



Resolution No. 1920-11
A Resolution for Overhauling the Procedures for Elections of Executive Officers

BE IT INACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE GATHERED THAT:

WHEREAS, The proper facilitation and execution of elections of Executive Officers of the Graduate Professional Council are necessary to ensure a transparent process and to validate election results; and

WHEREAS, The current Bylaws of the Graduate Professional Council are confusing and outdated for the overall process of elections, and they do not match the process the General Assembly has historically chosen to follow; and

WHEREAS, There exist some procedures that unnecessarily burden the General Assembly through inefficient allocations of time for querying nominees for positions on the Executive Board; and

WHEREAS, Current restrictions on discussion of a single candidate limit the authority of the General Assembly to make an adequate assessment of a candidate's qualifications for a position on the Executive Board; therefore be it

RESOLVED, By two-thirds majority vote of the General Assembly that the Bylaws of the Graduate Professional Council shall be amended in accordance with the attached Appendix of this Resolution to overhaul the procedures for elections of Executive Officers; and be it further

RESOLVED, These changes to the election procedures are aimed to provide more clarity to the election process by reducing redundancies, unnecessary burdens of the General Assembly, and unclear language; and be it further

RESOLVED, These changes will provide more authority to the General Assembly to assess the qualifications of candidates through increased clarity of the process by which each candidate shall be deliberated.

SUBMITTED,

Executive Board



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APPENDIX I - BYLAWS

SECTION V – ELECTIONS OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

5.1. General Elections

5.1.1. Elections shall be held at the regularly scheduled April Meeting of the General Assembly Meeting.

5.1.2. A quorum as defined by the Constitution must be present in order to hold elections.

5.1.3. The Presiding Election Officer

5.1.3.1. The Presiding Election Officer shall make no speeches for or against any candidate at the election meeting.

5.1.3.2. The President shall serve as Presiding Election Officer, unless there is a conflict of interest as defined by Section 6.7 of these Bylaws or is actively seeking a ~~another or same~~ position on the Executive Board ~~in a contested or uncontested race and taking substantive part in the election process.~~

5.1.3.3. If the President is not available, the next highest-ranking Executive Officer, ~~as defined by the Constitution~~, facing no conflict of interest and not seeking ~~another or same a~~ position on the Executive Board shall serve as the Presiding Election Officer.

5.1.3.4. If all current Executive Officers are seeking re-election at the end of the first nomination meeting, an Election Committee of five General Assembly ~~member~~ Representatives not seeking office will be formed to coordinate the election in conjunction with the Advisor.

5.1.3.4.1. The Election Committee will designate one General Assembly ~~member~~ Representative in "Good Standing" to serve as Presiding Election Officer.

~~5.1.3.4.2. The highest Executive Officer seeking a position in an uncontested race shall participate in counting of votes with the Presiding Election Officer. If no Executive Officer is seeking such a position, the Advisor shall designate a member of the Election Committee in "Good Standing" to participate in counting of votes.~~

5.1.4. Nomination Process

5.1.4.1. A nomination period for all positions will occur at the regularly scheduled March Meeting of the General Assembly ~~meeting immediately preceding the election meeting~~ and at the April Meeting of the General Assembly ~~election meeting~~ before ~~candidate speeches are presented~~ elections for each position occur.

5.1.4.2. A nomination period will occur for each candidate position prior to its candidate speeches at the April Meeting of the General Assembly.



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5.1.4.3. Nominations will be taken from the floor and a nominee must be present at the time of nomination.

~~5.1.4.4. The nominated candidate must be present at the nomination or election meeting in order to accept a nomination.~~

5.1.5. Election Meeting

5.1.5.1. The Secretary will prepare the resources needed in order for Representatives to cast their votes, ~~including ballots with space for nominations taken at the election meeting and write in votes.~~

~~5.1.5.2. Uncontested Positions~~

~~5.1.5.2.1. Uncontested candidates will be allowed to make an acceptance speech, unless the Assembly determines, by simple majority vote, to forgo all uncontested candidate speeches.~~

~~5.1.5.3. Contested Positions~~ Candidate Speeches

~~5.1.5.3.1. On the day of election, candidates will be allowed to give one speech lasting~~ have no more than ~~three~~ four minutes to speak about their candidacy and/or answer questions from Representatives. ~~Speeches may be delivered by Proxy during the meeting.~~ Candidates may not be present during ~~the delivery of the opposition speeches~~ another candidate's speaking and questioning time. ~~They will exit the room.~~ Each candidate will have their speaking and questioning time prior to the General Assembly's deliberations, as outlined in 1.1.5.3.2.

~~5.1.5.3.2. Candidates must leave the room~~ shall not be present during deliberations. There will be a discussion period for each candidate in the order in which they were nominated, and each will be limited to 5 minutes. ~~where each candidate will be allowed no more than two speeches in support by members of the Assembly.~~

5.1.5.3.3. Candidates will return to the room and may vote during the election and remain present during ballot counting.

5.1.6. Voting

5.1.6.1. The Presiding Election Officer shall not vote in any election, except as specified by Section 5.1.7.4.

5.1.6.2. With the exception of the Presiding Election Officer, all Assembly Representatives in "Good Standing" are eligible to vote and may participate in the election process. ~~Members of the Executive Board~~ Executive Officers with the exception of the Presiding Election Officer, are also eligible to vote.

5.1.6.3. All candidates, whether Representatives or not, will have the right to vote for themselves. If they are not Representatives, they will not be able to vote on any other executive positions that are in contention.



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- 5.1.6.4. Prior to voting, each Assembly member will check in with the Secretary or another **Executive** Officer to receive a ballot. Also, before elections take place, the Vice President **and/or the Election Officer** will remind all guests and non-voting members that they cannot vote, unless they are running for a position.
- 5.1.6.5. The Presiding Election Officer and Advisor will collect the ballots at the end of each **face election**.
- 5.1.6.6. The Advisor will keep the ballots. After ballots are counted, no individual shall be granted access to the ballots by the Advisor unless deemed necessary through a formal appeal process. If no formal appeal is filed within ten business days, the Advisor shall destroy the ballots.
- 5.1.7. Vote Tallying and Winner Determination
 - 5.1.7.1. A plurality of votes is needed in the case of two or fewer candidates.
 - 5.1.7.2. When more than two candidates are running for a position, the Borda Count will be used to ensure that the candidate who is most appealing to the most people is the one who is elected.
 - 5.1.7.3. The Borda Count shall involve the ranking of **all** candidates by each voter (see Appendix A). All Representatives will mark their ballots accordingly, ranking **all** candidates in the order they deem fit to take the office.
 - 5.1.7.4. **All incomplete ballots will be discarded.**
 - 5.1.7.5. In the event of a tie, the Presiding Election Officer shall break the tie.
 - 5.1.7.6. **Votes will be counted by the following persons:**
 - 5.1.7.6.1. The Presiding Election Officer – If the Presiding Election Officer is an Assembly appointee, the individual designated by Section 5.1.3.4.1.
 - 5.1.7.6.2. The Graduate Professional Council Advisor
 - 5.1.7.6.2.1. If the Advisor is not present, the highest-ranking **Executive Member Officer** not running for office and one member of the Assembly not seeking office, making a speech, or otherwise subject to a conflict of interest will be asked to serve.
 - 5.1.7.6.2.1.1. If all current Executive Board members are not present or are running for office, then the highest-ranking **Executive Officer** in an uncontested position will serve.
 - 5.1.7.6.2.1.2. If no **Executive Officer** is seeking an uncontested position, then the highest-ranking **Executive Officer** not seeking the office being elected shall serve.
 - 5.1.7.6.3. **Five One** Representatives from the Assembly not seeking office, making speeches, or otherwise subject to a conflict of interest will volunteer.
- 5.1.8. Special Elections



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- 5.1.8.1. If an ~~member or member-elect of the Executive board were to resign executive office would be vacant, at any point between their election and the next regularly scheduled meeting~~ and there is no procedure regarding the succession for the position, an announcement that a special election shall be held must be made to the **graduate and professional** student body and the **General** Assembly at least one week prior to the **General** Assembly meeting where an election can occur.
- 5.1.8.2. The announcement will indicate that during the special election, both nominations and election of the Officer(s) will occur within the same meeting.
- 5.1.8.3. A special election shall be held at the **General Assembly** meeting specified in the announcement.
 - ~~5.1.8.3.1. The meeting at which the special election will be held shall be the only meeting at which nominations shall be taken.~~
 - 5.1.8.4. The election shall be subject to all other regulations as specified in the **Bylaws**.
- 5.1.9. Appeals Process
 - 5.1.9.1. All appeals shall be submitted to the Advisor.
 - 5.1.9.2. All appeals must be made to the Advisor in writing and be received no more than ten business days following the election meeting. The appeal shall include evidence for the basis of the appeal. The Advisor will make every reasonable effort with all parties to resolve the issue. Should this fail, then the Advisor will forward the appeal to the Appellate Board (See Section 6.6)