



# STUDENT GOVERNMENT

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WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

## **Elections Spring 2020**

### **Elections Committee**

Mellie Mesfin, *SG President*

Meredith Happy, *SG Speaker of the House Replacement*

Andrew Wilson, *SG Treasurer*

Jackson Blodgett, *SG Secretary Replacement*

Isabella Ryan, *SG Chief of Staff*

Kyle Adams, *Student Trustee*

Caleb Woody, *Judiciary Committee Replacement*

Christian Ricci, *Judiciary Committee Replacement*

TBD, *Judicial Council Student Representative*

TBD, *Judicial Council Student Representative*

Tim Wilkinson *SG Advisor, Non-Voting Member*

## IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, February 18th	· Elections Packet is released
Tuesday, March 3rd	· Candidates may collect signatures
Tuesday, March 10th	· Campaign staff offers may be made
Tuesday, March 17th	<b>5:00 PM</b> <b>Petitions Due to SG Office, Benson 304</b>
	<b>8:00 PM</b> <b>Candidates' Meeting, Benson 401</b>
Sunday, March 22nd	<b>7:30 PM</b> <b>Executive Candidate Debate</b>
Tuesday, March 24th	<b>12:00 AM</b> <b>Polls Open on WIN</b>
	<b>5:00 PM</b> <b>Campaign Budgets Due, Benson 304</b>
	<b>11:59 PM</b> <b>Polls Close Online</b>
Tuesday, March 24th	<b>11:59 PM</b> <b>Results Posted, Benson 304</b>

## Statement Regarding Elections

Student Government elections are a sanctified process for the student body of Wake Forest University, and it is vital that they remain so. It is the goal of the Elections Committee to ensure that the elections are fair and equitable, enforce all campaign rules, and investigate and punish all campaign violations.

### CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS

#### *General Rules*

1. Each candidate is responsible for a **FAIR** and **HONEST** campaign. Violation of this principle shall be seen as a violation of the fair and honest campaign guidelines set forth in the Student Government Constitution, and may be punishable by disqualification.
2. Each candidate is responsible for all aspects of his/her campaign. This means that the candidate bears the ultimate responsibility for both his/her actions and the actions of campaign staff members working on behalf of his/her campaign, **who are subject to all regulations the candidate is**. Campaigning is defined as any use of oral or written communication to explicitly endorse the election of a candidate to an elected office. A *Campaign Staff Member* is defined as anyone who campaigns on behalf of any particular candidate with the candidate's knowledge. **All campaign staff members must sign the Campaign Staff Pledge saying that they will abide by all Elections Guidelines in order to be considered official staff members and to receive e-mail communication from the candidate.** In the event that a staff member is abroad, a digital signature will suffice. In the event that an acquaintance of the candidate who is not on the candidate's official campaign staff is campaigning for the candidate with the candidate's knowledge, for the purposes of enforcing campaign violations that acquaintance is considered a member of the campaign staff. The one exception to this comes in the event that the candidate has explicitly told said acquaintance to desist his campaigning activity. No unofficial campaign staff member is eligible to receive emails from the candidate, even if recognized by the Election Committee as a de facto staff member.
3. A write-in candidate, if conducting a campaign, will be subject to the same regulations as the declared candidates. The Wake Forest community is encouraged to report campaign infractions on the part of write-in candidates and their de facto staff as they would any declared candidate. Write-in candidates will only have to answer for these alleged violations in the event that they receive enough votes to win or enter a runoff election, at which time the violations must be dealt with by the Elections Committee before the results of that race may be verified. Any winning write-in candidate will be expected to provide an estimated campaign budget. Ignorance on the part of a write-in candidate (or any other candidate) of the campaign regulations is not an excuse for violating the rules set forth by the Elections Committee.

4. Negative campaigning is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**. As defined in Statute 1, Section 3: Negative campaigning will not be tolerated by the Election Committee and any negative campaigning will result in immediate and appropriate sanctions. Negative campaigning is defined as any personal attack (in electronic format, speech, or writing) on a candidate—i.e., ad hominem attacks. A personal attack is defined as any libelous, slanderous, or otherwise defamatory claim made against a candidate's character or person.

***Campaigning against a candidate's platform or a given policy is NOT negative campaigning and is acceptable.*** All negative campaigning is prohibited. Examples of negative campaigning includes, but are not limited to, addressing a candidate in a derogatory manner, making an attack on an opponent's character, releasing confidential information regarding an opponent, or producing an factual misrepresentations of a candidate.

5. Candidates and their respective campaign staff are not allowed to publish any material which is deemed to be false and can be sanctioned. Any member of the Wake Forest community has the right to challenge the validity of any statement published on the candidates platform and verbal or digital statements.

6. Signatures for petition to run cannot be collected until two weeks prior the candidate's meeting (3/3/2020).

7. All executive candidates are required to attend the candidates debate, unless special circumstances arise.

8. The Golden Rule of Campaigning: Ask before you act! Reach out to a member of the Elections Committee if you have any questions.

### ***REGULATIONS REGARDING ELECTRONIC MEDIA.***

1. EMAIL. Campaigning via listservs or emails sent to multiple recipients (including CC and BCC) is strictly prohibited. Candidates may send emails regarding campaigns if and only if all recipients are members of the campaign or official endorsers of the candidate.

2. SMS AND OTHER TEXT MESSAGES. The creation of any new GroupMe, SMS, and/or other group-chats through text message-based platforms (including but not limited to WeChat, iMessage, etc.) used for the purpose of campaigning is prohibited. Chats created to communicate with campaign staff are the sole exception to this rule.

3. FACEBOOK. Candidates may use their personal pages, campaign pages, and personal pages of the candidate's campaign staff. Candidates may use the official "Class of" pages. Candidates may not send campaign-related Facebook messages to multiple non- staff recipients. Facebook advertising is permitted.

4. SNAPCHAT. Candidates may post campaign-related Snapchat stories. Candidates may not send campaign-related personal Snapchats or use the chat function for campaigning except for communicating with members of the campaign staff. Candidates may create Snapchat filters, subject to financial regulations.
5. TWITTER. Candidates may tweet from personal accounts, campaign staff members' personal accounts, and campaign accounts. Candidates may not directly message multiple voters. Only campaign staff and the candidate may be tagged in tweets.
6. INSTAGRAM. Candidates may post photos from their personal accounts, campaign staff members' personal accounts, or campaign accounts. Usage of the direct message function to multiple recipients is prohibited. Only campaign staff and the candidate may be tagged in photos.

#### ***REGULATIONS REGARDING BROADCAST MEDIA.***

1. RADIO. Candidates may appear on Wake Radio programs. A Wake Radio host wishing to hold an on-air debate must include the Elections Committee in the planning of the event.
2. TV. Candidates may appear on Wake TV shows. The Elections Committee must be included in the planning of any televised debates.

#### ***REGULATIONS REGARDING PRINT MEDIA.***

1. Candidates shall adhere to the University posting and sidewalk policy, available at:

<http://rlh.wfu.edu/news/campus-posting-policy/>

#### ***Regulations Regarding Endorsements and Staff***

1. An endorsement shall be defined as a written expression of support by an individual for the candidate published either by the candidate, campaign staff, or endorser on behalf of the campaign team. The endorser must notify, either in writing or electronic mail, the Elections Committee of his/her/their intent to endorse before the endorsement may be published. Endorsements may be sought no earlier than the first day of campaigning, and must be submitted to the Elections Committee for approval no later than twenty-four hours before the polls open on March 24, 2019.
2. Any endorsement must include a disclaimer that is reasonably legible and in plain view of the endorsement stating the following: "The views and opinions expressed in this endorsement are those of the endorser and candidate alone and do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of any organization that either party

is affiliated with or a member of."

3. Campaign staff offers may be made no earlier than two weeks before Election Day.

4. A non-campaign staff member posting a candidate's campaign graphics on social media does not count as an endorsement and therefore does not need to follow endorsement regulations.

### ***REGULATIONS REGARDING CAMPAIGN FINANCE.***

1. MAXIMUMS. a. Executive Offices: \$125, In a runoff, candidates may spend an additional \$30, plus what remains of the original budget. b. Senators: \$40. In a runoff, candidates may spend an additional \$10, plus what remains of the original budget. c. Campaign budgets MUST NOT exceed these limits.

2. ACCOUNTING. . All gifts, donations and rented items, if used for campaign purposes, should be listed with an estimated dollar value if a receipt cannot be obtained. The Elections Committee reserves the right to question these estimates based on reasonable market values. Candidates are expected to notify the Elections Committee ahead of time if they will be accepting any gifts or donations, and may only use them if other candidates could reasonably be expected to be able to rent/borrow at a similar price (equal-access philosophy). a. Sales tax is considered an expenditure. b. Shipping is not considered an expenditure. c. All printing will be valued at a minimum of the Benson Copy Center same-day price. If an outside resource for printing is used, the candidate will use the higher of the two for budgeting purposes. d. Website domain purchasing fees are considered an expenditure. e. Extra bandwidth fees are not considered an expenditure. f. Unpaid human labor is not considered an expenditure; however, paid labor must be included in the budget. g. Failure to submit an accurate budget will be grounds for disqualification.

3. FUNDING ASSISTANCE . Student Government wants to ensure that all students have an equal ability to run for office in order to accurately represent the student body. If you would like to submit a request for funding assistance, please email the Student Government Advisor Tim Wilkinson at [wilkints@wfu.edu](mailto:wilkints@wfu.edu) as soon as possible. Please keep in mind that these requests are confidential and must be reviewed by the Office of Financial Aid. a. In order to receive funding assistance, the candidate must be DB Card certified. Please visit: [DB Card Training](#) to take the course prior to the candidates meeting.

### ***REGULATIONS REGARDING ELECTION DAY***

1. Candidates may not provide the computer on which voters vote.

2. Candidates and campaign staff must be 15 feet away from a student who is

voting.

3. In the event of the construction of voting stations, candidates and campaign staff are required to maintain a distance of at least 15 feet.

4. All regulations regarding electronic and print media apply.

## **SANCTIONS**

There shall be three classes of infractions for actions by candidates against the regulations and requirements in this packet. All candidates are allowed to actively campaign until the Elections Committee reaches a decision on the presented infraction. However, the Election Committee reserves the right to suspend this rule in the case of a severe infraction. Any class sanction could result in disqualification from the election pending approval by the faculty advisor, depending upon the severity of the infraction. The incident may also be forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct for a potential honor code hearing.

**Class 1 Offense:** A fine of \$25, to be subtracted from the candidate's budget. A suspension of active campaign privileges for a set period of time of at least 1 hours and not exceeding 6 hours.

**Class 2 Offense:** A suspension of active campaign privileges for a set period of time of at least 6 hours and not exceeding 24 hours.

**Class 3 Offense:** Subject to disqualification from the election pending approval by the faculty advisor.

*The Elections Committee reserves the right to add on community service hours or substitute community service hours for a portion of or for the total of a fine for any sanction, to be considered on a case-by- case basis. The rate of substitution will be applied equally for all candidates. Any candidate who fails to pay fines will be prohibited from taking office or running for a subsequent Student Government office.*

## **ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

1. The Elections Committee has the ultimate authority in all matters concerning elections procedures, violations, and sanctions.
2. The power to disqualify a candidate from the election rests solely with the Elections Committee, pending faculty advisor approval.
3. Infractions may be reported to the Elections Committee by any member of the Wake Forest community. The person who witnesses the infraction must report it to the Elections Committee within twenty-four hours of witnessing the incident.

*The following guidelines are used to verify election infraction complaints:*

1. All complaints should be submitted to the Elections Committee within twenty-four hours of the offense; if the infraction is reported on Election Day it must be reported before midnight and must provide proof of clear and convincing evidence.
2. The person(s) that witness(es) the offence must be the only person(s) submitting the report of the campaign infraction.
3. Before the Elections Committee makes a final ruling on a campaign infraction, it will hear from the accused candidate and the person(s) submitting the complaint.
4. If someone on the Elections Committee witnesses a campaign infraction it must reported, but the member must abstain from voting on that particular infraction.”
5. Elections Committee rulings must reach a two-thirds majority vote.

**WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY**  
***Student Government Elections***  
***Campaign Budget***



Name:

- No Executive candidate shall spend more than \$125.
- No Senate candidate shall spend more than \$40.
- All gifts, donations, and other things received free of charge must be included in the budget with an estimated dollar value.
- All receipts should be attached to this document.
- *The failure to submit an accurate budget by the deadline indicated below may result in disqualification from the election.*

***All Campaign Budget documents are due in the Treasurer mailbox outside the Student Government office (Benson 304) by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, March 17th, 2020.***

**ITEM (Please attach receipt)**

**COST**

TOTAL EXPENDITURE: \$

My signature below certifies that all statements made on this document are complete and accurate. I understand that any misleading or incorrect statements or omissions may render my candidacy void, and, if I am elected to the position, may be cause for immediate dismissal.

SIGNATURE:

DATE:

**WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY**  
***Student Government Elections***  
***Pledge to Abide by Campaign***

Regulations

NAME:

OFFICE YOU ARE SEEKING:

CLASS:

***On my honor, I pledge to abide by all elections guidelines in the above document. I will adequately inform my campaign staff of the rules and requirements, and to the best of my ability to ensure that they follow them as well. I will submit an accurate budget by 5PM on Election Day. I understand that if I or my campaign staff fail to abide by these guidelines that I risk disqualification. I understand that my or my campaign staff's ignorance of this document is not an excuse for violating the rules.***

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a list of your campaign staff below, accompanied by their signatures to agree with the following statement:

***On my honor, I pledge to abide by all elections guidelines in the above document. I will ensure that all of my actions are permitted within the rules and regulations of the Elections Committee and will work to promote my candidate in a positive and lawful manner. I understand that if I fail to abide by these guidelines my actions could risk disqualification for my candidate. I understand that ignorance of the contents of this document is not an excuse for violating the rules and regulations set forth within this packet.***

Name:

Signature:

**WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY**  
Student Government Elections *Candidate*  
*Endorsement Form*

**Before** a candidate may advertise an endorsement, the signature of the endorser must be digitally presented to a member of the Elections Committee (by either email or text), and receive confirmation from a member of the Elections Committee. As a reminder, any endorsement must include a disclaimer that is reasonably legible and in plain view of the endorsement stating the following: **“The views and opinions expressed in this endorsement are those of the endorser and the candidate alone and do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of any organization that either party is affiliated with or a member of.**

This sheet is intended to provide an opportunity for a candidate to consolidate all endorsement names and signatures in one place. ***However, any new endorsement must be approved by the Elections Committee before advertisement of said endorsement.***

Candidate’s Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

***Endorser’s Name:***

***Endorser’s Signature:***

**WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY**  
**Student Government Elections**  
*Senator Petition*

The Student Government Senate is the centerpiece of Student Government. It is directly responsible for representing the study body with regard to campus issues. The Senate consists of approximately 50 senators, with one senator per 100 students in each class.

Please complete this form and the petition. Please know that all signatures must be from your class within the student body. Upon completion, return this form to the Secretary mailbox outside the Student Government office, **Benson 304**, by **Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 5pm**. All candidates are required to attend a **mandatory** candidates meeting in **Benson 401 at 8:30 pm on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**. The election will be held on **Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**.

**Absolutely no campaigning of any sort is allowed until after the candidates meeting.**

Name:

P.O. Box:

Class:

Telephone No.:

Email:

Campus Address:

*My signature below certifies that all statements made on this petition are correct and complete. I understand that any misleading or incorrect statements or omissions may render this petition void and, if I am elected to the position, may be cause for immediate dismissal.*

Signature:

Date:

# WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

## Student Government Elections: *Senator Petition*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

*I wish to run for Student Government Senator. This petition merely places my name on the ballot, and you are in no way obligated to vote for me by signing it. I must obtain 30 signatures from students of my class.*

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**WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY**  
**Student Government Elections**  
*Executive Petition*

The Student Government Executive Board can dictate the direction and priorities of the organization. The various positions are directly responsible for representing the study body. The Executive Board is made up of four elected members and one appointed member. It is an honor to serve in such roles.

Please complete this form and the petition. Please know that all signatures can be from any class within the student body. Upon completion, return this form to the Secretary mailbox outside the Student Government office, **Benson 304**, by **Tuesday, March 17th at 5pm**. All candidates are required to attend a **mandatory** candidates meeting in **Benson 304 at 8 pm on Tuesday, March 17th**. The election will be held on **Tuesday, March 24th**.

**Absolutely no campaigning of any sort is allowed until after the candidates meeting.**

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Elections Committee.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Campus Address \_\_\_\_\_

*My signature below certifies that all statements made on this petition are correct and complete. I understand that any misleading or incorrect statements or omissions may render this petition void and, if I am elected to the position, may be cause for immediate dismissal.*

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY**  
**Student Government Elections**  
*Executive Office Petition*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

*I wish to run for Student Government President, Speaker of the House, Treasurer, or Secretary. This petition merely places my name on the ballot, and you are in no way obligated to vote for me by signing it. I must obtain 100 signatures from students of Wake Forest University.*

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