



## 2009 GWCD Election Rules

### I. Positions

The following positions, and only the following positions, will be up for election:

- President
- Vice President
- Communications Director
- Political Affairs Director
- Membership Director
- Community Service Director
- Finance Director

In the event that no one submits a candidacy statement for any of the above mentioned positions, the position will be made available for appointment by the new Executive Board in the weeks following the election.

### II. Candidacy and Voter Eligibility

- In order to be eligible to run, all candidates must be paid members of the College Democrats by 11PM on April 7<sup>th</sup> 2009. The election commission will consult with the College Democrats Membership and Finance Committees to confirm the membership status of all candidates.
- In order to be eligible to vote, all voters must be paid members of the College Democrats by 11PM on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009.
- The Election Commission will consult with the College Democrats Membership and Finance Committees to confirm the membership status of all voters.
- In order to become a dues paid member, your name must be submitted to the Elections Commission and your yearly dues of \$10 must be submitted to the Finance Director. You may do this by giving your name and dues directly to members of the Election Commission, who will in turn give the information to the Membership and Finance Director. Office Hours will be held in Marvin Center Room 422 from 6PM to 11PM on Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup> in order to receive dues. Otherwise, one may pay their dues during regular office hours of the College Democrats, as posted on the official College Democrats Website.
- In order to be considered a candidate for the Executive Board, all candidacy statements must be received by the Election Commission by 11PM on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Statements should be no longer than 300 words and sent to [election@gwcollegedemocrats.com](mailto:election@gwcollegedemocrats.com)

### III. Campaign Rules

- Candidates are not allowed to campaign publicly in any capacity before the voter prescribed registration deadline of April 7<sup>th</sup> at 11pm. Candidates may begin campaigning publicly at 11:01pm on April 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Public campaigning is defined as any of the following: establishing a Facebook group or page, distribution of printed literature, posters, campaign materials, correspondence to a listserv e-mail or blast e-mails to multiple recipients which promote the member's intention to run or candidacy.
- Candidates are forbidden from running on a slate, which is defined as publicizing or mentioning any other candidate in any campaign correspondence. Candidates may only campaign for themselves.
- All candidates shall be held responsible for the actions of anyone who is campaigning on their behalf.
- No candidate may campaign at any CD-sponsored functions/events, except they may distribute literature/palm cards about themselves at the Election meeting only.
- While candidates are permitted to contact members, if any member reports to the Commission that they are being harassed or are contacted after informing a candidate that they no longer wish to be contacted, the candidate making such contact may be removed from the ballot.
- The use of official College Democrats Facebook groups, listservs, or membership lists for campaigning is strictly forbidden as it gives an unfair advantage to current members of the Executive Board.
- It is the recommendation of the Election Commission that current members of the Executive Board do not endorse candidates; however, they are free to do so if they choose.
- Any violations of these rules may constitute removal from the CD Election under the discretions by the CD Election Commission.

### III. Election Night Procedure

- The election will be held on April 14<sup>th</sup> with time and location TBA.
- Voter check-in will begin 30 minutes prior the start of the election – it is encouraged that voters check-in as early as possible. It is the recommendation of the Election Commission that candidates encourage their supporters to be prepared to stay until the election's conclusion.
- All voters will be processed at the door by the Membership Election Commission of the College Democrats, as well as non-candidate members of the current Executive Board. Only paid members, as reflected by the official Membership Committee list at 11PM on Tuesday April 7th, will be given ballots.
- The election program will begin when all the voters standing in line at the time of scheduled commencement have been processed.
- All candidates will be able to view the ballot box to confirm that it is empty at the outset of the election.
- The election program will consist of seven distinct position elections, one for each position, and each with its own ballot.
- Voters who arrive after the election has begun will be processed at the door, but will not be allowed to join the rest of the voters until the position election underway at their arrival has been completed. In other words, voters who arrive after the first position election has begun will have to wait until the second position election begins to get a ballot. Voters who arrive after

the second position election has begun will have to wait until the third position election to get a ballot – and so on.

- The amount of time allotted for speeches will be determined by the overall number of candidates in the election. Each position election is guaranteed to have the following program:
  - A two minute statement by each candidate
  - Two minutes for audience questions per candidate
  - Candidates for President and Vice-President will be offered an additional 2 minutes for their initial statements, for a total of 4 minutes, should they desire the extra time.
- At the conclusion of each position election, voters who were processed after the election began will be allowed to join those already seated. Anyone who needs to leave will be able to do so and will be able to cast their ballot in the back of the room. Once this has been done, ballots for the next election will be handed out.
- This process will be repeated for all 7 positions.
- Any voter who hands his or her ballot in prior to the conclusion of a position election will have his or her ballot invalidated. To ensure that all candidates have been given an equal opportunity to be heard within a given position category, voters must be present for the entirety of each position election in order to cast a ballot for that position.
- The order of the position elections will be released prior to the election program and will be based upon first, the ability of the candidates to be present, then second, a random selection.
- After each position election, the Election Commissioners will each fill out their own ballot and put it into a separate envelope. Once all the position elections have been completed, the Election Commissioners will randomly choose an envelope to be excluded from the ballot box.
- Once all ballots have been handed in, Election Commissioners Amelia West, James Jones, and Troy Timmer will each count the ballots in full view of all those present, compare results, and immediately announce the winners.
- The candidate who receives the most votes in each position category shall be considered the winner.
- The counting of the ballots will be done in full view of the election program attendees.
- Any candidate or voter may request a re-count; all candidates and voters are entitled to view the counting process.
- In the event of a tie, the Election Commission will open the excluded envelope and cast their votes for the position in question. If that somehow fails to break the tie, the Election Commission will confer to select the winner.

\*\*\*\*\*ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS SHOULD BE E-MAILED TO [election@gwcollegedemocrats.com](mailto:election@gwcollegedemocrats.com)  
In order to ensure fairness, integrity, and transparency, The Election Commission reserves the right to amend these rules prior to Monday April 13<sup>th</sup> at 11PM.

These rules have been prepared by the 2008 GWCD Election Commission:

Amelia West

James Jones

Troy Timmer

RANKED BY CDA AS 2007'S CHAPTER OF THE YEAR RUNNER-UP  
**Leadership. Activism. Progress.**