



1 X. Elections Code

2 Section 1. Referenda

- 3 A. All referendum items are submitted to the Elections Committee via the Elections Chair or the
- 4 GPSA Office. (VIII.A-B.)
- 5 B. The party submitting the referendum item shall identify its level of authority as one of the
- 6 following: Constitution, Bylaws, Resolution, or Election.
- 7 C. The ballot shall preserve the language in which referendum items are submitted.

8 Section 2. Candidate and Voter Eligibility

- 9 A. An eligible candidate for the office of President or Council Chair shall be a GPSA member.
  - 10 1. Candidates file for an election by turning in completed Candidacy Forms to the GPSA Office
  - 11 by 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday of the third (3rd) academic week prior to the election.
    - 12 a. Candidacy Forms shall entail an autobiography, an eligibility form, an application
    - 13 for candidacy, and a campaign contributions statement.
    - 14 b. Candidacy Forms shall be forwarded immediately to the Student Activities Center
    - 15 for certification. A list of certified candidates will be posted in accordance with the
    - 16 Public Notice Requirements.
    - 17 c. The Elections Committee shall determine eligibility and announce candidates by
    - 18 5:00 p.m. the academic day following the application deadline. Candidates shall be
    - 19 considered valid if the proper forms were completed and all eligibility requirements
    - 20 were met.
    - 21 d. A candidate may withdraw from the election and be removed from the ballot if they
    - 22 submit a notice of withdrawal to the Election Committee at least three (3) academic
    - 23 days before the start of the election.
    - 24 e.i. In the event of a candidate withdrawal, the Elections Committee must notify IT
    - 25 to change the ballot and then post written notice of the change.
  - 26 2. A candidate is ineligible to run for President or Council Chair if winning the election would
  - 27 result in holding both offices for any period of time.
  - 28 3. To be eligible to take office as President or Council Chair, a candidate must have met the
  - 29 Graduate Studies office's requirements for Graduate Assistantship eligibility for at least two
  - 30 consecutive semesters, including the semester of the election. Where the GPA requirement
  - 31 should reflect academic good standing for the respective department.
  - 32 4. A GPSA member may run as a write-in candidate for the office of GPSA President or
  - 33 Council Chair after the candidacy form deadline, if they turn in the required candidacy forms
  - 34 and are deemed eligible before the end of the election.
    - 35 a. Write-in candidates will not be named on the ballot and will not appear on official
    - 36 GPSA Elections Committee flyers or advertisements.
    - 37 b. Write-in candidates must follow the same regulations for campaigning as candidates
    - 38 who submitted before the deadline.

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39 ~~3.c.~~ In the event that a write-in candidate wins the election by plurality vote and is  
40 deemed ineligible, the position shall go to the candidate with the next highest number  
41 of votes.

- 42 B. An eligible voter for an election must be a GPSA member. Voters may cast only one vote per  
43 item in a given election.  
44 1. The Elections Committee shall arrange for a list of GPSA member NetIDs to be obtained  
45 from the Registrar's Office and delivered to Information Technologies (IT).

46 Section 3. Notice of Elections

- 47 A. Notice of all elections entails at least one (1) advertisement in the Daily Lobo, or with an  
48 alternative but equivalent method, no later than fifteen (15) academic days prior to the election  
49 for candidates and no later than five (5) academic days prior to the election for ballot items sent  
50 to the GPSA electronic mailing list.  
51 B. The Elections Committee will use a UNM email account and set up an elections electronic  
52 mailing list through IT during the first (1st) week of September and of February.  
53 C. The Elections Committee shall issue a "Call for Candidates and Ballot Items" no fewer than five  
54 (5) academic weeks prior to the general election. The Call for Candidates and Ballot Items shall  
55 include a list of elected offices in GPSA and procedures for submitting items to the ballot via  
56 Council or referendum. This notice shall be posted according to the Public Notice Requirements  
57 along with an advertisement posted in the Daily Lobo, or with an alternative but equivalent  
58 method.  
59 1. The written notice shall also include any steps necessary for a student to vote.  
60 2. ~~This notice must be one quarter (1/4) of a page advertisement appearing for three (3)~~  
61 ~~consecutive issues of the Daily Lobo.~~ Once published, this information may not be changed  
62 or altered except to correct any errors in printing.  
63 ~~0. Any correction of printing errors shall be printed in three (3) consecutive issues of the Daily~~  
64 ~~Lobo.~~  
65 1. This advertisement shall carry personal, professional, and/or platform information for  
66 candidates, information regarding amendments, and any other items to be voted upon in the  
67 election.  
68 2. The full text of Constitutional Amendments shall be included. If the text is larger than one  
69 quarter (1/4) page, a summary shall be included as well as notice of how to obtain complete  
70 text.  
71 3. The advertisement shall include the method and hours of electronic voting.  
72 ~~0. Special Elections may have a half (1/2) page advertisement.~~  
73 1. The format of candidate forums will be determined by the Elections Committee and  
74 distributed to the candidates one (1) academic day prior to the forum(s).

75 H.F. Notice of a Recall Election must occur within five (5) academic days of notice to the Elections  
76 Committee from Council.

- 77 1. The written notice shall also include any steps necessary for a student to vote.  
78 2. This notice will be a quarter (1/4) page advertisement appearing ~~for three (3) consecutive~~  
79 ~~issues of in~~ the Daily Lobo, or with an alternative but equivalent method. Once published,  
80 this information may not be changed or altered except to correct any errors in printing.  
81 ~~0. Any correction of printing errors shall be printed in three (3) consecutive issues of the Daily~~  
82 ~~Lobo.~~

- 83 1. Notice shall include instructions for running for President, the application deadline, and any  
84 steps necessary for a student to vote.
- 85 2. This notice will be one quarter (1/4) of a page advertisement ~~appearing for three (3)~~  
86 ~~consecutive issues of~~ the Daily Lobo, ~~or with an alternative but equivalent method~~. Once  
87 published, this information may not be changed or altered except to correct any errors in  
88 printing.
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93 ~~consecutive issues of~~ the Daily Lobo. Once published, this information may not be changed  
94 or altered except to correct any errors in printing.
- 95 3. ~~Any correction of printing errors shall be printed in three (3) consecutive issues of the Daily~~  
96 ~~Lobo.~~

97 Section 4. Campaigning

- 98 A. Candidates shall conduct campaigns in a manner which abides by university and GPSA policies  
99 and guidelines in their pursuit of office. Members of the Elections Committee shall refrain from  
100 actions that would show favoritism for or have a negative effect against any candidate or issue  
101 that might appear on the ballot.
- 102 B. Candidates shall submit, along with the Candidacy Forms, a list of authorized campaign  
103 committee members that may act on their behalf. Any changes to this list should be updated with  
104 the Elections Committee.
- 105 C. Candidates shall sign the Campaign Contribution Statement: "All funds received and spent will  
106 be from members of the UNM GPSA and no other sources." This form shall be submitted as part  
107 of the Candidacy Forms.
- 108 D. Candidates shall submit an itemized accounting of all expenditures incurred by the candidate in  
109 the pursuit of office before 5:00 p.m. on the closing day of the election.
- 110 E. All candidates shall refrain from using GPSA resources in pursuit of office (including, but not  
111 limited to: funds, staff, email addresses, printing, electronic mailing lists, and office space).
- 112 F. If any group decides to establish a physical polling location, campaigning is not allowed within  
113 twenty-five (25) feet of the physical polling location. Campaigning includes, but is not limited to  
114 to, signs, fliers, and campaigners. Polling locations, if any, should be placed in areas with  
115 minimal distractions.

116 Section 5. General Election

- 117 A. The election shall take place Monday through Thursday of the first (1st) full academic week of  
118 April, unless otherwise decided by Council. The electronic voting shall begin at 8:00 a.m. on the  
119 first (1st) day and end at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the election.
- 120 B. Any ballot items included in the election shall be approved by Council at the regularly scheduled  
121 March meeting or through referenda. ~~(VIII)~~
- 122 C. Elections shall be conducted electronically and use a computer- or phone-based system that is  
123 managed by IT.
- 124 D. Ballots and Polling:
- 125 1. Ballots shall have a randomly ordered list of candidates and clear instructions for marking  
126 and submitting one's vote. Provision for write-in votes shall be included on the ballot. Only

127 cast ballots meeting these requirements shall be counted. Votes cast on partially completed  
128 ballots shall be counted.

- 129 2. All ballot items shall appear on the ballot with the language received by the Elections  
130 Committee.
- 131 3. Polling: Voters must log in with the UNM user name/NetID and password on record with the  
132 Registrar's Office to cast a ballot.
- 133 E. Two (2) members of the Elections Committee shall retrieve the final vote count from IT using  
134 the electronic voting system.
- 135 F. ~~The e~~Candidates elected to office shall be determined by a plurality of votes cast and each other  
136 ballot item shall be determined by a majority of votes cast on each item.
- 137 G. Should the plurality winner of the GPSA General Election be declared ineligible or unable to  
138 assume office for any reason before the certification of the election results, or in the case of a tie,  
139 or if the Elections Committee votes not to certify an election, a special Council meeting shall be  
140 called so that a Special Election can be scheduled.
- 141 H. The Elections Committee shall approve the results of a General Election after it has been  
142 determined to have been conducted in accordance with the GPSA Constitution and Bylaws.

#### 143 Section 6. Council Chair Election

- 144 A. Only Council Representatives with credentials on file twenty (20) academic days prior to the  
145 Council meeting at which the Council Chair election will be held are eligible to vote in the  
146 election.
- 147 B. The Election Committee shall prepare a sign-in roster of eligible voters.
- 148 C. Ballots shall have a randomly ordered list of candidates and clear instructions for marking and  
149 submitting one's vote. Provision for write-in votes shall be included on the ballot. Only cast  
150 ballots meeting these requirements shall be counted.
  - 151 1. Voting shall be conducted by secret ballot and individual voting results by Council  
152 Representatives are not to be recorded.
- 153 D. The Election shall proceed as follows:
  - 154 1. The current Council Chair shall forward all valid proxies to the Elections Committee Chair or  
155 the Elections Committee designee before balloting begins.
  - 156 2. The President shall call and preside over the Council Chair election. In the President's  
157 absence, an individual who is not a Council Representative, Certified Alternate, or  
158 recognized Proxy shall preside over the election.
  - 159 3. Each candidate shall give a speech, no longer than five (5) minutes, and shall have up to five  
160 (5) minutes to answer questions posed by Council. The order of the speeches shall be  
161 determined randomly by the Elections Committee. Candidates do not have to leave the room  
162 throughout the election.
  - 163 4. When all of the speeches have concluded, the Elections Committee shall inspect and verify  
164 that the ballot box is empty and secured.
  - 165 5. Any of the candidates who are Council Representatives shall be called forward first to sign  
166 for and cast a ballot. They shall then retire to the back of the room and no more campaigning  
167 shall be allowed.
  - 168 6. The remaining voters shall be called forward according to the alphabetical listing of their  
169 RDSAs. Upon signing in, each voter shall receive and cast a ballot into the ballot box.

170 7. After the name of the last voter has been called, the names of voters who did not come  
171 forward will be repeated. Five (5) minutes after the last name has been called, the vote  
172 counting shall begin.

173 E. Vote Counting

- 174 1. Only the members of the Elections Committee shall open the ballot box, determine the  
175 validity of ballots cast, tally the ballots cast, and certify the election results.  
176 a. A discrepancy between the number of ballots cast and the number of signed voters  
177 may be grounds for disqualification of the box of ballots.
- 178 2. The election of the Council Chair shall be decided by a plurality of the votes cast. Should the  
179 winner of the Council Chair Election be declared ineligible or unable to assume office for  
180 any reason, or in the case of a tie, or if the Elections Committee votes not to certify the  
181 election, the Elections Committee shall notify Council before the end of the meeting. Council  
182 can vote to repeat the process or determine another course of action. The results of an  
183 election shall be determined by the end of the Council meeting.

184 Section 7. Other Types of Elections

185 A. Recall Elections

- 186 1. A recall election is defined as the vote for recall of the President and is the result of one or  
187 more of the following conditions:  
188 a. Petition by GPSA members in accordance with the GPSA Constitution.  
189 b. Successful vote of removal by Council.

190 B. Special Elections

- 191 1. A Special Election shall take place in any of the following circumstances:  
192 a. Resignation of the President or Council Chair.  
193 b. Successful recall vote resulting in removal of the President.  
194 c. Successful Council vote of removal of the Council Chair.  
195 d. In a Presidential election, if the election is not certified, the winner is declared  
196 ineligible or unable to assume duties, or there is a tie.  
197 e. Granting of a petition submitted to a Council meeting for a Special Issue vote by the  
198 GPSA body. Only items granted on the petition shall be allowed on the ballot.  
199 f. Special Elections follow General Election rules except where noted.

200 Section 8. Recall Election by GPSA Membership

201 A. Upon receipt of the recall petition or a Council vote of removal, the Elections Committee shall  
202 initiate a recall election. ~~(H.I.D.2.a.i.)~~

- 203 1. When the President is removed in a Recall Election due to a petition received after the  
204 regularly scheduled March Council meeting, no Special Election for Presidential  
205 Replacement is required.
- 206 2. The Recall Election should occur by electronic voting over two (2) consecutive academic  
207 days.  
208 a. Voting shall open at 8:00 a.m. of the first day of the election and close at 5:00 p.m.  
209 on the following day.  
210 b. The Elections Committee shall approve the results of a GPSA election after it has  
211 been determined that all provisions of the current GPSA Constitution and Bylaws  
212 were followed.

213 Section 9. Special Elections

- 214 A. Special Elections shall take place between three (3) and four (4) academic weeks after the  
215 Council meeting, Presidential declaration, or referendum that created the Special Election, unless  
216 otherwise noted.
- 217 1. No Special Elections shall be held between the last day of the spring semester and the  
218 regularly scheduled October Council meeting.
  - 219 2. The Special Election must occur by electronic voting over two (2) consecutive academic  
220 days.
  - 221 3. Voting shall open at 8:00 a.m. of the first (1st) day of the election and close at 5:00 p.m. on  
222 the second (2nd) day of the election.
  - 223 4. The Elections Committee shall approve the results of a GPSA election after it has been  
224 determined that all provisions of the currently published Election Code, Bylaws, and  
225 Constitution were followed and any challenge(s) was (were) resolved.
  - 226 5. Special Council Chair Elections shall take place at the Council meeting following the  
227 Council meeting at which the Election was created and shall follow the procedures of the  
228 Council Chair Election.
  - 229 6. Referendum petitions for Special Elections shall be delivered to the Elections Committee.
    - 230 a. The Elections Committee has five (5) academic days to validate the petition after it  
231 petition has been received.
    - 232 b. A special election by referendum shall occur within fifteen (15) academic days of  
233 the approval of the petition.

234 Section 10. Elections Reporting

- 235 A. Reports Following Each Election
- 236 1. The results of all elections shall be reported in accordance with the Public Notice  
237 Requirements by 12:00 p.m. of the academic day following the end of the election.
  - 238 2. Elections data will be disaggregated from unique identifiers, including student names and  
239 departments.
  - 240 3. Complications with voting, including but not limited to, casting ballots, vote counting, the  
241 electronic voting system, and determination of eligibility shall be included with elections  
242 reporting.
- 243 B. Annual Report
- 244 1. The Annual Report shall include all expenditures and income for the Elections Committee  
245 and each report following an election.
  - 246 2. On behalf of GPSA, the Elections Committee shall request that IT compile an Aggregated  
247 Elections Data Report. If IT provides this report, it shall be included in the Annual Report.
  - 248 3. Results for each item shall be reported by Department.
    - 249 a. Departments with less than ten (10) students voting must be pooled together in order  
250 to protect the privacy of individual voters. A note shall indicate which departments  
251 are pooled together and the number of voters from each department, but not a  
252 breakdown of votes by department.

253 Section 11. Election Disputes

- 254 A. An election may be challenged by any GPSA member to the Court of Review. Challenges  
255 include, but are not limited to, voter fraud, improper notification, improper conduct of members  
256 of the Elections Committee, candidate misconduct, or an unsound voting system.
- 257 B. Challenges must be ~~be~~-formatted as Court of Review Complaints and submitted in writing  
258 within five (5) academic days of the reporting of the election results.
- 259 C. The Court of Review may consolidate challenges as it deems appropriate.
- 260 D. If the Court of Review determines that a challenge is valid, the Court may decertify an election  
261 or impose a remedy as deemed appropriate. If an election is decertified, a special Council  
262 meeting shall be called so that a Special Election can be scheduled.
- 263 E. The Court of Review must render its decision within fifteen (15) academic days following the  
264 last day of the election in question.  
265