

*The*  
**Election Rules**

*of the*

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

Containing the Rules for Homecoming and the SGA Elections

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# Mr. and Ms. Tennessee Tech Election Rules

## Rule 1: Candidate Requirements

### **Rule 1a: GPA**

Candidates must have at least a 2.75 cumulative grade point average (GPA) at the time of the election.

### **Rule 1b: Classification**

Candidates must have earned at least 60 credits (i.e., have achieved junior status) at the time of the election.

### **Rule 1c: Enrollment**

Candidates must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours (i.e., are a full-time student) at the time of the election.

### **Rule 1d: Affiliation**

Candidates must be sponsored by a registered student organization (RSO) as defined by University Policy 315 or an athletic team as defined by the Director of Athletics.

RSOs and athletic teams may only sponsor one candidate for either Mr. or Ms. Tennessee Tech.

Candidates shall not be currently sitting members of the SGA Executive Council or the Commission for Elections.

### **Rule 1e: Eligibility**

Candidates must sign a FERPA release allowing the SGA Advisor the ability to verify their eligibility under these rules.

## Rule 2: Candidate Obligations

### **Rule 2a: Registration**

Individuals are required to submit an application for candidacy by 11:59 PM on Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The application shall include the submission of a headshot to be used in promotional materials for the election.

### **Rule 2b: General Attendance**

Candidates are required to attend all meetings defined in these rules or as specified by the Commission for Elections.

### **Rule 2c: Attendance of Information Session**

Candidates shall attend an information session in Room 246 of the Roaden University Center at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Candidates who are unable to attend the session described in this Rule shall notify the Commission for Elections at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the session at [sgasecretary@tntech.edu](mailto:sgasecretary@tntech.edu) with a valid excuse. Candidates shall either name a representative to attend the session in their place or indicate that they will come to the make-up information session.

The make-up information session shall occur in Room 371 of the Roaden University Center at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Candidates are not permitted to send a representative in their place for the session described in this Rule.

### **Rule 2d: Communicating Rules**

The candidate is responsible for communicating these Rules to their nominating organization, their campaign representative(s), and any organization or individual from which they receive an endorsement.

### **Rule 2e: Social Media**

Candidates shall set any social media account used for campaigning to “public” for the duration of campaign season.

## **Rule 3: Campaigning**

### **Rule 3a: Definition of Campaigning**

Campaigning refers to the act of distributing campaign material, advertising in newspapers, on signage, on the radio, and/or online (including social media), attending a meeting for the purpose of promoting one’s candidacy, and/or setting up tables/booths to promote the candidate.

### **Rule 3b: Campaign Representatives**

A campaign representative (or “representative”) is any individual or group (such as their sponsor) who assists the candidate in planning, organizing, and executing their campaign efforts to be elected as Mr. or Ms. Tennessee Tech. This includes, but is not limited to, promoting the candidate, coordinating events, and engaging with the student body to garner support for the candidate.

### **Rule 3c: Campaign Season**

Campaign season shall begin at 8:00 AM on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and shall end at 4:30 PM on Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### **Rule 3d: Prohibited Conduct**

Candidates or campaign representatives shall not:

- Send mass communications to or from university accounts
- Place campaign material on another individual's property without their consent
- Participate in door-to-door campaigning or knocking
- Make vulgar or disparaging remarks directed towards another candidate
- Table in the Cafeteria, Swoops, Which-Wich, Starbucks, Au Bon Pain, or any additional Dining Services location
- Campaign in the SGA office or at non-homecoming related SGA functions

Additionally, candidates or campaign representatives shall be immediately disqualified and referred to the Dean of Students for the following:

- Collecting T-numbers, PIN Numbers, or login information of other students
- Attempting to vote using the information of other students
- Tampering or interfering with an election or a student's right to vote, including, but not limited to, requiring someone to provide evidence of voting in an election
- Bribing, coercing, or threatening students into voting on or off campus
  - Bribes include, but are not limited to, the promise or exchange of goods, favors, and/or drawing entries for raffles for promised votes.

### **Rule 3f: Endorsements**

Only students or groups comprised exclusively of students may, with prior approval of the candidate, publicly endorse a candidate.

Endorsement from groups, organizations, or individuals outside the student body is strictly prohibited.

## **Rule 4: Campaign Materials**

### **Rule 4a: Definition of Materials**

Campaign material(s) refers to any promotional items or content created to support and advertise a candidate's campaign to the student body. This

includes, but is not limited to, posters, flyers, social media posts, banners, buttons, videos, and any other media used to convey the candidate's message and encourage votes.

#### **Rule 4b: Placing Campaign Material in Non-residential Campus Buildings**

All campaign material must be approved by the [building coordinator\(s\)](#) (see Appendix 1) of a particular non-residential campus building via e-mail before being placed in that building.

All digital campaign material to be placed on digital signage in non-residential buildings must be submitted to [sga@tnitech.edu](mailto:sga@tnitech.edu). Image dimensions shall be 1920 x 900 pixels (or a multiple thereof) for horizontal screens and 1080 x 1740 pixels (or a multiple thereof) for vertical screens.

#### **Rule 4c: Placing Campaign Material in Residential Campus Buildings**

All campaign material must be approved by the Office of University Housing & Residential Life via e-mail at [reslife@tnitech.edu](mailto:reslife@tnitech.edu) before being placed in any residential building or buildings.

General guidelines for the posting of campaign material in residential buildings are maintained by the Office of University Housing & Residential Life. Candidates may contact the Office at [reslife@tnitech.edu](mailto:reslife@tnitech.edu) or at (931) 372-3414.

#### **Rule 4d: Placement of Campaign Material by the Student Government Association**

The Student Government Association shall place posters of each candidate in the windows of the campus bookstore facing the hallway leading to Swoops.

This rule shall apply notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 4e.

#### **Rule 4e: Prohibited Placements**

No campaign material may be placed on any painted surface, door, or window.

No campaign material may be placed in classrooms or on electronic platforms that have been set up as an extension of the classroom.



Chalk shall not be used on any brick surface, covered area, or vertical surface.

**Rule 4f: Removal of Campaign Material**

All campaign material shall be removed within twenty-four (24) hours following the end of campaign season.

**Rule 5: Campaign Finances**

**Rule 5a: Campaign Expenditures**

A candidate's total expenditures shall include all goods and services purchased by or donated (including monetary or in-kind contributions) to a candidate or campaign that are used during campaign season.

If an item or service is not actually used as part of the public facing campaign, then it does not count towards the candidate's spending limit. Non-publicly facing items or services are those used by the candidate or their campaign for internal organization or review, which are not shown to the voting public.

**Rule 5b: In-kind Contributions**

An in-kind contribution shall be regarded as anything contributed to a candidate other than money, excluding campaign volunteers.

In-kind contributions for the use of campaign fundraising or printing of campaign paraphernalia must be reported and will count toward the maximum expenditure a candidate may spend.

Receipts for these contributions must be submitted with expenditure reports.

**Rule 5c: Fair Market Value**

The fair market value of a donated item or in-kind contribution shall be the value recorded on the final expenditure report.

Fair market value is determined by the candidate securing two price estimates of the exact item to be used on the campaign, the average of which is to be included on the expenditure report. Both estimates must contain the name, address, and phone number of the entities furnishing the estimates.

Barring a reasonable doubt, the Commission will recognize the retail value paid for a good or service at its fair market value. The Commission reserves

the right to reassign value to a good or service in response to a complaint that the good or service is not reported at its fair market value.

#### **Rule 5d: Spending Limit**

Candidates and their campaign representatives shall spend no more than five-hundred dollars (\$500) collectively per campaign.

No pairs or groups of candidates may combine budgets or campaign materials.

#### **Rule 5e: Itemized Budget**

Candidates shall provide an itemized budget (including receipts or invoices of each item) including donations to the Commission for Elections at [sgasecretary@ntech.edu](mailto:sgasecretary@ntech.edu) no later than twenty-four (24) hours following the end of campaign season.

Candidates shall ensure that all financial documentation submitted to the Commission has been properly redacted and personal account information removed.

#### **Rule 5f: Public Record**

All financial information submitted by candidates is public record, and the Commission for Elections shall take caution that all reasonable confidentiality is protected regarding credit card and account numbers.

#### **Rule 5g: Usage of Campus-wide Funding**

Candidates and their campaign representatives shall not apply or receive money from any campus-wide fund (ex. the S.O.L.O. Fund, Chapter 606, etc.) for the purpose of promoting a candidate, a group of candidates, or the election itself. Violation of the Rule shall result in disqualification and potential probation from receiving S.O.L.O. funds in the future for a period defined by the Commission for Elections.

### **Rule 6: Campaign Violations**

#### **Rule 6a: Enforcement**

The Commission for Elections shall interpret and enforce all rules contained within fairly and impartially.

#### **Rule 6b: Reporting Violations**

Any student shall have the right to file a complaint concerning potential violations of these Rules. Complaints must be sent via email to [sgasecretary@tnitech.edu](mailto:sgasecretary@tnitech.edu). Oral complaints or anonymous complaints will not be accepted.

Complaints must contain the following:

- Name of the candidate and/or individual(s) who committed the alleged violation
- Brief description of the alleged violation, including date and time of the incident
- Any applicable evidence
- Printed name of the person filing the complaint
- Signature of the person filing the complaint

Complaints must be filed within 24 hours of the violation or within 24 hours of when the violation is known.

The respondent to the complaint will be notified within twelve (12) hours upon receipt of said complaint by the Chair of the Commission for Elections. The respondent will then have twelve (12) hours to submit a response.

The Commission shall review all complaints within twelve (12) hours of receiving all materials including the response from the respondent.

### **Rule 6c: Adjudicating Violations**

Upon written concurrence by a majority of Commission members that a complainant merits a hearing, then a hearing shall be scheduled within two (2) business days. In the hearing, the person or persons filing the complaint shall carry the burden of proof.

If the Commission decides to hear a complaint, a member of the commission will inform all involved individuals of both the charges they face and a summary of the evidence. The respondent is found responsible only if a majority vote of the Commission finds them responsible upon a preponderance of the evidence.

If the Commission finds the accused party responsible of committing an election violation, the commission has the discretion to impose a penalty.

The Commission for Elections maintains the right to publicly disclose the findings of any hearings on the SGA website.

## **Rule 6d: Penalties for Violations**

Except as defined in these rules, the Commission for Elections shall have full authority to determine the penalty for violating election rules.

Possible penalties for violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Restriction of Campaigning – A candidate may be restricted from campaigning online and/or in-person in certain locations or for specified time periods.
- Assignment of Community Service Hours – A candidate or a representative of their campaign may be assigned no more than five (5) community service hours, in proportion to the severity of the violation. The Student Engagement office shall be responsible for overseeing the completion of any imposed community service hours.
- Imposition of Probation – While on probation, if a candidate or a representative of their campaign is found violating these Rules again before the end of campaign season, the candidate is disqualified.
- Subtraction of Votes – If a candidate or a representative of their campaign has been found to have given themselves an illegal or unfair advantage in the election, the Commission may choose to remedy that advantage by the subtraction of votes proportional to the severity of the violation.
- Disqualification – If a candidate or a representative of their campaign has been found to have committed an egregious violation of these rules, they may be disqualified without recourse for appeal.

## **Rule 7: Election Day Regulations**

### **Rule 7a: Election Day**

Election Day shall be Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### **Rule 7b: Voting Timeframe**

The period of voting shall begin on Election Day at 8:00 AM and shall end at 4:30 PM.

### **Rule 7c: Voting Method**

Voting shall be done online via ranked-choice survey.

The SGA shall instruct the student body on how to vote via e-mail and social media.

### **Rule 7d: Certification of Results**

The Commission for Elections shall examine the election results immediately following the end of the period of voting. When the Commission is satisfied that no technological malfunction has occurred and that every vote was counted accurately, it shall certify the results.

### **Rule 7e: Announcement of Results**

The Commission for Elections shall announce the members of the homecoming court immediately following certification outside the SGA office.

Mr. and Ms. Tennessee Tech shall be announced at the Homecoming football game during halftime. Other awards and recognitions, as defined in Rule 8, shall be announced immediately following.

## **Rule 8: Awards and Recognitions**

### **Rule 8a: Eligibility**

Candidates not chosen for Mr. and Ms. Tennessee Tech shall be exclusively eligible for the awards and recognitions defined in Rule 8.

### **Rule 8b: Mr. and Ms. Service**

Candidates are encouraged to give back to their community. They are given this opportunity through participation in the Tennessee Tech Food Pantry food drive.

Candidates shall compete for Mr. and Ms. Service as a part of a team. Their team shall be the members of the RSO or athletic team that is sponsoring their candidacy. Teams may not partner or otherwise jointly compete for Mr. and Ms. Spirit.

The candidates and their teams will receive a list of items eligible for the food drive during the information session and makeup session described in Rule 2c.

Each candidate shall be responsible for talking about the food drive to their peers, registered student organizations, and other affiliated groups.

Candidates will have the duration of campaign season to collect and turn in their goods to the Tennessee Tech Food Pantry for counting.

The candidates that collect the most amount of goods will be named Mr. and Ms. Service during the halftime show, subject to Rule 8a.

**Rule 8c: Mr. and Ms. Spirit**

Candidates are encouraged to be active participants in campus life. They are given this opportunity through participating in homecoming week events.

Candidates shall compete for Mr. and Ms. Spirit as a part of a team. Their team shall be the members of the RSO or athletic team that is sponsoring their candidacy. Teams may not partner or otherwise jointly compete for Mr. and Ms. Spirit.

The homecoming events that contribute to the awarding of Mr. and Ms. Spirit and the points for each said event shall be as follows:

<b>Event</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>	<b>Participation</b>
<b>Banner Contest</b>	75 pts	60 pts	45 pts	20 pts
<b>Lip Sync</b>	80 pts	65 pts	50 pts	20 pts
<b>Carnival Games</b>	75 pts	60 pts	45 pts	20 pts
<b>Homecoming Hangout</b>	-	-	-	35 pts
<b>Parade</b>	130 pts	115 pts	100 pts	75 pts

If a tie occurs in an individual contest, the winning teams (for both Mr. and Ms.) shall be determined by coin toss. If a tie occurs in overall points, the candidates sponsored by the highest-scoring parade teams shall be designated Mr. and Ms. Spirit, subject to Rule 8a.

Appendix 1  
**Building Coordinators  
as of September 21, 2024**

<b>BUILDING</b>	<b>BUILDING COORD.</b>	<b>OFFICE # (372)</b>	<b>E-MAIL</b>
Academic Wellness	Mike Phillips	3469	mbphillips@tnitech.edu
Hyder Burks Ag. Pavilion	Rusty Chilcutt	6767	rchilcutt@tnitech.edu
Appalachian Craft Center	Matt Bennett	6887	mgbennett@tnitech.edu
Athletic Performance Center	Matt Hewett	6234	mhewett@tnitech.edu
Bartoo Hall	Jeremy Wendt	3181	jwendt@tnitech.edu
Baseball Field House	Matthew Dexter	3945	mmdexer@tnitech.edu
Bell Hall- Health Services	Leigh Ann Ray	3320	lray@tnitech.edu
Bell Hall- Nursing	Jason Hurley	6802	jhurley@tnitech.edu
Brown Hall	Chris Mills	3190	cmills@tnitech.edu
Bruner Hall	Paula Engelhardt	3629	engelhar@tnitech.edu
Bryan Fine Arts	Colin Hill	6406	cjhill@tnitech.edu
Burnett Recreation Center	Les Fralix	6211	lfralix@tnitech.edu
Clement Hall	Joseph Slater (Interim)	3172	jslater@tnitech.edu
Derryberry Hall	Greg Holt	6062	gholt@tnitech.edu
Facilities Complex	Shana Rich	3226	slrich@tnitech.edu
Foundation Hall	Rene Watson	3706	swatson@tnitech.edu
Foundry	Chris Mills	3190	cmills@tnitech.edu
Henderson Hall	Linda Fisk	3343	lfisk@tnitech.edu
Hooper Eblen Center	Matthew Dexter	3945	mmdexer@tnitech.edu
Jere Whitson	Jerri Winningham	6174	jwinningham@tnitech.edu
Johnson Hall	Susan Watson	3706	swatson@tnitech.edu
Kittrell Hall	Joseph Asante	3576	jasante@tnitech.edu
Laboratory Science Commons	Jeffery Boles	3421	jboles@tnitech.edu
LSC (only if Jeff is unavailable)	Tammie Hanchey	6168	thanchey@tnitech.edu
Lewis Hall	Chris Mills	3190	cmills@tnitech.edu
Library	Rob Wright	6113	rewright@tnitech.edu



Matthews/Daniel	Michael Hoane	3562	mhoane@tnitech.edu
Memorial Gym	Christy Killman	3539	ckillman@tnitech.edu
Oakley Hall	Lisa Rice	3149	lrice@tnitech.edu
Pennebaker Hall	Steve Hayslette	3146	shayslette@tnitech.edu
Prescott Hall	Robert Craven	3487	rcraven@tnitech.edu
Ray Morris Hall (STEM)	James Isbell	3786	jmisbell@tnitech.edu
Roaden University Center	Susan Henry	3123	shenry@tnitech.edu
ROTC	Karen Loftis	3283	kloftis@tnitech.edu
Southwest Hall	Dylcia Cowan	3366	dcowan@tnitech.edu
Southwest Hall (CDL)	Angie Smith	6262	angiesmith@tnitech.edu
Stonecipher Lecture Hall	Jeff Boles	3421	jboles@tnitech.edu
SLH (If Jeff is unavailable)	Tammie Hanchey	6168	thanchey@tnitech.edu
T. J. Farr Building	Lisa Zagumny	6558	lzagumny@tnitech.edu
Tech Village	Josh Edmonds	3518	jedmonds@tnitech.edu
Tennis Center	Matthew Dexter	3945	mmdexter@tnitech.edu
Tucker Stadiums-East & West	Matthew Dexter	3945	mmdexter@tnitech.edu
University Services	Justin Childers	3800	jchilders@tnitech.edu
Varsity Alumni Building	Elizabeth Williams	6101	ewilliams@tnitech.edu