

## **Information for Graduate Student Council Candidates**

### **About the Position**

- The Graduate Student Council (GSC) is half of the legislative branch of the ASSU, and represents all graduate students. The second half of the legislative branch of the ASSU is the Undergraduate Senate.
- 15 members serve on the Graduate Student Council; 10 members represent a specific school, and the remaining 5 are “at-large” (i.e., elected by and representing all current graduates.)
- There is no limit to the number of terms a student may serve as a member of the GSC.
- The GSC term of office begins at the second meeting of the GSC after the election results are certified.

### **Makeup of the GSC**

- The GSC’s 15 members are districted among departments as follows:
- The School of Business: 1 member
- The School of Earth Sciences: 1 member
- The School of Education: 1 member
- The School of Engineering: 2 members, who must be from different departments
- The School of Humanities and Sciences, Humanities: 1 member\*
- The School of Humanities and Sciences, Natural Sciences: 1 member\*
- The School of Humanities and Sciences, Social Sciences: 1 member\*
- The School of Law: 1 member
- The School of Medicine: 1 member
- Members at-large, chosen from the entire graduate population: 5 members

\* The distinctions between these departments is not always clear; if you have concerns or questions about which district your department/program falls under, please contact the Elections Commission.

### **Campaigning Overview**

- Candidates for GSC are elected individually.
- If the candidate wishes to run for a non-at-large position, they shall declare the district for which they are running on their Declaration of Intent. This will traditionally be the school to which the candidate was admitted, or the school in which they conduct the majority of their research and/or receive the majority of their funding (if different). The Elections Commission will review the choices made by each candidate to ensure that they are consistent with elections policy, and will contact candidates if their choices may be invalid.
- All candidates for a non-at-large position shall also automatically be considered for an at-large position. Candidates may also choose to only be considered for an at-large position. Candidates for a non-at-large district may also choose to not seek election as an at-large candidate (in addition to their non-at-large candidacy) by contacting the Elections Commission.

- All candidates for GSC must register a Declaration of Intent with the Elections Commission to be eligible in the election. Write-in candidates who have not registered a Declaration of Intent and do not do so after the election will not be considered. See Declaration of Intent. The Elections Commission will make a reasonable effort to contact all candidates who may be elected and have not submitted a Declaration of Intent.
- The ballot will list the full name of the candidate. Common name abbreviations are permitted, but nicknames are not.

### **Declaration of Intent**

- All candidates for the GSC must register a Declaration of Intent with the Elections Commission to be eligible in the election. This is ordinarily the first step towards seeking office.
- Candidates who have not submitted a Declaration of Intent, or whose Declaration of Intent has been declared invalid, are ineligible in the election.

### **Petitioning**

- Petitioning is not required for GSC candidates to appear on the ballot; any candidate who submits a valid Declaration of Intent shall appear on the ballot.

### **Voting Procedure**

- In the GSC election, each current graduate may vote for five at-large candidates, as well as for as many candidates in their non-at-large district as can be elected. A voter may only vote for each candidate once, and need not vote to fill all open spaces. Each vote is weighted equally (i.e., voters do not rank their preferences.)
- Voters who are associated with multiple GSC districts shall vote in all.
- Candidates are first considered for their non-at-large position (if declared), then for the at-large positions.

Please Note: This document is a summary of the ASSU Constitution, Joint Bylaws, GSC Bylaws, UGS Bylaws, and the Elections Appendix. Those documents are the final authority on any elections issues. This document is provided as a convenient reference, and does not necessarily contain all the regulations that may apply to you.

Please read the Governing Documents at <http://assu.stanford.edu/government-docs/> or e-mail the Elections Commission at [elections@elections.stanford.edu](mailto:elections@elections.stanford.edu) if you have any additional questions.