KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Elections Bylaws

Spring 2018
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Dear Candidates,

Congratulations on your decision to run for office within the Kennesaw State University’s Student Government Association (SGA)! Being an active member within KSU’s student body makes you a key player in bringing about change to the university. As an elected SGA officer, you have an even greater opportunity to affect positive change at KSU.

As always, the Department of Student Involvement is here to help in any way possible. Visiting with the SGA Advisor, Ron Lunk, will help you to better understand the expectations and duties of each position more thoroughly. The Department of Student Involvement is also a great resource to keep you informed of upcoming events you can attend to meet potential voters.

Remember, the best way for you to obtain student votes is to be visible and encourage the student body to get involved in the election process. As a candidate, you are tasked with getting the word out that the election will be fully secure and authenticated on “Owl Life” and will take place February 26 – March 5. Be sure that you are on the ballot by filling out your application by February 5 at 11:59pm. Each potential candidate must attend the mandatory candidate meeting on February 7. We wish you the best of luck with the election!

Sincerely,

Mouna Vadlamudi

Mouna Vadlamudi
Student Government Association
Director of Communications
Elections Chair
Eligibility Requirements to Run for Office

Available College Senator Positions:
One senator for each college and then an additional senate seat for every three-thousand (3,000) students within the thirteen KSU colleges. These senators are referred to as “college” senators, and must be enrolled in the College they want to represent and verified by the Director of Student Life:

- College of the Arts
- College of Architecture and Construction Management
- Michael J. Coles College of Business
- College of Computing and Software Engineering
- Leland and Clarice C. Bagwell College of Education
- Southern Polytechnic College of Engineering and Engineering Technology
- Graduate College
- WellStar College of Health and Human Services
- Honors College
- College of Humanities and Social Science
- College of Science and Mathematics
- University College

Available Commission Chair Senator Positions:
Each of these senators will chair a commission. These senators must be part of the constituency of which they represent in order to be a valid candidate. The Director of Student Life will review candidate eligibility. The current standing commissions outlined by the SGA Bylaws are as follows:

- Non-Traditional students
- International
- Students with Disabilities
- American Minorities
- Registered Student Organizations
NOTICE: Although you may qualify to serve on SGA in a number of roles, you are only allowed to run in elections for ONE SGA position.

Senator Eligibility Requirements

- Attended at least 2 SGA General Body Meetings since the beginning of Fall 2017 (August 23, 2017) to the start of the voting period (February 26, 2018).
- Hold an adjusted GPA of 2.5 or above (not 2.4999 or below).
- Earned and received credit at KSU for a minimum of 12 semester hours for an undergraduate seat or a minimum of 9 semester hours for a graduate seat.
- Enrolled in enough hours so that candidate meets the above earned hour requirements by the end of Spring Semester 2018.
- Attend the mandatory candidate meeting on February 7th. Should a candidate not be able to attend, they must contact the election chair (mvadlamu@students.kennesaw.edu) immediately to see if an individual meeting might be possible.

President, Vice President, and Treasurer Requirements

- Attended at least 2 SGA General Body Meetings since the beginning of Fall 2017 (August 23, 2017) to the start of the voting period (February 26, 2018).
- Hold a minimum adjusted GPA of 2.75 - note that is must be at least a 2.75, not a 2.7499.
- Earned and received credit at KSU for a minimum of 12 semester hours for an undergraduate seat or a minimum of 9 semester hours for a graduate seat.
• Enrolled in enough hours so that candidate meets the above earned hour requirements by the end of Spring Semester 2017.
• Attendance at the mandatory candidate meeting on February 7th.

**Maintaining Eligibility**
To stay in office once you are elected, you must maintain the following standards:
• a minimum adjusted GPA of 2.5 (Senators).
• a minimum adjusted GPA of 2.75 (President, Vice President, and Treasurer).

**Election Clauses**

**Election Code**
All SGA members must abide by the Election Code per the bylaws. Failure to maintain shall result in the removal of said member from the campaign and potentially the organization.

**Recall Election**
A petition signed by students who are eligible to vote may call a recall election for any elected officer. The number of signatures collected must total 5% of the total number of students normally eligible to vote in SGA elections.

**Disqualification of Candidate**
The Elections Committee shall disqualify any candidate who is not present at the mandatory meeting for the election pending the veto of this decision by the current SGA Executive Board. Candidates can also be disqualified for violating the code of conduct. Disqualification will result in the elimination of the candidate from the election cycle.

**Election Code of Conduct**
**Election Candidate Approvals**
Upon submission of the SGA Election Application Forms, the Director for Student Life will review eligibility of candidates and approve candidates to participate in the election prior to beginning the campaign period. Candidates will be notified via email correspondence or by phone regarding their eligibility status prior to the campaigning period.

**Campaign Period**
All methods of campaigning including electronic, social media, banners, advertisements, flyers, giveaways, novelties, etc. may begin 12:00 AM Monday, February 12, 2018 through Monday, March 5, 2018 at 11:59 PM when voting ends.

President and Vice President candidates may distribute copies of their platform essay, or election philosophies; however, each candidate will have his/her name, photograph, office sought, and platform essay posted online by the SGA Advisor.

During the open campaign period, ALL individual postings must follow the Kennesaw State University Approved Campus Postings Policy. (NOTE: posting policy may vary by building and by campus). Postings include fliers, posters, buttons, paraphernalia or any other type of solicitation of information about the candidate.

**Campaign Practices**
Candidates' energies should be expended in educating students about their election platforms and how they will represent KSU students to the KSU Administration and to the Board of Regents. The thoughtful, intentional, and serious candidate will want to ensure that students know whom they are voting for and what that candidate stands for.

We suggest you do the real work it takes to get elected: talking to students about their concerns, being visible, and conducting a campaign that is ethical in all ways.
Should any candidate engage in aggressive campaigning tactics, (ie. encouraging voting booths, circulating a laptop, etc.) that candidate may be subject to penalties including, but not limited to, disqualification.

*Fairness/Honesty:*
All campaigns should be run in an ethical manner with mutual respect shown towards his/her candidates at all times. *Candidates will be responsible for all supporters following campaign regulations.* The candidate is responsible for notifying the SGA Advisor of any violations or possible violations that occurred by filling out the complaints form linked on the SGA website, sending an email addressed to the SGA Advisor (rlunk@kennesaw.edu), and/or in writing and submitted to the SGA Advisor in Room 213 of the Student Center (Kennesaw Campus). Candidates should be truthful in all claims regarding their accomplishments, credentials, and campaign promises. At minimum, any false statements will result in a public apology and retraction of statements, but may result in further consequences.

*Slander and Libel:*
Slander and libel will absolutely not be tolerated in any campaigning. Slander is defined as utterance of a falsehood that may damage another’s reputation unjustly. Libel is defined as any written or printed matter intending to injure a person’s reputation unjustly or the act of publishing such a thing. At minimum, any slanderous or libelous statements will result in a public apology and retraction of statements, but may result in further consequences.

*Campaign Time Limits:*
Campaigning may begin on the date prescribed in the Campaign Period section of the election code and in the appropriate forms outlined. All persons attending the mandatory candidate meeting will receive the official campaign schedule and will sign a statement of understanding regarding the 2017-2018 SGA election rules and regulations.
Campaigning at Polling Locations:
Candidates must refrain from campaigning within 100 feet of any voting booth location. If a candidate is campaigning in close proximity of a voting booth, they may be subject to penalties including, but not limited to disqualification.

Campaign Spending Limits:
- Candidates may spend up to $500 on their campaign efforts.
- Candidates who receive “in-kind” donations must declare the value of those donations as part of the $500 (for example, an uncle donates 10 campaign t-shirts, which might be worth $50).
- ORIGINAL receipts are required. If someone is donating items to you, a value must be declared as determined by you or the donor.
- T-shirts are valued at $5.00 each for the purpose of this election, even if you’re getting them for free.
- An original signed letter from the donor complete with all information, including donor’s name and telephone number must be submitted.
- Any printed materials should be documented as $0.10 per sheet, unless printed through a business where you have a receipt documenting transactions.
- Financial disclosures statements must be maintained and available upon request to the SGA Advisor.
**Transition Period**

The transition period occurs from the day of result announcements (Wednesday, March 7) to the end of the SGA term (Wednesday, April 25). During this period, all officers will serve in an emeritus role that will allow for mentoring and training of the newly elected officer. These duties require the emeritus officer to:

- Serve as a transition advisor to the officer-elect.
- Meet with the officer-elect at least three times before the end of the semester to review contacts, officer responsibilities, goals, current issues, etc.
- Accompany the officer-elect to university meetings.
- Attend remaining SGA Executive and General Body meetings up until the week before Spring Break.

Stipends will be calculated until the end of the SGA term.
SGA 2018 ELECTIONS SCHEDULE

NOTICE: Candidates only have to attend 1 mandatory candidate meeting. Various locations and times are in place for scheduling purposes. Locations will be announced closer to the date.

Thursday, January 25 (12:00am): Application opens.

Thursday, February 8 (11:59pm): Application closes.

Monday, February 12 (7:00pm): Mandatory Candidate Meetings.

Monday, February 19 (12:00am): Campaigning period begins.

Monday, February 26 (7:00pm): Presidential Debates

Monday, March 5 (12:00am): Voting begins.

Monday, March 12 (11:59pm): Campaigning period and voting period ends.

Wednesday, March 14: Announcement of results and beginning of transition period.

Wednesday, March 28: SGA General Body Meeting (required attendance by newly elects).

Wednesday, April 11: SGA General Body Meeting (required attendance by newly elects).

Wednesday, April 25: (7:00pm): Swear-In for 2018 – 2019 administration, end of transition period, and end of the 2017-2018 SGA term.
2018 Elections Committee Members

Ron Lunk, SGA Advisor

Mouna Vadlamudi, Elections Chair

Victoria Brock

Tequila Jackson

Igbagboleke Mobolaji

Odisan Sisavath

Elly Stevenback