

The Joint Elections Commission Code of Regulations
2025 Edition (Updated 3/19/2025)

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Title I of the JEC Code

Section 1: Establishment of the JEC Code of Regulations

Section 1.1: Establishment of the JEC Code of Regulations

1.1.1 The JEC Code of Regulations (the "Code") is hereby established to organize, consolidate, and formalize all binding rules, orders, judgments, and dismissals issued by the Commission.

1.1.2 The Code shall serve as the definitive guide for the conduct of all elections under the Commission's jurisdiction, covering all aspects of election administration, the following 7 titles shall come into force upon the effective date of the code:

1. Title I: JEC Established Rules
2. Title II: Prohibited Activities
3. Title III: Restricted Zones
4. Title IV: Advisory Opinions
5. Title V: Orders of the Commission

Section 1.2: Compilation and Publication

1.2.1 The Commission shall publish the first version of the JEC Code of Regulations within 14 days of the issuance of the rule establishing the code.

1.2.2 Title 2: Prohibited activities shall include all JEC established prohibited activities as well as those listed in Section 70304 through section 70723 of the Student Government Association Bylaws.

1.2.3 The Code shall be published in an easily accessible format, on the official website of the Commission, for public use and reference.

1.2.4 The Commission shall update the Code as necessary, reflecting any new rules, orders, judgments, or dismissals that arise from future decisions or amendments.

Section 1.3: Amendments to the Code

1.3.1 The commission shall update the rules contained in the code consistent with Article XI. Section 9 (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f) of the Constitution of the Student Government Association and Section 70312 of the Student Government Association bylaws.

1.3.2 The commission shall update the advisory opinions contained in the code consistent with Section 70311 of the Student Government Association bylaws.

1.3.3 The commission may amend any other provision of the code that they are permitted to amend in accordance with the provisions of Student Government Association bylaws.

1.3.4 The establishment of this code should not be construed to give the commission the power to amend the sections of the Student Government Association bylaws that pertain to the commission.

Section 1.4: Legal Effect and Application

1.4.1 The JEC Code of Regulations shall have the full force of law as any other order or rule of the commission would have not within the code and shall be binding on all parties subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission, including commission members, candidates, voters, and any other stakeholders involved in the electoral process.

1.4.2 The Code shall apply upon the issuance of an administrative order by the commission following the compilation of the code.

1.4.3 Any failure to comply with the provisions of the Code that have attached penalties shall result in enforcement actions by the Chief Investigator, subject to the penalties established by the Student Government Association Bylaws or by the Commission.

Section 1.5: Interpretation and Enforcement

1.5.1 The Commission shall have the sole authority to interpret the provisions of the JEC Code of Regulations as provided for by section 70311 of the Student Government Association Bylaws, including resolving any ambiguities, and enforcing the provisions of the JEC Code of Regulations.

Section 1.6: Delegation of Authority

1.6.1 The Chair of the Joint Elections Commission is hereby delegated the power to compile, maintain, reorganize, correct grammar and punctuation, and add or remove titles to the JEC Code of Regulations under Section 70312 of the Student Government Association Bylaws.

1.6.2 The Chair may further delegate this task to a division of the Commission, an individual member of the Commission, or to a staff officer or group of staff officers without a further vote of the Commission.

1.6.3 The Chair of the Joint Elections Commission is further delegated the authority to issue an administrative order to bring the Joint Elections Code into force upon its compilation in compliance with section 2 of this rule.

1.6.4 The Commission may cancel this delegation of authority at any time, by a simple majority vote at any scheduled commission meeting.

Section 2: Authorized Agent Registration

Section 2.1: Registration Requirement for Authorized Agents

2.1.1 All candidates for JEC administered elections must register all Authorized Agents who will act on their behalf in conducting campaign activities or petitioning.

2.1.2 Only registered Authorized Agents are permitted to engage in campaign or petitioning activities on behalf of the candidate or party.

2.1.3 Authorized Agents include any individuals who participate in election-related tasks such as distributing campaign materials, soliciting votes, organizing events, collecting signatures, or representing the candidate in official or unofficial capacities

2.1.4 Each candidate must register each Authorized Agent with the commission prior to that individual conducting any activity on the candidate's behalf. To register an agent with the commission the candidate must provide via email or commission created webform:

1. The full name of the Authorized Agent;
2. The Authorized Agents GW email address;
3. The Authorized Agents GWID number

Section 2.2: Responsibilities and Conduct of Authorized Agents

2.2.1 Authorized Agents are subject to all SGA election rules, including but not limited to restrictions on campaign activities, restricted zones, and the use of university resources.

2.2.2 The actions of Authorized Agents are considered to reflect directly on the candidate they represent. Any violations of election rules by an Authorized Agent will result in penalties being applied to the candidate.

Section 3: Restricted Zones

Section 3.1: Establishment of Restricted Zones

3.1.1 The JEC hereby establishes Restricted Zones in and around certain locations on campus to prevent disruption of academic activities during the election process.

3.1.3 All candidates and authorized agents must follow the instructions of all GW faculty, staff, contractors, and GWPD officers when campaigning or petitioning in any university owned or managed space, including all university property on the Foggy Bottom and Mount Vernon campuses regardless of its location within a Restricted Zone. Failure to comply with staff instructions will be treated as a violation of a restricted zone

3.1.4 The boundaries and specific locations of these Restricted Zones shall be as follows:

3.1.5 All Academic Buildings except as described in Section 70711 of the SGA bylaws

3.1.6 Gelman Library

3.1.7 Eckles Library.

3.1.8 All GW owned or operated residence halls.

3.1.9 All GW Dining facilities located within residence halls, including those within Thurston Hall, District House, and Shenkman Hall.

Section 4: JEC Schedule

Section 4.1: JEC Calendar

- I. Proposed dates for events required by or at the discretion of the JEC
 1. Info Sessions: February 18th, 2025 at 11:30 am (USC 309), February 27th @ 7pm via zoom, March 3rd @ 6pm (USC Presentation Space).
 2. Publicity Event: February 25th, 2025 11:00 am
 - a) USC table #2
 3. **Mandatory** Listening Circle: March 17th, 6-8 pm in USC 309
 - a) for President and VP Candidates
 4. Candidate Registration: March 18th-25th, 2025
 - a) From 8 am on the 18th to 5 pm on the 25th
 5. **Mandatory** Candidate Meeting: March 27th @ 6pm (USC Presentation space) and March 30th @ 3pm (USC Presentation Space)
 - a) ALL Candidates must attend at least one
 6. Postering Day/Start of Campaign period: March 31, 2025 @ 9 am
 7. Debate: April 8th
 8. Election Date: April 10-11, 2025
 - a) From 9 am on the 3rd to 9 pm on the 11th
 9. Election Results Announcement April 12th @ 2pm (USC Amphitheater)

Section 4.2: Amendments to the Calendar Due to Extenuating Circumstances

4.1 The dates specified in this section of the code may be amended, substituted, or modified by a majority vote of the commission in a regular or emergency meeting due to extenuating circumstances beyond the commission's control.

4.2 These modifications shall take the form of an advisory opinion issued pursuant to Section 70311 of the Student Government Association bylaws.

4.3 An advisory opinion modifying the calendar due to extenuating circumstances shall not be subject to the notice and comment requirements required for the passage of rules.

Section 5: Establishment of the Staff Officer Position of Chief Operating Officer

Section 5.1: Establishment of the Staff Officer Position of Chief Operating Officer

5.1.1 There shall be a staff officer position created titled “JEC Chief Operating Officer” or COO which shall be appointed in the same manner as the Chief Investigator under § 70210 (b) of the Student Government Association Bylaws.

5.1.2 Immediately following the final adoption of this rule, the Chair shall nominate and the commission shall vote on the nomination of a student to serve as COO.

5.1.3 The eligibility requirements for COO shall be the same as the requirements for Chief Investigator and they shall be treated as equals.

5.1.4 The commission shall include the COO in all meetings, including executive sessions and probable cause hearings, but they shall not be present for violation hearing deliberations.

5.1.5 The Commission shall immediately after confirming a student to serve as COO delegate duties to the COO via a delegation order signed by the Chair of the commission.

5.1.6 The Commission may at its discretion add, amend, or cancel the delegation of any powers via a subsequent delegation order.

Section 6: Oaths and Affirmations

Section 6.1: Oaths and Affirmations for Violation Hearings and Depositions

6.1.1 The Commission shall swear in all witnesses at depositions with the Chief Investigator and at all Violations hearings by having the witness agree to the following statement:

“Do you do solemnly swear (or affirm) that everything you will say is true, complete, and accurate to the best of your knowledge, and do you understand that any deliberate omissions or false statements may be prosecuted under Title II section 11 of the Joint Elections Commission Code of Regulations, and do you further understand that if you are a candidate you may face three penalty points for each false statement or deliberate omission under Title II Section 11.2 of the Joint Elections Commission Code of Regulations?”

6.1.2 Witnesses who refuse to agree to the above statement shall not be permitted to testify at a violation hearing or in a deposition.

6.1.3 Any written statements or affidavits must contain a similar affirmation of truth in order to be admitted and considered as evidence, but the statement need not be worded exactly the same as above provided that they at least affirm that a witness will tell the whole truth.

6.1.4 The Commission hereby delegates this power to the Chair (Elections Commissioner) for the purposes of violation hearings.

6.1.5 The Commission hereby delegates this power to the Chief Investigator for the purposes of deposition testimony and any statements collected during an investigation

Section 6.2: Oaths and Affirmations for Staff Officers

6.2.1 The Commission shall swear in all staff officers at their appointment using the following language:

“I, (name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of (staff officer title.), and will, to the best of my ability, support the Charter and Constitution of the George Washington University Student Government Association, the bylaws, rules, and advisory opinions of the Joint Elections Commission, and promote the general welfare of the University student community.”

Section 7: JEC Office

Section 7.1: JEC Office

7.1.1 Access to the JEC office shall be restricted to JEC Commissioners, Staff Officers, and invited guests, unless otherwise granted access by the Commission (ie. during office hours, petition collection, appointments, or with advance permission).

7.1.2 This action is in order to protect the sensitive, confidential, and non-public records that are maintained by the commission in physical form pursuant to §70308(b) and §70308 (c)(ii) of the bylaws of the George Washington University Student Government Association

Section 8: Valid Petitions

Section 8.1: Petition Forms

8.1.1 Candidates may only collect petitions in one manner, either on paper forms or via electronic engage virtual petitions.

8.1.2 All virtual petitions will take place using Engage.

8.1.3 To request a virtual petition a candidate must email the JEC at its official email address and allow 24 hours for a petition to be created and the access link to be provided to the candidate.

8.1.4 Candidates requesting that an Engage petition be created for them must send the statement of candidacy form with their request so that the JEC may create their Engage virtual petition.

8.1.5 Candidates may begin requesting virtual petitions 3 days prior to the start of candidate registration, to do so a candidate must submit their statement of candidacy form to the Commission email with a request for a Engage virtual petition, the Commission will email the candidate back the virtual petition which will become automatically active at the start of the official petition period as set by the Commission.

8.1.6 All requests for Engage virtual petitions may take up to 24 hours for a response.

Section 8.2: Online Dashboard for Petitions

8.2.1 It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that they have the requisite number of signatures before the end of candidate registration.

8.2.2 Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the candidate to keep track of how many in-person signatures the candidate has received.

8.2.3 It is the responsibility of the Commission to maintain a count of virtual signatures and to provide this to the candidates in a timely manner.

8.2.4 In furtherance of this responsibility, the Commission will publish a dashboard accessible on the commission's website that shall be updated at least once every 24 hours that will publicly list how many unique virtual signatures each candidate has received.

8.2.5 If a candidate wishes to know how many virtual signatures they have received it is their responsibility to view the dashboard.

Section 8.3: Validity of Signature Lines and Engage virtual signature form submissions

8.3.1 Valid signature lines on paper petitions or Engage virtual signature form submissions for virtual petitions must contain the following information to be deemed valid by the Commission:

8.3.2 Should a signature line or Engage form submission lack the following information that signature must be ruled invalid and not counted towards the signature count for a candidate's petition.

8.3.3 Student's full name, a lack of first and/or last name shall disqualify a signature

8.3.4 Full valid 8 numerical digit GWID number (with or without the preceding G), having more or less than 8 numerical digits shall disqualify said signature

8.3.5 Student's class year (expressed by year of completion of program or by class standing [freshman, sophomore, 1st year, etc.]

8.3.6 Student's School within GW

8.3.7 A signature or affirmation of intent to sign

8.3.8 All portions of a signature line or Engage virtual signature form submissions shall be filled out and signed or affirmed by the student whose name appears in the signature line or Engage form submission.

Section 4: Validity of Petitions

8.4.1 Valid petitions must have been conducted in the following manner in order for it to be deemed valid.

8.4.2 It should be presumed that a petition was collected in a valid manner unless there is evidence, testimony, or formal complaint that alleges a petition was collected contrary to this section.

8.4.3 Petitions that conform with this rule and any other validly adopted rules of the commission as well as the JEC charter and bylaws and have the requisite number of signatures, less any invalid signature lines or invalid Engage virtual signature form submissions, shall be deemed valid by the Commission, and petitions that do not conform deemed invalid.

8.4.4 All paper petition pages or Engage virtual signature form submissions shall contain the following information prior to signatures being collected in order to be valid.

- The candidates name listed clearly at the top of the signature page
- The office or seat that the candidate is seeking

8.4.5 The name of the authorized agent or candidate collecting all signatures for that page (It is permissible to to submit partial pages should an authorized agent only collect enough signatures to fill a portion of a page)

8.4.6 The JEC shall publicize via the Commission Instagram account when they will accept in-person submissions of physical signature pages. These will all occur before the close of the petitioning period.

8.4.7 Alternatively, candidates may scan and submit their petition forms via email to the official JEC email address prior to 5:00 pm on the day that candidate registration closes.

8.4.8 If a candidate chooses to submit their petitions this way, the JEC may request the physical copies at a later date for JEC records purposes.

8.4.9 Engage virtual signatures will submit automatically at the close of registration

8.4.10 All candidates must submit their statement of candidacy in person or via email before 5:00pm the date candidate registration closes.

Title II: Prohibited Activities

Section 1: Unrestricted Activity

Section 1.1: Unrestricted Activity

1.1.1 Except as otherwise stated by additional rule or by governing law, the Commission may not restrict the following

1.1.2 any solicited conversation, online, in person, or otherwise;

1.1.3 any solicited distribution of campaign material either in person or online; and the right of candidates to make available and distribute any campaign material to the public, so long as the material is not forcefully distributed, and so long as the availability and distribution of the material conform to all other rules in the 700s section of the SGA bylaws.

Section 2: Engaging in Prohibited Activities in Restricted Zones

Section 2.1: Prohibited Activities within Restricted Zones

2.1.1 The following activities shall be prohibited within the designated Restricted Zones established in Title I of this code at all times:

2.1.2 Petitioning: Collecting signatures whether physically or electronically for placement on the ballot.

2.1.3 Campaigning: Distribution of campaign materials, solicitation of votes, or any form of electioneering on behalf of any candidate.

2.1.4 Use Amplified Sound: Broadcasting messages or announcements related to the election in ways that disrupt academic activities.

2.1.5 Gathering of Campaign Supporters: Loitering or congregating in ways that obstruct access to academic buildings or create distractions for students and GW staff.

2.1.6 Interrupting Classes or Lectures: Entering classrooms or academic spaces for the purpose of soliciting votes, handing out campaign materials, or delivering campaign speeches.

Section 2.2: Penalties

2.2.1 If a candidate is found in violation, for each count that the candidate is found in violation, they shall receive, for a violation of:

2.2.2 **one point** to the candidate involved as provided for by section 70721 of the SGA bylaws, for each violation of a restricted zone.

Section 2.3: Exceptions

2.3.1 A candidate may engage in campaigning inside their own dorm room within GW Residence halls.

Section 3: Failure to Register an Authorized Agent

Section 3.1: Registration Requirement for Authorized Agents

3.1.1 All candidates for JEC administered elections must register all Authorized Agents who will act on their behalf in conducting campaign activities or petitioning in accordance with Title I of the JEC Code.

3.1.2 Only registered Authorized Agents are permitted to engage in campaign or petitioning activities on behalf of the candidate or party.

3.1.3 Each candidate must register each Authorized Agent with the commission prior to that individual conducting any activity on the candidate's behalf.

Section 2: Penalties

3.2.1 If a candidate is found in violation, for each count that the candidate is found in violation, they shall receive,

3.2.2 **three points** to the candidate involved as provided for by section 70721 of the SGA bylaws, per unregistered agent.

Section 4: Campaign Spending Limits

Section 4.1: Campaign Budgets/Spending Limits, General Spending Limits

4.1.1 No campaign may make an aggregate expenditure on behalf of their candidacy in excess of the following limits—

4.1.2 \$350 for candidates for Student Government Association President and Student Government Association Executive Vice-President; and

4.1.3 \$150 for candidates for all other Student Government Association Senate seats.

4.1.4 If a secondary election is required, each candidate in the secondary election may spend up to \$50 total on expenses for the entire secondary election.

Section 4.2: Joint Spending

4.2.1 If a group of candidates agrees to appear jointly on campaign material of value, all candidates involved must deduct the actual value of the campaign material from each of their respective campaign budgets/spending limits.

Section 4.3: Penalty

4.3.1 If a candidate is found in violation, for each count that the candidate is found in violation, they shall receive, for a violation of:

4.3.2 **two (2) penalties** for between zero percent (0%) and 4.99 percent (4.99%) over the limit;

4.3.3 **three (3) penalties** for between five percent (5.0%) and 9.99 percent (9.99%) over the limit;

4.3.4 **four (4) penalties** for between ten percent (10%) and 14.99 percent (14.99%) over the limit;

4.3.5 **six (6) penalties** for greater than fifteen percent (15%) over the limit.

Section 5: Financial Expenditure Report

Section 5.1: Financial Expenditure Report

5.1.1 For each election, each candidate listed on the ballot, including those who are running unopposed or spending no money, shall submit an electronic ‘financial expenditure report’ to the Commission, by email to the Commission.

5.1.2 The Commission shall make available on its website an online official financial expenditure report form before the commencement of the campaign period.

5.1.3 The ‘financial expenditure report’ must list all goods and services acquired by the candidate that were intended to advance or inhibit a candidacy or which tend towards that end.

5.1.4 Non-registered candidates elected to a seat via the write-in process shall also submit a ‘financial expenditure report’ in order to accept such a seat.

Section 5.2: Actual Value

5.2.1 Any good or service actually purchased or paid for by the candidate for their campaign must be reported at the actual value expended by the candidate for a given good or service.

5.2.2 Candidates shall provide receipts via email to prove the actual value of each good or service purchased or paid for.

5.2.3 If the Commission requests such, the candidate shall provide the original receipt(s) in person.

Section 5.3: Exceptions

5.3.3 The following items may not be included as part of a candidate’s aggregate expenditure, so long as they are not distributed to individuals other than a candidate and their authorized agents, and so long as they are not used in such a manner that they, alone or combined, constitute campaign material— Tape; writing utensils; paper; notebooks; and, clipboards

Section 5.4: Donation Report

5.4.1 For each election, each candidate listed on the ballot shall submit an electronic ‘donation list’, containing a list of individuals and organizations who have made a donation to their campaign.

5.4.2 Candidates who received no donations still must submit this list via email to the Commission.

Section 5.5: Deadline

5.5.1 All candidates must electronically submit a financial expenditure report and a donations list by 11:59 PM on the day following the election.

5.5.2 The Commission may choose to extend the deadline for submission of a financial expenditure report and a donations list for non-registered candidates until the official results are certified.

Section 5.6: Penalties

5.6.1.1 If a candidate is found in violation, for each count that the candidate is found in violation, they shall receive, for a violation of:

5.6.2 **one (1)** penalty per item missing a receipt.

5.6.3 **one (1)** penalty per item missing proof.

5.6.4 **one (1)** penalty per calendar day that the report is late.

Section 6: Unlawful Postering

Section 6.1: Location Restrictions

6.1.1 Candidates may only place posters in the following public locations—

6.1.2 The exterior of the University Student Center on the H Street side;

6.1.3 the exterior of the Academic Center buildings;

6.1.4 the exterior of any building facing University Yard, but not the Law School or Textile Museum; and

6.1.5 the exterior of Ames Hall on the Mount Vernon campus.

Section 6.2: Location Exceptions

6.2.1 Candidates whose constituency includes law school students (i.e. President, Vice President, and Law School Senator) may poster within the Law School after obtaining approval from the Commission and the Student Bar Association.

Section 6.3: Poster Restrictions

6.3.1 No poster may exceed eighteen (18) inches by twelve (12) inches.

6.3.2 No group of posters may constitute one (1) contiguous image greater than the above size requirements.

6.3.3 No poster may be affixed to any window, door, awning, rail, rack, post, handle, or temporary structure.

6.3.4 No poster may be placed in such a way that it blocks any sign.

6.3.5 No candidate may place either tape or a poster over another candidate's previously affixed poster such that the previously affixed poster is obscured in any meaningful way.

6.3.6 No candidate may place a poster inside any University residence hall or townhouse, except that students may place posters within their dorm room and on any window or door belonging to that room.

Section 6.4: Quantity Restrictions

6.4.1 Candidates for Student Government Association President and Vice President may hang as many as, but no more than, ten (10) posters in each of the four (4) permitted postering locations listed in section 1 of this section for a total of forty (40) posters throughout campus.

6.4.2 Candidates for all other directly elected offices may hang as many as, but no more than, five (5) posters in each of the four (4) permitted postering locations listed in section 1 of this section, for a total of twenty (20) posters throughout campus.

Section 6.5: Penalties

6.5.1 If a candidate is found in violation, for each count that the candidate is found in violation, they shall receive, for a violation of

6.5.2 **two penalty points** as provided for by section 70804 of the SGA bylaws

Section 7: Unlawful Distribution of Campaign Material

Section 7.1: Untimely Distribution

7.1.1 No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may distribute or make available any campaign material prior to the commencement of the campaign period.

7.1.2 This section does not apply to the creation or availability of any website, social networking group, or other Internet campaign tools; and any verbal statement of a candidate's intent to seek office or any attempt by a candidate to complete a petition of support.

Section 7.2: Unregistered Material

7.2.1 No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may distribute or make available any campaign material that has not been registered with the Commission within twenty-four (24) hours of the transmission of notice.

Section 7.3: Within University Buildings

7.3.1 No candidate or authorized agent thereof may, within any University building, distribute, attempt to distribute, or make available any campaign material, unless such material is solicited.

Section 7.4: Forceful Distribution

7.4.1 No candidate or authorized agent thereof may, on any University campus, distribute, or attempt to distribute, any campaign material against the will of the intended recipient, once the intended recipient has communicated their unwillingness to receive the material.

Section 7.5: Electronic Communications

7.5.1 Any use by a candidate of another student in any photo or video, to aid the candidate's campaign, may be allowed only with either verbal or written consent of the student.

7.5.2 No university academic system, such as Blackboard and mass emails to classes, may be used to promote, aid, or advertise any campaign.

Section 7.6: Penalties

7.6.1 If a candidate is found in violation, for each count that the candidate is found in violation, they shall receive, for a violation of

7.6.2 **one penalty point** for sections 1 through 4 of this section as provided for by section 70804 of the SGA bylaws

7.6.2 **two penalty points** for section 5 of this section as provided for by section 70804 of the SGA bylaws

Section 8: Unlawful Use of University Resources and Spaces

Section 8.1: Use of University Resources

8.1.1 No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may use any resource of the University, including any student organization, which is of monetary value, for their campaign, except student organizations who wish to provide such to endorsed candidates.

8.1.2 Such resources must be subject to reporting under Title II § 5 of this code.

8.1.3 Excluded from unlawful use are any printing within the threshold for all elected candidates

Section 8.2: SGA Office

8.2.1 No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may use any office space or conference room in the Student Government Association Office.

Section 8.3: Student Organization Listserv

8.3.1 No candidate may use the listserv of any organization of which they are involved with for self-promotion.

8.3.2 Only the organization can promote the individual's candidacy by way of endorsement.

Section 8.4: Penalties

8.4.1 If a candidate is found in violation, for each count that the candidate is found in violation, they shall receive, for a violation of

8.4.2 **two penalty point** as provided for by section 70804 of the SGA bylaws

Section 9: Disruption of University Function

Section 9.1: Disruption of University Function

1.1 No candidate, candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may, in the course of campaigning, disrupt any academic function of The George Washington University.

Section 9.2: Penalties

9.2.1 If a candidate is found in violation, for each count that the candidate is found in violation, they shall receive, for a violation of

9.2.2 **three penalty point** as provided for by section 70804 of the SGA bylaws

Section 10: Destruction of Property

Section 10.1: Destruction of Property

10.1.1 No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may, purposely deface, destroy or remove any campaign material belonging to another candidate.

Section 10.2: Penalties

10.2.1 If a candidate is found in violation, for each count that the candidate is found in violation, they shall receive, for a violation of

10.2.2 **two penalty point** as provided for by section 70804 of the SGA bylaws

Section 11: False Statements

Section 11.1: False Statements

11.1.1 No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may, in any matter within the jurisdiction of the Commission or of the Student Court, knowingly and willfully—

11.1.2 falsify, conceal, or otherwise cover up by any trick, scheme or devise a material fact;

11.1.3 make any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation; or

11.1.4 Create or use any false writing or document, knowing that the writing or document contains any materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or entry.

Section 11.2: Penalties

11.2.1 If a candidate is found in violation, for each count that the candidate is found in violation, they shall receive, for a violation of

11.2.2 **three penalty point** as provided for by section 70804 of the SGA bylaws

Section 12: Obstruction

Section 12.1: Obstruction

12.1.1 Candidates, and authorized agents thereof, should be kind and courteous during any meetings of the Commission which they attend.

12.1.2 No candidate may engage in disorderly, contemptuous, or insolent behavior so as to interrupt or delay a meeting of the Commission.

12.1.3 No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may engage in behavior intended to disrupt, interrupt or obstruct any member of the Commission or any staff officer in the pursuit of their official duties.

Section 12.2: Penalties

12.2.1 If a candidate is found in violation, for each count that the candidate is found in violation, they shall receive, for a violation of

12.2.2 **three penalty points** for violation of section 1.1 of this section as provided for by section 70804 of the SGA bylaws

12.2.3 **six penalty points** for violation of section 1.2 and 1.3 of this section as provided for by section 70804 of the SGA bylaws

Section 13: Impersonalization

Section 13.1: Impersonalization

13.1.1 No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may falsely assume or pretend to be— a member of the Commission; an officer acting under the authority of the Commission; another candidate; or any other individual acting under the authority of the Student Government Association.

Section 13.2: Penalties

13.2.1 If a candidate is found in violation, for each count that the candidate is found in violation, they shall receive, for a violation of

13.2.2 **six penalty points** as provided for by section 70804 of the SGA bylaws.

Section 14: Bribery

Section 14.1: Bribery

14.1.1 No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may confer, or offer to confer, any benefit upon any Commissioner, staff officer, or Student Court Justice with the understanding that the benefit will influence any Commissioner, staff officer, or Student Court Justice in the discharge of their official duties.

Section 14.2: Penalties

14.2.1 If a candidate is found in violation, for each count that the candidate is found in violation, they shall receive, for a violation of

14.2.2 **six penalty points** as provided for by section 70804 of the SGA bylaws

Section 15: Tampering

Section 15.1: Tampering

15.1.1 No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may engage in tampering.

15.1.2 The following acts are considered tampering—

15.1.3 Attempting to induce or affect the person to avoid the proceeding or to give a false statement, knowing that a person may be a witness in a proceeding of the Commission or of the Student Court;

15.1.4 willfully concealing, removing, or destroying any official record, report, form or other document which is in the custody of the Commission; and

15.1.5 attempting to enter or infiltrate any system that tabulates votes in any election.

Section 15.2: Penalties

15.2.1 If a candidate is found in violation, for each count that the candidate is found in violation, they shall receive, for a violation of

15.2.2 **six penalty points** as provided for by section 70804 of the SGA bylaws

Section 16: Failure to Comply

Section 16.1: Failure to comply

16.1.1 All candidates, and authorized agents thereof, shall comply with the rules and resolutions of all advisory opinions and rulings, and all governing laws.

16.1.2 No candidate may intentionally disobey or resist a lawful process of the Commission.

Section 16.2: Penalties

16.2.1 If a candidate is found in violation, for each count that the candidate is found in violation, they shall receive, for a violation of

16.2.2 **three penalty points** for failure to comply with a rule or advisory opinion of the commission as provided for by section 70804 of the SGA bylaws

16.2.3 **three penalty points** for failure attend the mandatory candidate meeting as provided for by section 70804 of the SGA bylaws

16.2.4 **two penalty points** for failure to comply the dorm storming rules of the commission as provided for by section 70804 of the SGA bylaws

16.2.5 **two penalty points** for failure to comply with postering rules as provided for by section 70804 of the SGA bylaws

16.2.6 **one penalty point** for failure to comply for any other reason not specifically enumerated as provided for by section 70804 of the SGA bylaws

Section 17: Dorm Storming

Section 17.1: Dorm Storming

17.1.1 Pursuant to communication the commission received from the Director of Campus Living and Residential Education, Dorm-storming as defined as: campaigning in residence halls is prohibited.

Section 17.2: Exceptions

17.2.1 A candidate may engage in campaigning inside their own dorm room within GW Residence halls provided that it adheres to all CLRE policies.

Section 17.3: Penalties

17.3.1 If a candidate is found in violation, for each count that the candidate is found in violation, they shall receive, for a violation of **two penalty points** for failure to comply the dorm storming rules of the commission as provided for by section 70804 of the SGA bylaws

Title III: Restricted Zones

Section 1: Restricted Zones

Section 1.1: Establishment of Restricted Zones

1.1.1 The JEC hereby establishes Restricted Zones in and around certain locations on campus to prevent disruption of academic activities during the election process.

1.1.3 All candidates and authorized agents must follow the instructions of all GW faculty, staff, contractors, and GWPD officers when campaigning or petitioning in any university owned or managed space, including all university property on the Foggy Bottom and Mount Vernon campuses regardless of its location within a Restricted Zone. Failure to comply with staff instructions will be treated as a violation of a restricted zone

1.1.4 The boundaries and specific locations of these Restricted Zones shall be as follows:

1.1.5 All Academic Buildings except as described in Section 70711 of the SGA bylaws

1.1.6 Gelman Library

1.1.7 Eckles Library.

1.1.8 All GW owned or operated residence halls.

1.1.9 All GW Dining facilities located within residence halls, including those within Thurston Hall, District House, and Shenkman Hall.

Title IV: Advisory Opinions

Section 1: Constitutional Referenda

Adopted by Joint Elections Commission on 2/11/2025

1.1.1 SGA Constitution Article XV § 2(b)(i)

Section 2. Referenda

(b) Referenda must be called by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of the Senate or a petition signed by ten percent (10%) of the student body.

(i) If a referendum is called in the Spring semester, the Joint Elections Commission shall set a date for the referendum vote within twenty (20) calendar days after the certification of a petition or the Senate vote calling for the referendum.

1.2.1 SGA Bylaws § 70606

Section 70606. Referendum/Ballot Initiatives

(a) The Student Government Association may place a ballot initiative to be voted upon by the entire student body during the general student body elections through procedures outlined in the Bylaws of the Student Government Association.

(b) Ballot initiatives must be submitted no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the start of voting.

1.3.1 JEC Interpretation

The JEC received a request from the Office of Senate Legal Counsel (OSLC) to issue an advisory opinion addressing the timeline by which a constitutional amendment may be placed on the regular Spring 2025 ballot. In accordance with Article XV § 2(b)(i) of the SGA constitution and § 70606 and 70311 of the SGA Bylaws the commission adopted the following advisory opinion regarding this matter.

- The JEC does not have the power to interpret the SGA Constitution or non-JEC sections of the SGA bylaws. However, they are included here for context.
- In the 2023 and 2024 elections, Constitutional amendments were placed on the Spring Ballot without the consideration of holding a special election.
- There are currently no established bylaws for the composition of or operation of a JEC special election commission.
- The efficient use of resources and minimal disruption to the University Community is in the best interest of both the JEC and the SGA Senate, therefore the JEC will not hold a special election for a referenda that is passed or a petition that is certified by the Senate in the Spring semester and instead will place any referenda on the regular ballot unless the enacting legislation specifies that a special election shall be held.
- The JEC will include on the Spring ballot any referenda that are passed by or petitions that are certified by the Senate, provided that the JEC receives a finalized referenda before the start of the campaign period, which begins two weeks prior to the close of the election.

Section 2: Chief Investigator’s authority to engage in plea deals

Adopted by Joint Elections Commission on 2/25/2025

2.1.1 SGA Bylaws § 70210 (e)

Section 70210 (e). Chief Investigator

(e) In the course of an investigation, the Chief Investigator has the power to initiate plea deal proceedings as outlined in Section 70803(d) of these bylaws.

2.2.1 SGA Bylaws § 70803 (d)

Section 70803. Violation Hearings

(d) Burden of Proof

(i) The Commission shall find a candidate in violation only when the Chief Investigator has proven each and every element of the violation beyond a reasonable doubt.

2.3.1 JEC Interpretation

The JEC is issuing this advisory opinion under its own authority and at the verbal request of the Chief Investigator. This advisory opinion will address the Chief Investigator's authority to engage in plea deals in accordance with § 70210 (e) of the SGA Bylaws.

- It is clear that the SGA bylaws currently reference a section unrelated to § 70210 (e), this reference to another section is ultimately extraneous as the other section simply “outlined” the procedure for plea deals.
- Given the clear definition of the power to engage in plea deals the Chief Investigator shall be permitted to engage in plea bargaining with violators following the issuance of an indictment.
- Subsequently, the Chief Investigator may agree to not proceed on indicted charges in the course of a plea agreement when a candidate agrees to plead guilty on certain charges.
- The Chief Investigator shall have sole discretion on if, when, and how they engage in plea bargaining provided it is consistent with the SGA Constitution and bylaws.
- The Commission, at a violation hearing, may refuse to accept a plea agreement and enter a plea of not guilty on the charges which the Chief Investigator announces they will not pursue and hold a hearing on those charges.

Section 3: Investigations

Adopted by Joint Elections Commission on 3/19/2025

3.1.1 SGA Bylaws § 70210 (f)

Section 70210 Chief Investigator

(f) In the course of an investigation, both the Commission and the Chief Investigator have the power to—

(1) require by written order that any candidate, or authorized agent thereof, give testimony regarding any matter in the form of a deposition or sworn statement; and

(2) require by order that any candidate, or authorized agent thereof, furnish any records, reports, forms, documents, or other evidence as may be requested.

3.2.1 JEC Interpretation

The JEC is issuing this advisory opinion under its own authority. This advisory opinion will address the Commission's authority to engage in “Investigations” in accordance with § 70210 (f) of the SGA Bylaws.

- The SGA bylaws give the commission wide authority to conduct investigations as the commission see’s fit. However, when an investigation officially starts is not defined in bylaws.
- Given the clear definition of the power to engage in investigations and the need to have more complete evidence when conducting probable cause hearings the commission and the Chief Investigator shall be permitted to engage in investigations, including the issuance of subpoenas, as soon as a valid complaint is filed with the commission.
- Fruits of pre-indictment investigations shall be treated confidentially as determined by the JEC bylaws.
- Any evidence collected in furtherance of an investigation into a complaint in which the commission does not find probable cause shall remain sealed.

Title V: Orders and Judgements of the Commission

Section 1: Delegation to the COO

Adopted by Joint Elections Commission on 2/25/2025

1.1.1 SGA Bylaws § 70302

Section 70302. Delegation

(a) The Commission has the authority, by order or by rule, to delegate any of its functions to a division of the Commission, to an individual member of the Commission, or to a staff officer or group of staff officers.

1.2.1 SGA Bylaws § 70205 (d)

Section 70205. Commission Positions

(d) The duties and responsibilities of the Administrative Commissioner include—

- (1) taking minutes at all Commission meetings;*
- (2) ensuring Commission compliance with Section 70308 ;*
- (3) compiling the Election Manual for candidates;*
- (4) updating and maintaining appropriate social media and the Commission website; and*
- (5) Ensuring the Commission’s compliance with this Part of the Bylaws.*

1.3.1 JEC Rule #5 § 6

Section 5: Establishment of the Staff Officer Position of Chief Operating Officer

5.1 There shall be a staff officer position created titled “JEC Chief Operating Officer” or COO which shall be appointed in the same manner as the Chief Investigator under § 70210 (b) of the Student Government Association Bylaws.

5.2 Immediately following the final adoption of this rule, the Chair shall nominate and the Commission shall vote on the nomination of a student to serve as COO.

5.3 The eligibility requirements for COO shall be the same as the requirements for Chief Investigator and they shall be treated as equals.

5.4 The Commission shall include the COO in all meetings, including executive sessions and probable cause hearings, but they shall not be present for violation hearing deliberations.

5.4 The Commission shall immediately after confirming a student to serve as COO delegate duties to the COO via a delegation order signed by the Chair of the commission.

5.5 The Commission may at its discretion add, amend, or cancel the delegation of any powers via a subsequent delegation order.

1.4.1 Delegated Responsibilities

The JEC hereby delegates the duties listed under § 70205 (d) to the COO. The COO shall also perform any additional duties that members of the commission may request of the COO.

Signed,



Michael Ubis, Elections Commissioner

Section 2: Administrative Order relating to the JEC Code

Issued by the Elections Commissioner on 2/25/2025

2.1.2 SGA Bylaws § 70302

Section 70302. Delegation

(a) The Commission has the authority, by order or by rule, to delegate any of its functions to a division of the Commission, to an individual member of the Commission, or to a staff officer or group of staff officers.

2.2.1 JEC Rule #4 § 6

Section 6: Delegation of Authority

6.1 The Chair of the Joint Elections Commission is hereby delegated the power to compile, maintain, reorganize, correct grammar and punctuation, and add or remove titles to the JEC Code of Regulations under Section 70312 of the Student Government Association Bylaws.

6.2 The Chair may further delegate this task to a division of the Commission, an individual member of the Commission, or to a staff officer or group of staff officers without a further vote of the Commission.

6.3 The Chair of the Joint Elections Commission is further delegated the authority to issue an administrative order to bring the Joint Elections Code into force upon its compilation in compliance with section 2 of this rule.

6.4 The Commission may cancel this delegation of authority at any time, by a simple majority vote at any scheduled commission meeting

2.3.1 JEC Code Completed

The JEC Code is properly and completely compiled and organized, in accordance with Rule 4 the Joint Elections Commission Code of Regulations shall now come into force. The Commission and members of the public should use the Code for all activities related to prohibited activities and commission rules including: in complaints, violation hearings, meetings, probable cause hearings, and on social media. The commission shall now adopt rules by adding or amending titles and sections of the JEC Code.

Signed,



Michael Ubis
Elections Commissioner
Chairperson of the Joint Elections Commission