



CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACKET

All election documents and information may be found online at www.gwelection.com. Any questions may be directed to election@gwu.edu.

PLEASE NOTE – This packet is provided merely as a resource to help candidates understand the basics of our electoral process. This packet does not supersede or replace any rule in the Joint Elections Committee Charter or any additional rule adopted by the Committee. This packet holds no legal standing, and the Committee is not bound by any of the information contained herein.

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Election Schedule

Posting Day

February 19th, 7AM (when the whistle is blown)

Dorm Storming

Saturday, February 20th, 2PM – 5PM

Sunday, February 21st, 2PM – 5PM

Monday, February 22nd, 6PM – 9PM

Tuesday, February 23rd, 6PM – 9PM

General Election

February 24th and 25th, 9AM to 9PM

Deadline for Financial Expenditure Reports (General Election)

February 26th, 5PM

Runoff Election

March 10th and 11th, 9AM to 9PM

Deadline for Financial Expenditure Reports (Runoff Election)

March 12th, 5PM

Our Expectations

- We expect all candidates to know the complete contents of the 2010 Joint Elections Committee Charter.
- In particular, **all candidates must know Chapter 4 of the JEC Charter**, which contains all of the campaign rules and regulations that all candidates must follow.
- If candidates have questions about any aspect of the electoral process, we expect them to consult the JEC Charter, the additional rules and all information contained on our website before asking questions of the Committee.

Eligibility

- Any individual who is currently on academic or disciplinary probation is not eligible to hold a position in any governing organization. Academic and disciplinary checks will be conducted before the election is held, and any ineligible candidate will be disqualified. If you know that you are ineligible, we urge you to withdraw from the election.

Campaign Material

All candidates must know every rule in the JEC Charter. In particular, it's important to highlight the following rules:

Posting Day is the FIRST DAY of the campaign period. Campaigning is not permitted until the whistle is blown at approximately 7:00AM on Posting Day to signal the commencement of both posting and campaigning. Posting Day is Friday, February 19th.

729 – Registration of Campaign Material Before a candidate may distribute any item which qualifies as campaign material, the candidate must register the item with the Committee. To register an item, the candidate shall submit one proof copy of the item to a member of the Committee. Candidates shall not be required to register any website, social networking group, or other internet campaign tool.

745 – Unlawful Distribution of Campaign Material

- (a) **Before Campaign Period** No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may distribute or make available any campaign material prior to the commencement of the campaign period. This section shall not apply to the creation or availability of any website, social networking group, or other internet campaign tool.
- (b) **Material Not Registered** No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may distribute or make available any campaign material which has not first been registered with the Committee. This section shall apply only to those materials for which registration is required under Rule 729.
- (c) **Within University Buildings** 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.
- (d) **Unsolicited Distribution** No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may, on any University campus, distribute any campaign material to persons not soliciting such material. This section shall not restrict the right of candidates to make available any campaign material to the public.
- (e) **Election Day Restricted Zones** No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may, on any election day, distribute, attempt to distribute, or make available any campaign material in zones which are designated, by order or by rule, as restricted by the Committee and which are demarcated by campaign tape.
- (f) **Electronic Communications** No candidate, or authorized agent thereof, may send any electronic communication for his or her campaign, including any invitation to join a social networking group, or any e-mail triggered by a social networking group such as, but not limited to, Facebook, Twitter or Myspace, to persons not soliciting such a communication.

ADVISORY OPINION 02:

Posting campaign material, or links to campaign material, on another individual's Facebook wall does constitute the distribution of an electronic communication within the meaning of Rule 745(f).

Facebook Group Guidelines

ADVISORY OPINION 01:

The 2010 Joint Elections Committee Charter places a number of limitations on a candidate's use of Facebook. The following should provide guidance to candidates as they create and use Facebook groups in furtherance of their campaigns.

WHAT'S ALLOWED:

- Candidates are permitted to create Facebook groups to support their campaigns.
- Candidates are permitted to include any campaign material they wish on these groups.
- Candidates are permitted to make these groups "public" so that Facebook users can find them via Facebook's search function.
- Candidates are permitted to allow supporters to join their campaign groups.
- Candidates are permitted to send Facebook messages and other electronic communications to group members.

WHAT'S PROHIBITED:

- Candidates may **not** invite people to join their campaign group, as this will generate an unsolicited e-mail communication.
- Candidates may **not** allow other members of their campaign group to invite people to join the group. It is irrelevant whether the person sending the invitation is part of the official campaign staff; a candidate will be held responsible for any action taken by any member of a Facebook group.

JEC RECOMMENDATIONS:

- We recommend disabling the ability for group members to send group invitations.
- We recommend limiting the number of administrators in the group in order to eliminate the likelihood that an unknowing group member will send a group invitation.
- We understand that it is difficult to build support when candidates are not permitted to invite people to join their Facebook groups. We recommend that candidates promote their Facebook groups by including links to their group on their websites or by including links or other information about the Facebook group on other lawful campaign material.

Postering Day

- Postering Day will be Friday, February 19th. Candidates who wish to poster on Foggy Bottom should gather on the H Street side of Kogan Plaza around 6:30AM. Candidates who wish to poster on Mount Vernon should gather at the Central Fountain around 6:30AM.

728 – Postering Day Procedures The first day of the campaign period shall be called 'postering day'. Postering day shall proceed as follows:

- (1) All candidates and authorized agents who will be hanging posters, helping to hang posters, or otherwise distributing or helping to distribute campaign material on poster day must place a name tag on the back of their upper right shoulder.
- (2) This name tag must clearly identify the name of the candidate whom the individual represents.
- (3) Immediately preceding the commencement of the campaign period, all such candidates and authorized agents must gather in either Kogan Plaza on the Foggy Bottom campus, or around the central fountain on the Mount Vernon Campus.
- (4) All such candidates and authorized agents shall be required to remain within an area demarcated by campaign tape until informed by the Committee that the campaign period has begun.

744 – Postering Regulations

(a) Locations Candidates may only place posters in the following public locations:

1. The exterior of the Marvin Center on the H Street side;
2. The exterior of the Academic Center buildings;
3. The exterior of any building facing University Yard, but not the Law School;
4. The building exteriors adjacent to the main entrance of Ross Hall; and
5. The exterior of Ames Hall on the Mount Vernon campus.

(b) Restrictions

1. No poster may exceed 18 inches by 12 inches.
2. No poster may be affixed to any window, door, awning, rail, rack, post, handle, or temporary structure.
3. No poster may be placed in such a way that it blocks any sign.
4. No candidate may place either tape or a poster over another candidate's previously affixed poster in such a way that the previously affixed poster is obscured in any meaningful way.
5. No candidate may place a poster inside any University residence hall or townhouse, except that individual students shall be permitted, if they wish, to each place one poster on the outside of their own dorm room door, or in any window within their own residence.

(c) Limit on Quantity No candidate may hang posters in excess of the following limits:

1. 150 posters for candidates for Student Association President, Student Association Executive Vice-President, Marvin Center Governing Board Chair, Program Board Chair and Program Board Vice-Chair;
2. 100 posters for candidates for Student Association At-Large Senate seats;
3. 50 posters for candidates for all other positions; and
4. All candidates shall be limited to hanging a maximum of twenty percent of their allotted posters on the Marvin Center, and a maximum of twenty percent on the Academic Center buildings.

- **Investigators and Committee members will be supervising postering at both locations.** We will be exercising pre-emptive enforcement of the rules.

Dorm Storming

Dorm Storming Rules, 2010:

- (a) All candidates and authorized representatives must comply with previously established GW Housing Programs and RHA rules and regulations.
- (b) No candidate may authorize more than two representatives to visit residence halls.
- (c) Candidates and representatives who plan to campaign in residence halls must be declared and authorized, along with valid NetID and GWID, by the commencement of the official Candidate's Meeting.
- (d) While Dorm Storming, all candidates and authorized representatives must place a name tag on the back of their upper right shoulder clearly identifying the name of the candidate whom the individual represents.
- (e) Dorm Storming will be permitted only during the following dates and times:
 - a. Saturday, February 20th, 2PM – 5PM
 - b. Sunday, February 21st, 2PM – 5PM
 - c. Monday, February 22nd, 6PM – 9PM
 - d. Tuesday, February 23rd, 6PM – 9PM
- (f) The Dorm Storming dates and times are not hall-specific: candidates and authorized representatives are free to campaign in any dorm of their choosing during the allotted time, and may visit as many dorms as they desire during that time.
- (g) Candidates or authorized representatives intending to distribute campaign material of any kind in the residence halls must first submit proof copies to the JEC according to Rule 729 prior to distribution.
- (h) Campaign material can only be distributed to residents on a direct basis. Any campaign material must be handed directly to the resident. No item may be slipped under a door, left in a stairwell, or otherwise left unattended anywhere in a residence hall.
- (i) Candidates and authorized representatives may not knock on the door of a resident who has posted a notice on the door indicating that the resident does not wish to be disturbed.
- (j) If a resident makes clear that he or she does not wish to speak with a candidate or authorized representative, the candidate or authorized representative must immediately cease contact.

Financial Expenditure Reports

- **Financial Expenditure Report Forms are due at 5pm on the day following each election (Friday, February 26th at 5PM)**
- Forms are located on the Documents section of the JEC website, www.gvelection.com.
- We recommend that candidates continue to fill out a copy of the expenditure report form as their campaigns go on in order to expedite the process and ensure accuracy.
- Make sure that you keep receipts as proof of actual value.
- Remember: you **MUST** declare donated items if they are used for your campaign. You must report these items at their 'fair market value', meaning the lowest price reasonably available to all candidates for a particular good or service on the open market.

EXPENDITURES

Date	Description	Actual Value or FMV
2/16	Posters from Kinko's	\$210.32
2/24	Zipcar from 9AM-9PM	\$74.90

742 – Spending Limits No candidate shall make an aggregate expenditure on behalf of their candidacy in excess of the following limits:

- (a) \$1,000 for candidates for Student Association President, Student Association Executive Vice-President, Marvin Center Governing Board Chair, Program Board Chair and Program Board Vice-Chair;
- (b) \$750 for candidates for Student Association At-Large Senate seats;
- (c) \$500 for candidates for all other Student Association Senate seats; and
- (d) If a runoff election is required, each candidate in the runoff election shall be permitted, after voting in the general election has concluded, to spend \$250.

743 – Reporting Requirements

- (a) **Financial Expenditure Report** For each election, each candidate shall be required to submit a ‘financial expenditure report’, which shall list all goods and services acquired by the candidate which were intended to advance or inhibit a candidacy, or which tend towards that end. The Committee shall make available on its website an official financial expenditure report form before the commencement of the campaign period.
- (b) **Actual Value** Any good or service actually purchased or paid for by the candidate for his or her campaign shall be reported at the actual value expended by the candidate for the given good or service. Candidates must provide receipts to prove the actual value of each good or service purchased or paid for.
- (c) **Fair Market Value** Any good or service volunteered for or donated to a candidate for his or her campaign shall be reported at the fair market value of the good or service. Fair market value shall be calculated as the lowest price available to all candidates for the exact good or service volunteered or donated. If the exact good or service is not available to all candidates, the lowest price of the most substantially similar good or service available to all candidates shall be used. Candidates must provide some proof of the fair market value of each good or service volunteered or donated.
- (d) **Exemptions** The following items shall 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 his or her authorized agents, and so long as they are not used in such a manner that they, alone or combined, constitute campaign material:
 - 1. Tape;
 - 2. Writing utensils;

3. Paper; and
4. Notebooks.

(e) **Deadline** All candidates must submit a financial expenditure report by 5:00PM on the day following any given election.

The Investigators

- Your investigators:
 - James Bonneau, Chief Investigator
 - Hardy Farrow, Assistant Investigator
 - James Ferguson, Assistant Investigator
 - Jordan Hill, Assistant Investigator

740 – Enforcement These campaign rules and regulations shall be enforced proactively and preemptively by the Chief Investigator and the Assistant Investigators. Any investigator may inform a candidate as to whether that investigator, at that time, will or will not personally file a complaint form against the candidate for a given action or situation. Any investigator may also notify a candidate of any relevant rules in this Charter which may pertain to the given action or situation. However, no investigator shall have the right to advise a candidate as to whether a given action or situation does or does not constitute a violation of these campaign rules and regulations. The same shall apply for members of the Committee.

719 – Investigation The Chief Investigator shall be required to investigate any allegations made in any officially filed complaint. In the course of such an investigation, both the Committee and the Chief Investigator shall have the power to:

- (a) administer oaths or affirmations in any proceeding where such is required;
- (b) conduct a financial audit or investigation of any candidate at any time;
- (c) require by order that any candidate, or authorized agent thereof, answer, under oath, any questions regarding any matter as may be asked;
- (d) require by order that any candidate, or authorized agent thereof, give, under oath, testimony regarding any matter in the form of a deposition or sworn statement; and
- (e) require by order that any candidate, or authorized agent thereof, furnish any records, reports, forms, documents or other evidence as may be requested.

Violation Procedures

- All violation procedures can be found in Chapter 5 of the JEC Charter. If probable cause is found on a complaint filed against a candidate, the candidate will be notified immediately.