

2020 GSG Election and Referendum Plan

GSG Election Committee

The following plan outlines key details for the 2020 GSG Election and Referendum. Up-to-date information will be available at the election website: gsg.princeton.edu/2020-election. Full information about election procedures is contained in Article III of the GSG By-Laws which can be found on the GSG website: gsg.princeton.edu/about-us/constitution-and-by-laws/. Please direct all election-related questions and comments to the GSG Election Committee, reachable at gsgselect@princeton.edu.

1. Key Dates

The key dates are:

Saturday, January 11: Election Committee sends an e-mail to the graduate student body with information about the election and referenda.

Sunday, January 26, 5pm: Deadline for students to submit notifications.

Sunday, February 2, 9pm: Deadline for candidates to accept nominations and submit candidate statements.

Monday, February 3, 9am: Opening of online form for submission of questions to candidates.

Thursday, February 13, 5-7pm: Meet your candidates event at Campus Club during the GSG Happy Hour.

Friday, February 14, 7pm: Closing of online form for submission of questions to candidates.

Thursday, February 20, 7pm: Candidate responses are posted online at the 'Ask the Candidates' section of the election website (link above).

Thursday, February 27, 9am: Polls open

Wednesday, March 4, 5pm: Polls close

2. Elected Positions and Referenda

The following offices shall be contested:

President

Vice President

Vice President of Internal Affairs

Communications Director

Secretary
Treasurer
Special Events Officer
Academic Affairs Officer
Facilities Officer
Health and Life Officer
Social Officer

The following CPUC positions shall be contested:

Executive Committee (2)
Governance Committee (1)
Judicial Committee (1)
Priorities Committee (2)
Resources Committee (1)
Rights and Rules Committee (2)

The results for CPUC positions will be sent to the Office of the Vice President and Secretary who make the ultimate decision for appointment to CPUC committees.

Finally, there will be a referendum on *a modification of the GSG constitution allowing student housing representatives to be added as voting members to GSG Assembly.*

3. Nominations

Nominations must be submitted via email to the Election Committee (gselect@princeton.edu).

Any graduate student may nominate any graduate student (including themselves) for any or multiple offices.

A nominee may accept a nomination by submitting a Candidate Statement, or by informing the Election Committee of his or her candidacy.

A nominee may only accept one nomination. The acceptance must be unconditional. In the event that a nominee accepts multiple nominations (or submits multiple Candidate Statements), the last acceptance received shall be taken to be the intended one.

The Election Committee shall update the election website (gsg.princeton.edu/gselect) by the deadline of **Sunday, January 26**. Incumbent candidates will be highlighted in the website.

The Election Committee can update the election website as nominations are declined, but cannot post the official list of candidates until this list is approved by the GSG Assembly.

4. Candidate Statements and Campaigning

Candidate Statements must be **no longer than 400 words**. (This rule will be strictly enforced—statements longer than 400 words will be truncated.)

Candidate Statements must be lawful and comply with all University policies, including Rights, Rules and Responsibilities. The Election Committee shall report any irregularities in Candidate Statements to the GSG Assembly.

Candidates may submit a photo and a website link to accompany their statement.

Candidates may create (or assist in the creation of) other campaign material (i.e. material whose primary purpose is to solicit votes such as a website, Facebook group, fliers or mass emails), provided that these are lawful and comply with University policies. Although candidates do not require approval from the Election Committee to create or circulate these materials, they must send a copy of (or link to) these materials to the Election Committee. The Committee may, by a simple majority vote, take action against candidates who are found to be in violation of these regulations—including to recommend disqualification of candidates in the case of egregious or repeated offenses.

5. Eligibility

Every member of the GSG may be a candidate for office and may vote in elections.

Membership in the GSG is open to all graduate students. DCE and regularly enrolled students who are in full-time residence are automatically members of the GSG. Students out-of-residence and ET-DCC (post-DCE) students may become members of the GSG upon payment of the Student Government Fee. (See Section 6, Full Election Timeline, for deadlines for payment of the fee.)

6. Full Election Timeline

The key dates appear in bold font. Italicized comments indicate the relevant rules from Article III of the GSG By-Laws.

Wednesday, January 8: Election Committee submits proposed Election Plan to the GSG Assembly. The GSG Assembly amends/approves the Election Plan.

Saturday, January 11: Election Committee sends an email to the graduate student body with information about the election and referendum. (*This must occur within 72 hours of Assembly approving the election plan.*)

Wednesday, January 15: Election Committee sends a first reminder email to the graduate body about nominations.

Wednesday, January 22: Election Committee sends a second reminder email to the graduate body about nominations.

Sunday, January 26, 5pm: Deadline for nominations. (*Deadline cannot be less than 14 days from the date when the graduate student body was informed of the Election Plan.*)

Sunday, January 26, 5pm–9pm: Election Committee advises each candidate of the positions they have been nominated for, and the list of other nominees.

Sunday, February 2, 9pm: Deadline for accepting nominations and submitting Candidate Statements. (*Deadline cannot be less than 7 days from date of notification*)

of nominees.) Deadline for non-members to pay \$16 fee to GSG to be eligible to be a candidate in the election.

Monday, February 3: Election Committee submits the list of approved candidates and Candidate Statements to the GSG Assembly for approval via email. Candidate Statements are posted on election website. Election Committee sends an email to the graduate student body with information about: (i) Candidate Statements, (ii) 'Ask the Candidates' online forum and (TENTATIVE) 'Meet the Candidates' event, and (iii) voter registration for non-members.

Thursday, February 13, 6pm–8pm: Meet your candidates event to be held at the Campus Club Tap Room. Reminder will be sent earlier the same day.

Friday, February 14, 7pm: Election Committee sends reminder email to the graduate student body about the Ask the Candidates Forum. Forum closes at midnight on the same day.

Saturday, February 15, 3pm: Election Committee sends candidates list of questions from the Ask the Candidates Forum.

Thursday, February 20, 6pm: Election Committee receives responses from candidates. Deadline for non-member students to pay the Student Government Fee to be eligible to vote. Election Committee determines quorum for elections and referenda.

Thursday, February 20, 7pm: Candidate Responses are posted online at the 'Ask the Candidates' forum.

Thursday, February 27, 9am: Polls open. (*Polls cannot open sooner than 2 weeks from the date Candidate Statements are posted.*) Election Committee sends an email to the graduate student body about elections.

Thursday, February 27–Tuesday, March 4: Election Committee posts daily tally of total number of ballots cast on election website.

Sunday, March 1: Election Committee sends a reminder email to graduate student body about elections.

Wednesday, March 4, 9am: Election Committee sends final reminder email to graduate student body about elections.

Wednesday, March 4, 5pm: Polls close.

Thursday, March 5, 5pm: Deadline for GSG Election Committee to inform candidates and GSG Assembly of provisional results.

Tuesday, March 10: Deadline for GSG Election Committee to submit election report to GSG Assembly.

Wednesday, March 11, 6pm (Joseph Henry Room, Jadwin Hall): GSG Assembly certifies election and referenda results. Election Committee dissolves.

7. The Election Committee

The Election Committee is comprised of Dennis Schaefer (chair), Chapman Sklar, Jack Weis, Olek Niewiarowski, and Daniel Cooney. The committee's contact is: gselect@princeton.edu.

The Election Committee shall take all appropriate steps to ensure fair and open elections. To this end, the Election Committee shall adhere to the following guidelines:

1. The Election Committee shall retain records of all of its deliberations. To facilitate this:
 - (i) all electronic communication between Committee members shall be conducted via the Election Committee listserv when possible;
 - (ii) all electronic communication between the Committee and other persons shall be conducted via the Election Committee email account (gsselect@princeton.edu) when possible; and
 - (iii) the Election Committee Chair shall take minutes of proceedings at all meetings.
2. Election Committee members shall in no way express support (or take actions that may be reasonably construed as expressing support—for example by joining a candidate's Facebook campaign group) for a candidate or ticket participating in the election. Election Committee decisions shall require the approval of a simple majority of members.

The Election Committee shall remain independent from the GSG Executive Committee. To this end:

1. Election Committee shall report to the GSG Assembly only, and shall not privilege the members of the GSG Executive Committee not on the Election Committee with any information that is not available to the GSG Assembly.
2. Election Committee requests that the Executive Committee abstain from sending emails to the graduate student body on election issues. The Executive Committee (or any graduate student) may communicate via the GSG website, Facebook group, or other media.