**Trine University**

**Student Government Election Process**

Amended by 2021-2022 Vice President Abbey Wang

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Approved by 2014 Oversight Committee

Approved by 2014 Executive Board

Approved by 2014 Senate

**Introduction**

The Student Government election process is designed to give all Trine University students a fair and equal opportunity to run for a position within Student Government. Student Government is a governing body for the students, by the students. It shall be the desire of all who run for a position in Student Government to serve the students. Being a member of Student Government is an obligation to take seriously. It is the responsibility of those running for any Student Government position to understand and be able to fulfill the obligations of the position if they are voted in. All those who cannot give a position the utmost attention and effort in completing, will be doing a disservice both to their school and fellow student body.

All those who are in Student Government that show bias and abuse of power towards any student organization or individual on this campus will be removed from office pending an investigation by the Oversight Committee.

1. **End of Position Terms**

All senators, executive board members, and committee members, will have terms that last, and are limited to, exactly two semesters (Fall through Spring). This will hold true unless a member is impeached or voluntarily resigns. Such impeachments or resignations will be overseen by the Oversight Committee. Appointments of any vacant position(s) in Student Government will be made by the executive board. Each person being appointed to a position must be approved through a senate vote. Appointments of any vacant position(s) in will finish out the term in which they were appointed.

1. **Candidate Applications Open (March 18th - April 1st)**

All those interesting in applying for a Student Government position must fill out an application that will outline their qualifications. The application can be found on MyPortal under the Student Government tab.

**\*Applications will open on Monday, March 18th at 1 p.m.\***

Those who are nominating someone else will need to submit the application with their name, the name of the person being nominated, and the position that person is being nominated for. The nominee will then be contacted by Student Government to see if they accept their nomination. If they accept, they will be given a blank copy of the application to fill out and submit. It is the responsibility of the nominee to be prompt in submitting their application before the deadline.

**\*Applications close on Monday, April 1st at 5 p.m.\***

Position qualifications are as follows:

1. **President** – Must have held and completed a term of Presidency in another organization or have held a Student Government executive board or senator position for two semesters; need to have and maintain a GPA of 2.75 or greater and have no more than 25 judicial points.
2. **Vice President** – Will run slated with the President. Therefore, it becomes the responsibility of the nominated President to choose who his/her Vice President will be; need to have and maintain a GPA of 2.5 or greater and have no more than 25 judicial points.
3. **Secretary** – Must have held and completed at least one executive board position in a student organization or have held a senator position for two semesters; need to have and maintain a GPA of 2.5 or greater and have no more than 25 judicial points.
4. **Treasurer** – Must have held and completed a term as Treasurer of a student organization or have been a member of the Finance Committee for two semesters; need to have and maintain a GPA of 2.5 or greater and have no more than 25 judicial points.
5. **Publicity Director** – Open to all Students, but Communication majors or those who have held Secretary positions in other organizations will be held in high regard over other candidates; need to have and maintain a GPA of 2.5 or greater and have no more than 25 judicial points.
6. **Speaker of the House** – Open to all Students; need to have and maintain a GPA of 2.75 or greater and have no more than 25 judicial points.
7. **Senator Positions** – Open to all Students; need to have and maintain a GPA of 2.5 or greater and have no more than 25 judicial points.

**If a student running for a position has over 25 judicial points, a letter of support may be submitted by a member of the Trine University Judicial Committee, qualifying them to run regardless of bad judicial standing.**

1. **Processing Applications (April 3rd – 7th)**

It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to organize all of the applications. Once organized, the individuals who applied will be called candidates. It shall be the job of the Executive Board to select the Top Two candidates for every Executive Board position (purely based on numbers, organizations involved in, and number of positions held). The exception shall be if there are ties for the second open spot. In which case, we would accept however many candidates are tied for the second spot. A tie is defined as the same in nearly every aspect (GPA, number of organizations involved in, number of positions held, any other relevant award/title).

Executive Board **MUST** go off the numbers when selecting the Top Two candidates and **NOT** their own personal opinions. Selection of the Presidential slates will be determined by the qualifications of **BOTH** candidates within the slate.

**\*Top two presidential candidates will be announced on Monday, April 8th at 12 p.m.\***

Senators will not follow the same process as stated above, but rather, every person running for a senator position (divided by classes and schools) will be put on a ballot together. It is here, not Executive Board, where a vote heavily influenced by popularity is important. The more people who know the senators, the better representation Student Government will have, which is the intended job of the senators.

1. **Campaign Process (April 8th – 17th)**

Only the two slated Presidential candidates are allowed to campaign. To help ensure the most qualified candidate wins for every Executive Board position, Student Government will dedicate a page on their official website containing a brief description of the candidates’ qualifications for the position and/or a picture to identify each candidate as well as up to $500 of funding each for their campaigns. The two Presidential candidates will be responsible for giving a public address consisting of the candidate’s agenda if they were to win presidency. Each address shall be no longer than 15 minutes and will be given at a time, date and location decided by the current executive board.

Executive board and senate candidates are encouraged to campaign on their own but will not be provided funding or advertising on the official Student Government website.

If the candidate remains within the realm of school guidelines and ethical behavior, there will be no campaign guidelines. The Oversight Committee holds the right to open an investigation on any candidate if deemed necessary.

**\*The campaign process for both Presidential Slates will begin on Monday April 8th at 12 p.m.\***

**\*Presidential Debate will take place on Wednesday, April 17th at 7 p.m. in Fabiani Theatre\***

The top two presidential candidates will participate in a debate moderated by the current Student Government president. During the debate, the floor shall be open for questions from the students in attendance. The moderator of this event shall be the current Student Government President. If the current Student Government President is running for another term of Presidency, then the moderator will be the current Vice President of Student Government. It shall be his/her job to be the timekeeper during both public addresses, ensure all student questions are appropriate and not redundant, and to officially conclude the event when he/she sees fit.

1. **Election Process (April 17th – 18th)**

Beginning directly after the debate on April 17th, elections will be open to the entire campus for a 24 hour time period. All votes will be through an electronic ballot sent to all Trine University students, faculty, and staff via email. Only currently enrolled students (undergraduate or graduate), who have a Student ID Number, will be able to cast a vote. The electronic ballot will close exactly 24 hours after voting opens. Election winners will be announced via email directly after voting closes. The official swear-in ceremony of new officers/senators will take place at the Student Government General Body Meeting following the announcement of the election winners.

The electronic ballot will consist of two candidates for Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations, Speaker of the House, Assistant Speaker of the House, and President slated with a Vice President. All senator candidates will be divided accordingly into class and school.

The email that contains the link to the electronic ballot will also contain a link to the Student Government webpage that shows a picture and/or qualifications of each candidate. Therefore, all students will be provided with the opportunity to make an informed vote for every candidate.

Votes will be counted by student ID numbers; one vote per student ID number. Therefore, a voter may cast two votes, but so long as both votes have the same student ID number, it will be counted as one vote. The first vote casted by a student, will be the only vote considered. All attempts by that same student to cast a vote for a different candidate will be ignored.

1. **Transition Period (April 19th - April 22nd)**

Election results will be sent out to the student body via email directly after voting closes and results are calculated. It shall be the duty of the new Student Government to properly transition with the old Student Government before the end of the Spring semester. The old Student Government will retain full power for the Spring semester until their term officially concludes following completion of the swear-in ceremony (described in **Article VII. Ceremony**).

**\*The executive board transition meeting will take place on Saturday April 20th \***

The purpose of the transition period is to get all new members acclimated with their position by having them foreshadow their predecessor. This involves attending the necessary meetings required for that position (general, executive, and/or committee). New members shall be governed under the same attendance policy as the old members during the transition period.

1. **Ceremony**

The ceremony will occur at the end of the Student Government General Meeting following the announcement of the election winners. It is an open campus event that marks the end of the old Student Government term, and the beginning of the new Student Government term. The details of the ceremony are up to the discretion of the old Student Government Executive Board. However, it shall be the duty of the new Student Government Executive Board to conclude this General Meeting to signify the transition into their position term.

**\*The swear-in ceremony will take place during the general body meeting on Monday April 22nd at 6:30 p.m.\***

1. **Consequences**

Any violations to the above rules and/or restrictions will result in disqualification from the ballot. Prior to enforcing the removal of a candidate from the ballot, an investigation will be preceded by the Student Government Oversight Committee. Pending a final verdict from the Student Government Oversight Committee, disqualification from the ballot will be enforced with no chance for appeal by the offender.

All questions regarding the rules of election should be directed towards the Student Government Elections Committee at studentgovernment@trine.edu.