

Information for Class President Candidates

About the Position

- The rising undergraduate sophomore, junior, and senior classes each elect a slate of Class Presidents to represent and lead their class.
- Class presidents work closely with Student Activities and Life (SAL) to plan programming, events, and contribute to student life for their class.
- In the election, all slates are named for their class position in the next school year (i.e., the 2011-2012 academic year.)
For instance, this year the Class of 2014 will elect sophomore class presidents.
- Each undergraduate will vote only for the class presidents of their class.
- The sophomore and senior slates contain exactly four candidates. The junior slate may contain four or five candidates; four candidates must be on-campus at all times during their term.
- There is no limit to the number of terms a student may serve as a class president.
- The Class President term begins at the beginning of the next school year (i.e., the 2011-2012 academic year), and ends at the end of the next school year.

Campaigning Overview

- Candidates for Class President run together as a “slate,” with four (or possibly five, for the junior slate) students on the slate. The slate together is considered the Class Presidents.
- All slates for Class President must register a Declaration of Intent with the Elections Commission to be eligible in the election. Write-in slates who have not registered a Declaration of Intent will not be considered in the election. *See Declaration of Intent.*
- Each class president slate will select a name for itself, and this name will appear on the ballot. The Elections Commission expects that slates will choose appropriate and inoffensive names, and reserves the right to re-name a slate whose name violates the boundaries of good taste.
- To appear as an option on the ballot, the slate must submit a petition demonstrating that at least 100 undergraduate students support their campaign for office. *See Petitioning.*
Slates that do not appear as an option on the ballot may still win the election as a write-in, provided they have registered a Declaration of Intent with the Elections Commission.
- The Class President election uses Instant Run-off Voting (IRV); voters rank as many slates as they wish, and the election concludes when two slates exist and one slate has over 50% of the vote. *See Voting Procedure.*

Declaration of Intent

- All Class President slates 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.
- Slates who have not submitted a Declaration of Intent, or whose Declaration of Intent has been declared invalid, are ineligible in the election.
- The Declaration of Intent form is supplied in this packet.

Petitioning

- To appear as an option on the ballot, a slate must submit a petition showing that 100 undergraduates support their campaign.
- Graduate students are not eligible to sign the petitions of candidates for Class President.
- Please see the *Petitioning Guidelines and Information* document for important information on petitions, validity, and timeline.

Voting Procedure

- Each undergraduate voter will be permitted to select the class with which they most “socially identify,” and will be able to vote only for Class President slates of that year.
Because it is difficult to determine how academic years translate into a “social” class year, each student will be permitted to select the class with which they most closely identify. In almost all cases, however, only (e.g.) freshmen will run for or vote for Sophomore Class Presidents.
- The Class President election uses Instant Run-off Voting (IRV). In an instant run-off election, voters may rank as many slates as they wish, in order of their preferences. A voter need not indicate a preference for all slates.
- Voters’ choices are tabulated in a number of “rounds,” and at the end of each round, the slate with the lowest number of votes is eliminated; ballots that indicated that slate as their top choice are redistributed to slates according to their next-highest choice. If the ballot didn’t have a next-highest choice, it is considered “expired.”
- This procedure is repeated until two choices remain, and the choice with the most votes is considered the winner.
- See the election archives at <http://elections.stanford.edu/archives> if you are confused.

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/governing_docs/ and e-mail the Elections Commission, elections@elections.stanford.edu, if you have questions.