

2013 GSG Election and Referendum Plan

The following plan outlines key details for the 2013 GSG Election and Referendum. Up-to-date information can be found at the election website: www.princeton.edu/~gsgelect. 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/current-constitution. Please direct all questions to gsgelect@princeton.edu.

1. Key Dates

Monday, February 4, 5pm

Deadline for students to submit nominations.

Tuesday, February 12, 5pm

Deadline for candidates to accept nomination and submit candidate statements.

Deadline for referendum committees to submit referendum statements.

Deadline to express interest in Committee Chair positions to be eligible for housing priority.

Wednesday, February 20, 6pm

'Meet the Candidates' Forum (venue TBA).

Thursday, February 28, 9am

Polls open.

Wednesday, March 6, 5pm

Polls close.

2. Elected Positions and Referenda

The following offices shall be contested:

- President
- Vice President
- Communications Director
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Special Events Officer

Four Committee Chairs (Academic Affairs; Facilities and Transportation; Health and Life; and Social) shall be appointed by the GSG Assembly at its March meeting (Wednesday, 13 March, 6pm).

The following referendum questions shall be put, in the order specified:

- a. *The GSG proposes to set the GSG fee at \$15 for the 2013-14 Academic Year and to have the fee increase by the same proportion as the University Fellowship (usually about 3%) in subsequent years. Do you support this proposal?*
- b. *If the previous question fails, would you support a proposal for an automatic increase in the GSG fee by the same proportion as the University Fellowship, leaving the base (of \$10 for the 2012-13 Academic Year) unchanged?*
- c. *If the previous questions both fail, would you support a one-off increase in the GSG fee to \$15?*

3. Nominations

- Nominations must be submitted via email to the Election Committee (gsgselect@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 (www.princeton.edu/~gsgselect) as nominations are received.
- The Election Committee shall 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 two-third 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 offences.

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 ETDCC (post-DCE) students may become members of the GSG upon payment of the \$10 membership fee. (See Full Election Timeline for deadlines for payment of membership 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 2

Election Committee submits proposed Election Plan to the GSG Assembly.

Wednesday, January 9, 6pm (Joseph Henry Room, Jadwin Hall)

The GSG Assembly amends/approves the Election Plan.

Thursday, January 10

Election Committee sends an email to the graduate student body with information about the election and referendum. (*This must occur within 72 hours of Assembly approving the election plan.*)

Monday, January 28

Election Committee sends a reminder email to the graduate student body about nominations.

Sunday, February 3

Election Committee sends a reminder email to the graduate student body about nominations.

Monday, February 4, 5pm

Deadline for nominations (*Deadline cannot be less than 14 days from the date when the graduate student body was informed of the Election Plan.*)

Tuesday, February 5, 5pm (or sooner)

Election Committee advises each candidate of the positions they have been nominated for, and the list of other nominees.

Tuesday, February 12, 5pm

Deadline for accepting nominations and submitting Candidate Statements. Referendum Committees must submit draft statements to Assembly. (*Deadline cannot be less than 7 days from date of notification of nominees.*)

Deadline to express interest in Committee Chair positions to be eligible for housing priority.

Deadline for non-members to pay \$10 fee to GSG to be eligible to be a candidate in the election.

Wednesday, February 13

Election Committee submits the list of approved candidates and Candidate Statements to the GSG Assembly for approval at the Assembly meeting (6pm, Joseph Henry Room, Jadwin Hall).

Thursday, February 14, 9am (or sooner)

Candidate Statements are posted on election website.

Election Committee sends an email to the graduate student body with information about: (i) Candidate Statements, (ii) 'Meet the Candidates' Forum, and (iii) voter registration for non-members.

Tuesday, February 19

Election Committee sends reminder email to the graduate student body about the 'Meet the Candidates' Forum.

Wednesday, February 20, 6pm

'Meet the Candidates' Forum and referendum information session.

Thursday, February 21, 5pm

Deadline for non-member students to pay \$10 GSG fee to be eligible to vote.

Election Committee determines quorum for elections and referenda.

Thursday, February 28, 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.

Thursday, February 28 - Wednesday, March 5:

Election Committee posts daily tally of total number of ballots cast on election website.

Saturday, March 2

Election Committee sends a reminder email to graduate student body about elections.

Monday, March 4

Election Committee sends a reminder email to graduate student body about elections.

Wednesday, March 6, 9am

Election Committee sends final reminder email to graduate student body about elections.

Wednesday, March 6, 5pm

Polls close.

Thursday, March 7, 5pm (or sooner)

Election Committee advises candidates and GSG Assembly of provisional results.

Tuesday, March 12 (or sooner)

Election Committee submits election report to GSG Assembly.

Wednesday, March 13, 6pm (Joseph Henry Room, Jadwin Hall)

GSG Assembly certifies election and referenda results.

Election Committee dissolves.

7. The Election Committee

The Election Committee is comprised of Tim Brandt, Brooke Macnamara, Chad Maisel, Pablo Mosteiro and Giri Parameswaran (chair). The Committee can be contacted at gselect@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:

- 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; (ii) all electronic communication between the Committee and other persons shall be conducted via the Election Committee email account (gselect@princeton.edu); and (iii) the Election Committee Chair shall take minutes of proceedings at all meetings.
- 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 candidate's Facebook campaign group) for a candidate or ticket participating in the election.
- Election Committee decisions shall require the approval of a two-third majority of members (i.e. four approvals).

The Election Committee shall remain independent from the GSG Executive Committee. To this end:

- Election Committee shall report to the GSG Assembly only, and shall not privilege the GSG Executive Committee or referenda committees with any information that is not available to the GSG Assembly.

- Election Committee requests that the Executive Committee abstain from sending emails to the graduate student body on election or referendum related issues. The Executive Committee (or any graduate student) may communicate via the GSG website, Facebook group, or other media.