

GPSS ELECTION EXECUTIVE SESSION GUIDE

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

What is an executive session?

An executive session is a portion of a meeting of a governing body that is closed to the public and not recorded in meeting minutes. In the case of the executive session to be held during the election meeting, all candidates and members of the public will be asked to excuse themselves from the meeting for the duration of the executive session. Only senators, staff, and ex-officio members will be allowed to remain in the meeting, both in person and on Zoom.

Why will the senate enter executive session during the election meeting?

The hope of the Elections Committee is that entering an executive session will encourage free and open discussion of candidates and their platforms among voting members.

What will be the procedure for the election executive session?

Following candidates' speeches and Q&A sessions, candidates and members of the public will be asked to leave the meeting at this time until the executive session concludes. Remaining attendees will have the opportunity to take part in a moderated discussion of candidates and their platforms. This discussion will be confidential — attendees are prohibited from speaking about executive session business with candidates or outside parties. The amount of time allotted for the executive session — to be determined by the Elections Committee and announced before the start of the election meeting — can be extended as needed but may not be reduced. Upon the conclusion of the executive session, candidates and members of the public will be allowed to reenter the meeting, and voting will follow.

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).