Elections shall be coordinated by the Communications Committee

* + 1. All positions must be summarized and posted.
    2. Individuals are only eligible to run for one position during an election cycle.
    3. The Secretary shall confirm the population of graduate students in each department and update the total number of representative positions accordingly.
       1. Any change in the total number of representatives shall result in an official amendment to the Bylaws which shall occur during the last meeting of the Spring semester.
  1. **Process**
     1. Timing
        1. The election timeline should be defined in the first meeting of the Spring Semester according to the following guidelines.
        2. Elections shall occur during the Spring Semester, at least three weeks prior to the last week of classes, and shall be open for a one-week period.
        3. The announcement of elections shall be made at least four weeks in advance of voting and shall include a link to position summaries hosted on the GSA Senate Website. This action officially opens the nomination period.
        4. Nominations shall be taken up to one week in advance of the voting period.
     2. Senate Nominations and Eligibility
        1. All continuing graduate students are eligible.
        2. All candidates must be self-nominated and must provide personal descriptions and descriptions of intent for the specific position.
        3. Self-nominations may take the form of a written statement of intent, submitted through the GSA Website, strictly during the Nomination Period.
        4. Only members of a specific department are eligible to run for the representative position of that department.
           1. Department representative positions shall be allocated proportionally to the student population, with one representative for every fifty (50) matriculated graduate students and at least one (1) representative per department. If the number of students exceed 50 but is not doubled/tripled, an additional representative shall be apportioned if the excess is greater than 75% of the required 50 students.

Current apportionment is:

Chemical Engineering (1)

Chemistry (1)

Environmental Biology (2)

Environmental Resources Engineering (1)

Environmental Science, Division of (1)

Environmental Studies (1)

Landscape Architecture (1)

Sustainable Resources Management (1)

* + - 1. Election results shall be posted on the GSA webpage and distributed to the graduate student body.
      2. Graduate students not elected to the Senate can still serve on the Senate under an appointed but non-voting capacity and can serve on GSA Senate committees.
    1. **Voting**
       1. All voting shall be electronically using an appropriate platform that maintains the anonymity of the voters.
       2. Descriptions of all positions and candidates must be posted on the GSA Website and a link must be included on the ballot. When possible, descriptions should also be included on the ballot.
       3. All positions other than department representatives shall be elected by popular vote among all graduate students.
          1. Department representatives shall be elected by popular vote among graduate students within their department.
       4. In the event of a tie vote for any position of the GSA Senate, a runoff election shall be held within one week between the parties involved.
    2. **Transition of Offices**
       1. All GSA Senate positions shall have a term of one academic year, no term limit.
          1. In the case of an anticipated graduation in December, one can run for a general and department representative position. The individual must state that they plan on running for one semester as part of their nomination. If they don’t graduate, their term can be extended for the full academic year. If they graduate, elections shall be held for that one position.
       2. Terms and associated voting privileges shall transition to the incoming GSA Senate at the close of the last meeting of the Spring Semester.
  1. **Election of the Faculty Advisor**
     1. If the previous Faculty Advisor to the GSA Senate wishes to continue in this capacity, the new GSA Senate shall vote by voice during the first meeting of the Fall Semester to retain the previous Faculty Advisor or call for nominations.
     2. The GSA Senate will officially recognize by vote of the Senate, two Faculty Advisors by the second meeting of the fall semester. These are:
        1. With their consent, a representative of the Office of Student Engagement and Success and a representative from The Graduate School.
     3. In the event of the two aforementioned options not being viable for the academic year the GSA Senate will initiate a call to faculty members with the purpose of filling the Faculty Advisor position.
        1. Guidelines outlining the requisite qualifications will be prepared and approved by the Senate and will accompany the call for nominations.
     4. Self-nominations may take the form of a written statement of intent, submitted through the GSA Website, strictly during the Nomination Period and voting will take place as outlined in Section 3 – Voting.
  2. **Vacancy**
     1. Any member of the GSA Senate may be dismissed from their position due to, but not limited by, one or more of the following:
        1. Missing three or more GSA Senate meetings without due justification
        2. Inability or failure to fulfill specific position duties as outlined.
     2. The President shall give warning if any GSA Senate member is in risk of dismissal.
     3. Dismissal shall occur by a passing vote of the GSA Senate.
     4. In the event that a GSA Senate position becomes vacant, other than the position of the President, said vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the President with approval of the GSA Senate.
     5. Presidential succession shall be established at the first meeting of the academic year or by the first meeting following the seat becoming vacant by a voiced self-nomination from among the Vice Presidents and majority vote of the GSA Senate.
     6. The new President shall then appoint a replacement for their vacated Vice President position, with approval of the GSA Senate.
     7. Notification of this change in leadership shall consist of, but is not limited to, one or more of the following:
        1. Email notification to all graduate students
        2. Posting on the GSA website
        3. Other paper or electronic advertisement across campus
  3. **Impeachment**
     + 1. A petition stating the charges against an officer and signed by at least ten (10) percent of the total GSA Senate membership shall be required to bring charges against an officer of the GSA Senate.
       2. Notification of the charges against the officer shall be brought before the GSA Senate. Mechanisms shall consist of, but are not limited to, one or more of the following:
          1. Email notification to all graduate students
          2. Posting on the GSA website
          3. Other paper or electronic advertisement across campus
       3. Both the charges against the officer and their defense shall be debated at a special meeting of the GSA Senate within two weeks after submission of the petition and notification of the charges.
       4. A vote to dismiss the officer shall be held at the special GSA Senate meeting. A two-thirds majority vote of the total GSA Senate membership shall be required for dismissal of the officer.
       5. An officer may be charged only once for the same offense.