

**The Graduate Student Assembly
The University of Texas at Austin**

Resolution: G.B. 19 (S) 2 – Resolution to Remove Deposit Requirement for Executive Alliance Candidacy from the GSA Election Code

Executive Summary: This bill modifies the GSA Election code to remove the current \$20 deposit required by the executive alliance when filing for candidacy. This deposit is needless and only provides a hindrance to the student application process and the administrative management of elections. Any financial requirement tied to a student election is exclusionary and does not allow for the most open field of competition.

FAQs:

1. What is a deposit requirement and what is its purpose?

A. A deposit requirement is a small monetary deposit that a candidate provides to the Election Supervisory Board (ESB) as a show of good faith to follow election code procedure during campus-wide elections. It was intended to assure good behavior of candidates. However, the (ESB) has other mechanisms for ensuring compliance with the election code.

2. Do other Legislative Student Organizations require a candidacy filing deposit?

A. Student Government originally had a filing deposit required but has since removed that requirement from their election code. The Student Senate of College Councils does not participate in campus-wide elections.

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Sponsors: Payton Anderson, Vice President
Samantha Fuchs, President

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WHEREAS (1): The Graduate Student Assembly (GSA) Election Code determines the election procedure for the Executive Alliance, comprised of the President and Vice President; and,

WHEREAS (2): The GSA Election Code currently requires a \$20 good-faith deposit from the Executive Alliance at the time of filing for candidacy, stating:

“3.10 At the time of filing, each candidate shall be required to submit a good faith deposit, made payable to the Graduate Student Assembly. The deposit of twenty dollars (\$20) shall be held by the Election Supervisory Board until the election process is completed. At that time, the deposit will be immediately refunded, unless failure to follow this Code or ruling of the Election Supervisory Board has resulted in forfeiture of all or part of the deposit. In any case, no portion of a candidate's deposit shall be refunded until all the candidate's signs are removed from the campus of the University. Failure to do so within three (3) class days after the election shall result in forfeiture of the deposit.”

(Title III, Section 3.10); and,

WHEREAS (3): This deposit is unnecessary to ensure good faith behavior of executive alliance candidate and is unnecessarily prohibitive to interested candidates; and,

WHEREAS (4): This deposit is a hindrance to the administrative management of elections, as it requires the setup of an electronic payment system; and,

WHEREAS (5): Student Government has already removed the deposit previously required for their candidacy filing; and,

WHEREAS (6): Requiring any monetary commitment, no matter the amount, from students partaking in student elections is exclusionary and does not provide for the most equitable, open competition; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT (1): The Graduate Student Assembly Election Code shall have Title III Section 3.10 removed; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT (2): The following sections of the election code (3.11-3.19) be renumbered following its deletion (3.10-3.18); and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT (3): The Graduate Student Assembly Election Code shall strike “and he or she shall forfeit his or her deposit” from Title VI Section 6.9. The section will state:

“6.9 Should the GSA Election Oversight Board either disqualify, or sustain a disqualification of a candidate from office, the disqualified candidate shall not appeal to any other body.”

(Title VI, Section 6.9); and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT (4): This legislation and updates will be submitted to the Office of the Dean of Students, Vice President of Student Affairs, and the President per Regents Rule 50203.

PASSED by the GSA Assembly on March 13, 2019.

Signature of the GSA President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'S.F.', written over a horizontal line.