

13 February 2015

TO: GSS Executive Board  
FROM: GSS Governance Committee  
Re: Bylaws Amendment 2015.2

Dear GSS Executive Board,

In recent years the Governance Committee has discovered several issues when dealing with elections, specifically what to do in case of a tie between write-in candidates. In dealing with the issue of how to handle write-in candidates the Governance Committee also discovered the terms of Eligibility have a lack of distinction between running for Executive Officer versus Senator positions.

To deal with the issue of a tie between write-in candidates, the Governance Committee has concluded that a minimum number of votes should be required to win an election. This minimum votes requirement will apply to both write-in candidates and nominated candidates, to keep the election process fair and unbiased. The Governance Committee recommends that a minimum number of two (2) votes should be required for election.

The lack of distinction between running for Executive Officer and Senator positions was discussed by the Governance Committee and determined to be possibly excluding interested parties from participating in GSS in any capacity. The proposed changes would allow a candidate to simultaneously run for an Executive Officer and Senator position, and states that it will be up to the discretion of the candidate as to which position they will occupy in the case they win both elections. Is it the hope of the Governance Committee that these changes will allow interested parties multiple venues in which to pursue their interest of being involved in GSS as a voting member.

We believe that these changes will make the election process clearer and provide more opportunities for graduate students to become involved as a voting member of GSS.

Pending your approval, the Governance Committee recommends the attached amendment for review by the full GSS at the February 24, 2015 general meeting.

Sincerely,  
The GSS Governance Committee

Mica Kurtz (Chair), GSS Vice-president  
Kelly Nifong, GSS Clerk  
Tobi Afolayen, GSS External Affairs Officer  
Ian Cohen, CEPS Senator  
Myles Lynch, CHHS Senator

UNH Graduate Student Senate

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University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate  
Proposed Bylaws Amendment 2015.2  
February 13, 2015

This amendment directly affects *Article II: Elections, Removal from Office, and Vacancies, Sub-Section 1: Eligibility* of the current graduate student senate bylaws.

This amendment seeks to allow interested parties to run for both an Executive Officer position and a Senator position simultaneously.

The following language would replace section *Article II: Elections, Removal from Office, and Vacancies, Sub-Section 1: Eligibility*:

II.1 Eligibility: Any member of the general membership in good academic standing is eligible to serve as a GSS Senator or Executive Officer. Academic standing shall be verified with the Graduate School prior to the Senator or Officer taking Office. A candidate may run for one (1) senator position and one (1) Executive Officer position; however no member of the GSS may simultaneously occupy more than one (1) GSS elected position.

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These amendments directly affect *Article II: Elections, Removal from Office, and Vacancies, Sub-Section 2: Elections, Part 2* of the current graduate student senate bylaws.

This amendment seeks determine the number of votes required to win an election.

The following language would replace section *Article II: Elections, Removal from Office, and Vacancies, Sub-Section 2: Elections, Part 2*:

II.2.2 Elections: Executive Officers shall be elected by the general membership. Senators shall be elected by their respective constituencies. Elections shall begin by the first GSS General meeting of March and shall be conducted via an online survey that shall be distributed to the general membership at least one (1) week prior to the close of election. A minimum of two (2) votes is required for election.

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This amendment seeks determine what shall happen when a candidate running for both an Executive Officer and a Senator position wins both elections.

The following language would be added as *Article II: Elections, Removal from Office, and Vacancies, Sub-Section 2: Elections, Part 2, Sub-Section a*:

II.2.2a In the event a candidate wins election to multiple positions, it shall be left to the candidate's discretion as to which position to serve.