2021 GSG Election and Referendum Plan

GSG Election Committee

The following plan outlines key details for the 2021 GSG Election and Referendum. Up-to-date information will be available at the election website: gsg.princeton.edu/2021-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-bylaws/. Please direct all election-related questions and comments to the GSG Election Committee, reachable at gsgelect@princeton.edu.

1. Key Dates

The key dates are:

   **Monday, January 25**: Election Committee sends an e-mail to the graduate student body with information about the election and referenda.
   **Monday, February 8, 9pm**: Deadline for nomination submissions.
   **Tuesday, February 16, 9pm**: Deadline for accepting nominations and submitting Candidate Statements.
   **Wednesday, February 17, 12pm**: Opening of Slack channel for submission of questions to candidates.
   **Thursday, February 25, TBD**: Meet your candidates event TBD.
   **Wednesday, March 3, 9am**: Polls open.
   **Wednesday, March 17, 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 (gsgelect@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/gsgelect) by the deadline of **Tuesday, February 16**. 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 13**: Election Committee submits proposed Election Plan to the GSG Assembly. The GSG Assembly amends/approves the Election Plan.

**Monday, January 25**: Election Committee sends an email to the graduate student body with information about the election and referendum.

**Friday, January 29**: Election Committee sends a first reminder email to the graduate body about nominations.

**Wednesday, February 3**: Election Committee sends a second reminder email to the graduate body about nominations.

**Monday, February 8, 5pm**: Deadline for nominations submissions. *(Deadline cannot be less than 14 days from the date when the graduate student body was informed of the Election Plan.)*

**Monday, February 8, 5pm–9pm**: Election Committee advises each candidate of the positions they have been nominated for, and the list of other nominees.

**Tuesday, February 16, 9pm**: Deadline for accepting nominations and submitting
Candidate Statements. (*Deadline cannot be less than 7 days from date of notification of nominees.*)

**Wednesday, February 17, 12pm:** Opening of Slack channel for submission of questions to candidates.

**Wednesday, February 17, 9pm:** 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 25, TBD:** Meet your candidates event TBD.

**Wednesday, March 3, 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.

**Sunday, March 7:** Election Committee sends a reminder email to graduate student body about elections.

**Wednesday, March 17, 9am:** Election Committee sends final reminder email to graduate student body about elections.

**Wednesday, March 17, 5pm:** Polls close.

**Friday, March 19, 5pm:** Deadline for GSG Election Committee to inform candidates and GSG Assembly of provisional results.

**Tuesday, March 23:** Deadline for GSG Election Committee to submit election report to GSG Assembly.

**Wednesday, April 14, 6pm:** GSG Assembly certifies election and referenda results. Election Committee dissolves.

7. **The Election Committee**

The Election Committee is comprised of Karina Alventosa (chair), Anja Kalaba, Allison Hogikyan, Christopher Hale. The committee’s contact is: gsgelect@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 (gsgelect@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 candidates 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, Slack workspace, or other media.