

GPSS ELECTION COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Prepared by the 2024-2025 GPSS Elections Committee for the 2025-2026 GPSS Officer Elections

The University of Washington (UW) Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) conducts its elections following fair voting practices in accordance with the GPSS By-Laws. Our elections are intended to be held to the highest integrity at all parts of the election process via the oversight of the Elections Committee and Judicial Committee with guidance from the University of Washington Student Activities Office. In our democratic process, we strive to hold the utmost integrity to those we represent, serve, and the public.

Should we face the circumstance that it appears that some part of our Election process or the conduct of our candidates call into question the fairness, integrity, or transparency of our elections, we encourage anyone to submit a complaint for our Elections Committee and Judicial Committee to investigate. Please see the procedure outlined below:

FILING A COMPLAINT

There are four types of complaints you can file:

- Concerning impartiality of the Independent Witnesses
- Concerning conduct before the Elections
- Concerning conduct during or the results of the Elections
- Concerning the conduct of the Elections Committee

If you feel unsure about the nature of the complaint, please reach out to the Elections Committee at gpsselect@uw.edu.

Complaint: Independent Witnesses

Should the circumstance occur that the impartiality of the Independent Witnesses be called into question, a complaint may be submitted.

Action:

You may submit your complaint to the Judicial Committee any time up to 48 hours before the Election.

What happens next?

The Judicial Committee will investigate the complaint in accordance with GPSS By-Laws Article VI Section B Clause 2. Please see the GPSS By-Laws for the details of this investigation. The investigation involves up to three parts: the preliminary investigation, the investigation, and action by the Senate. Investigations of this nature may take some time to resolve.

Complaint: Pre-Election

Should the circumstance occur that a candidate violates the GPSS Elections procedures, either outlined in the GPSS Elections Guide or By-Laws, you may submit a complaint to the Elections Committee.

Action:

You may submit your complaint any time during the Elections period. Complaints submitted once the Elections have taken place will be considered challenges (see next section).

What happens next?

The Chair of the Elections Committee will notify you of the receipt of the challenge and notify the GPSS Senate within 48 hours. The Elections Committee will convene and respond to the challenge within one week with a written decision to all involved parties and to the GPSS Senate. Within 48 hours of the release of the written response, further challenges can be made to the Judicial Committee (gpssjudi@uw.edu or gpssvei@uw.edu). The Judicial Committee will investigate the complaint in accordance with GPSS By-Laws Article VI Section B Clause 2. Please note that investigations by the Judicial Committee may take some time to resolve.

Complaint: Challenge the Elections

Should the circumstance occur that the procedure of the Elections or the results of the Elections are called into question, a challenge to the elections may be submitted.

Action:

Within 72 hours of the election, you may send an email to the chair of the Elections Committee (gpsselect@uw.edu) detailing your challenge.

What happens next?

The Chair of the Elections Committee will notify you of the receipt of the challenge and notify the GPSS Senate within 48 hours. The Elections Committee will convene and respond to the challenge within one week with a written decision to all involved parties and to the GPSS Senate. Within 48 hours of the release of the written response, further challenges can be made to the Judicial Committee (gpssjudi@uw.edu or gpssvei@uw.edu). The Judicial Committee will investigate the complaint in accordance with GPSS By-Laws Article VI Section B Clause 2. Please note that investigations by the Judicial Committee may take some time to resolve.

Complaint: Elections Committee

Should the circumstance arise that the Election Committee has failed to uphold its duties, a complaint can be filed to the Judicial Committee. The Election Committee is governed by the GPSS By-Laws Article 6 Section D. The purpose of the Elections Committee is to ensure that the GPSS Elections are fair and transparent. The committee has the following duties:

- Ensure fair, transparent, and inclusive GPSS elections.
- Carry out elections in accordance with the GPSS Constitution and By-Laws.
- Be trained by the Student Activities Office in regards to election matters.

Action:

At any point you believe the Election Committee has failed its duties, you may file a complaint to the GPSS President, GPSS Vice President of Equity and Inclusion, and/or the Judicial Committee (gpssjudi@uw.edu or gpssvei@uw.edu) at any time. Complaints of this nature are of the duties of the Election Committee and not of the Election Process.

What happens next?

The Judicial Committee will investigate the complaint in accordance with GPSS By-Laws Article VI Section B Clause 2. Please see the GPSS By-Laws for the details of this investigation. The investigation involves up to three parts: the preliminary investigation, the investigation, and action by the Senate. Investigations of this nature may take some time to resolve.

Thank you for partaking in our democratic process! For any questions involving the GPSS Elections, please reach out to the Elections Committee (gpsselect@uw.edu).