-laws allow all graduate students the right to vote.

Elections Committee

Elections shall be overseen by the Elections Committee, as directed by the Constitution and the by-laws.

“No” Votes

In all GSO or GSO-run elections the electorate (senator, officer, general, referendum, recall, or other) shall be presented with the option of voting against all proposals or candidates. In the event that “no” receives more votes than any candidate, no one will have been elected to the office in question, and it shall be considered vacant.

Spoiled Ballots

A blank, spoiled, or incorrectly marked ballot shall be considered an abstention and shall count toward the total votes or ballots cast.

Ratification

The Elections Committee shall submit the results of the election to the GSO Senate for ratification. The Senate must either ratify the election or invalidate the election for cause.

Election of Officers

1. Candidates must register with the Vice President at least two weeks prior to the elections. The Vice President shall register the name of any student meeting the qualifications of an office as specified within the constitution upon receipt of a petition with the signatures of 25 graduate students.
2. A candidate must receive a plurality of the votes cast in order to be elected. In the event of a tie, run-off elections are to be held within one week.
3. Candidates for the position of Graduate Vice President for Multicultural Affairs must notify the GVPMA, who then shall register as eligible for the position, the name of any student meeting the qualifications of the office as specified within the constitution upon receipt of a petition with the signatures of 25 graduate students.
4. A candidate for the position of GVPMA must receive a plurality of votes cast during an electoral meeting of the Committee on Multicultural Affairs. In the event of a tie, the Committee shall reconvene within one week for run-off elections.

Election of Senators

See Article V, sections C and D. All other regulations for the election of senators shall be defined in the by-laws.

Election of Suborganization Officers

Regulations for the election of Suborganization Officers shall be defined in the by-laws.

Recall

1. Recall of Officers:

- a. A recall vote shall be arranged by the Vice President within one month of either:
 - i. the receipt of a petition containing a number of graduate student signatures totaling greater than fifty percent of the total number of votes cast in the last general election of all officers,
 - ii. or a three-fourths vote of the Senate.
- b. A recall vote shall be taken by presenting to the electorate the question: “Shall (name), the (office), of the GSO be removed from office?” If the recall receives a majority of the votes cast in the election, then, the seat is declared vacant.

2. Recall of Senators:

The Vice President, upon receipt of a petition calling for the recall of a senator signed by 25 percent of the constituency involved, shall arrange for the constituency to hold a recall vote within two weeks of receipt of the petition. If the recall receives a majority of the votes cast in the election, then, the seat is declared vacant.

3. Recall of Suborganization Officers:

The Vice President, upon receipt of a petition calling for the recall of a Suborganization Officer signed by 25 percent of the constituency involved, shall arrange for the constituency to hold a recall vote within two weeks of receipt of the petition. If the recall receives a majority of the votes cast in the election, then, the seat is declared vacant.

4. More than three unexcused absences in one semester from regularly scheduled senate meetings by a senator or officer, shall result in her or his office being declared vacant by the Senate. A motion to remove a senator or officer shall be treated as a by-law, except that it shall not be recorded as a permanent by-law. An officer or senator shall have the full privileges of office until he or she is actually removed from office.
5. When a senator or officer resigns or is recalled, her or his office becomes vacant. A resignation is not official until it is announced to the Senate.
6. No officer or senator shall be subjected to recall more than once in a semester or during the summer.

Referenda

1. The Vice President shall arrange for a referendum vote to be held within one month upon either:
 - (a) the receipt of a petition containing a number of graduate student signatures greater than fifty percent of the total number of votes cast in the last general election of all officers, or,
 - (b) a three-fourths vote of the Senate.
2. A measure referred to the electorate shall pass if it receives a majority of votes cast. The result of a referendum shall be binding for a period of one year unless otherwise specified in the referred measure.