THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE MARTIN
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

2026 SGA Election Rules Packet

Please contact the SGA Chief Standards Officer with any questions.
Libby Borowiak - lborowia@ut.utm.edu

Important Dates and Deadlines for the 2026 SGA Elections

- **Monday, March 2nd, 2026 – Preliminary Party Information Due**
  - Deadline for submitting preliminary party information (party name and chairperson). This information must be emailed to Chief Standards Officer.

- **Wednesday, March 4th, 2026 - Constitution Test Must Be Completed**
  - By 5pm on this date, the SGA Constitution test must be completed.
  - **It can be accessed at**
  - https://runway.utm.edu/submitter/form/start/713517

- **Friday, March 6th,2026 - 5:00pm**
  Application, Petition, and Party Information Due
  - Deadline for the completion of the online election application and petition (25 signatures for senator and 50 for Executive Council). The petition form must be printed, completed, and then uploaded as part of the online application process.
  - Each candidate must have successfully passed the constitution test.
  - Party lists, biographies, platforms, and photos for executive candidates are due to the Chief Standards Officer by 5pm to the Chief Standards Officer via email
  - **The online application, constitution test, and petition form can be found at https://liveutk.sharepoint.com/sites/UTMStudentGovernmentAssociation.**

- **Tuesday, March 10th, 2026 - Campaign Period Opens**
  - Candidates may begin distributing campaign materials, hanging posters and flyers, and using social media.

- **Monday, March 30th, 2026**
  - Candidate debate at 6:00pm – UC Room 111.
  - Must email the Chief Standards Officer if you cannot attend.

- **Monday, April 6th, 2026**
  - Campaign finance forms due by 5:00pm to the Chief Standards Officer. No money may be spent on the campaign after this date.

- **Tuesday, April 7th, 2026**
  - Election Day
  - Polls open 10:00am – 6:00pm (CST).
  - Elections will be conducted on Runway.

- **Thursday, April 9th, 2026**
  - Runoff elections (if necessary).

- **Friday, April 10th, 2026**
  - All campaign material must be properly disposed of by 5:00pm

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Section 1: Executive Council Election Qualifications

Article 1:
Executive Council officers shall be full-time students with a minimum of a 2.75 cumulative grade point average at the time of their nomination and shall maintain a 2.75 cumulative grade point average during their tenure of office. One must have completed 30 semester hours before taking office, be an undergraduate student and maintain undergraduate status throughout the duration of their tenure.

Article 2:
Elected Executive Council officers must have served at least 2 full semesters by the time they assume an Executive Office in the Student Government Association in any of the following positions: Associate Standards Officer, Chief Standards Officer, Chief of Staff, Speaker of the Senate, Athletic Liaison, elected Senator, and any Senator or Associate Standards Officer who is appointed to a vacant position resulting from lack of candidacy or resignation within the elected senate.

a. This provision excludes Freshman Council.

Article 3:
Senators-at-Large shall be eligible to run for an Executive Council office assuming they complete all of the following stipulations:

A. Senators-at-Large must meet all of the requirements necessary for a Senator in addition to getting an additional 25 signatures from full time UT Martin students on their petition to run.
B. They must have served the entire Fall semester as well as the Spring semester as a Senator-at-Large or higher position prior to taking office

Article 4:
To qualify for candidacy, nominees need 50 signatures on an Elections Petition Form. Once the deadline for petition forms has passed, the candidate may not change the position that they are running for and still qualify for candidacy; however, if an extenuating circumstance emerges, then a course of action is left to the discretion of the SGA Chief Standards Officer .

Article 5:
Each executive council candidate must submit a written copy of his/her platform (or one party platform if running together). Please submit your platform by email saved as a Microsoft Word (.doc) file to lborowia@ut.utm.edu

NOTE: Please identify your emails with a subject, your name, party affiliation, and a label of what you are turning in.

Please contact the SGA Chief Standards Officer with any questions.
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Section 2: Senate Elections Qualifications

Article 1:

All nominees for the Student Government Association Senate must be enrolled in the University of Tennessee at Martin and in good academic and disciplinary standing at the time of election and appointment, and during the term of office. Per the SGA Constitution Article VI, Section 1, a nominee must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or higher at the time of his or her nomination and shall not allow his or her cumulative grade point average to drop below 2.5 during the tenure of office.

Article 2:
To qualify for candidacy, nominees need 25 signatures on an Elections Petition Form. Once the deadline for petition forms has passed, the candidate may not change the position that they are running for and still qualify for candidacy; however, if an extenuating circumstance emerges, then a course of action is left to the discretion of the SGA Chief Standards Officer.

Section 3: UT Martin Advisory Board Student Member Qualifications

Article 1:
All nominees for The University of Tennessee Advisory Board Student Member position must be enrolled full time at the University of Tennessee at Martin and in good academic and disciplinary standing at the time of the election, of appointment, and during the term of office.
Note: Good academic standing for Student Member position is classified as having a 2.75 cumulative grade point average at time of nomination and should maintain a 2.75 cumulative grade point average during the tenure of the position.

Article 2:
Nominees must be willing and able to serve as the University of Tennessee Advisory Board Student Representative for one full year. The Student Member shall attend all Advisory Board Meetings, SGA Senate meetings and SGA Legislative Council meetings.

Article 3:
Nominees must complete the pledge form stating that they have read The University of Tennessee Martin Advisory Board Bylaws in detail and will pledge to fulfill all duties and requirements of the position if elected. A copy of the Bylaws will be made available in the SGA office and is available online at http://www.utm.edu/advisoryboard/

Article 4:
Nominees must complete the Elections Rules Compliance Form stating that they will comply with all rules and requirements set forth by the Chief Standards Officer and the SGA Constitution.

Article 5:
To qualify for candidacy, nominees need 50 signatures on an Elections Petition Form.

Article 6:
Nominees must comply with the rules of Campaign Finance and complete the proper Campaign Finance Forms. These forms must be turned in to the Chief Standards Officer by the date election packets are due.

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Article 7:

Nominees are allowed to run for any SGA position and the Student Representative position, excluding executive council positions.

Article 8:

The top three vote recipients for The University of Tennessee at Martin Advisory Board Student Representative position in the general election will be submitted to the Chancellor's Office for final selection.

Section 5: Representation and Voting

Article 1:

All students shall be eligible to vote for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary General, Student Trustee, and Judicial Seats. To win one of the Executive Council offices, a candidate must receive over 50% of the vote. If no candidate receives at least 50% of the vote, then a run-off election will be held between the two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes.

Article 2:

Student Senate seats will be elected by the students from each of the colleges, with undeclared students voting for candidates in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. Candidates must be a student of the college they wish to represent. Elections will be decided by the highest percentage of the vote until all seats are filled. If no candidate receives a majority of the vote, then a run-off election will be held between the candidates receiving the greatest number of votes. The available seats for 2025 are as follows:

(5) Seats – College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences
(3) Seats – College of Business and Global Affairs
(8) Seats – College of Health, Education, and Behavioral Sciences
(2) Seats – College of Engineering and Natural Sciences
(9) Seats – College of Humanities and Fine Arts (undeclared/non-departmental majors will run in this college)
(5) Seats-Campus Centers

Article 3:

Student polling may take place from any electronic device.

Article 4:

On election day(s) candidates, political parties, or anyone acting as an agent of a candidate or political party may not solicit votes by use of laptop or any other electronic device. Violation of this rule will result in the candidate's disqualification.

Section 5: Campaign Rules

Article 1:
Nominees must comply with the rules of campaign finance and complete the proper Campaign Finance Forms.

Article 2:
Nominees must complete Pledge Forms (stating that they have read the SGA Constitution and Article IV in detail), the Elections Rules Compliance Form (stating they will comply with all rules and requirements set forth by the 2025 Chief Standards Officer and SGA Constitution), and agree to a grade check. **These are completed via the online application.**

Article 3:
Each candidate for an executive office position (president, vice president, secretary general) must submit a first-person, one-paragraph biography stating his/her history. Bios should be no longer than 250 words. A photograph of the candidate should be included with the bio. Please submit both by email lborowia@ut.utm.edu, with the bio saved as a Microsoft Word (.doc) file and the photograph saved as a JPEG (.jpg) file. The photograph included with the bio will be the candidate's official photo for the duration of the election process. It will be distributed to the Pacer and possibly with other election documents.

Note: Bios will not be edited after submission. It is your responsibility to have your bio suitable for publication.

Article 4:
Campaign Signage

- Candidates/Parties may place up to (6) poster/flyers in designated areas around campus.
- Placement of signage in campus buildings must be approved by the building manager for each building. A list of Campus Building Managers is provided in this election packet.
- **No campaign material is to be placed on the exterior of buildings, trees, light poles, garbage cans, glass marble, or any painted surfaces except for painted concrete blocks. Material can only be placed on bulletin boards inside buildings at the discretion of the Building Manager.**
- If more than one candidate's name is placed on a poster, the poster shall count as one for each candidate. Therefore, the Chief Standards Officer will allow poster/flyer sharing, but any poster/flyer with a candidate's name or image will count as a poster/flyer toward the six-poster limit.
- All poster/flyers are subject to approval by the SGA Elections Commissioner.
- Placement of campaign materials is allowed in the residence halls. Keep all flyer and posters to a maximum of six (6) in any combination per building. You must gain permission from the Hall Directors before hanging any posters or flyers in the Residence Halls.

Note: It is the candidate's responsibility to ask the building managers for any specific guidelines before placing campaign materials in buildings.

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Article 5: Each candidate is responsible for any material that contains their name or image, or their political party's name or logo. Posters and flyers placed by parties other than the individual (i.e. fraternities, sororities, campus organizations, etc.) with a candidate's name, image, etc. are subject to the limitations and restrictions previously stated in this packet.

Article 6:
With regard to spending, Candidates and Political Parties may use personal funds or solicit donations in accordance with the following:

- A Political Party is limited to a maximum budget of $2500.
- An individual candidate (running with no party affiliation) is allowed a maximum budget of $300.

Note: Donors must be disclosed on the campaign finance report. No anonymous donations are permitted.

Article 7:
The use of social media is allowed for campaigning, but slanderous attacks will be investigated and may result in punishment for the candidate. **No electronic campaigning shall begin prior to the formal campaigning period.**

Article 8:
Speaking engagements and verbal campaigning are allowed until 10:00pm in the evening prior to election day.

Article 9:
No election or campaign rule shall supersede any existing university rule, policy, or regulation which places restrictions on general student practice or behavior. Should election and university guidelines conflict, the more restrictive rule shall take precedence.

Article 10:
After filing a declaration of intent, a candidate or a political party shall be responsible for obtaining thorough knowledge of all election regulations. Ignorance of such regulations shall be no excuse for any violation thereof. Consequences of violations, which may include the disqualification of a candidate, shall be left up to the discretion of the Chief Standards Officer. If a candidate who is running on a political party is found to be in violation of the SGA Constitution or this packet and is disqualified, resigns, or leaves for any reason after the deadline in which petitions are due, the party will not be able to replace the candidate.

Article 11:
It is the responsibility of each candidate to know and abide by the campaign rules. Candidates will be held accountable for actions disobeying the rules and regulations herewith set forth, whether the violation of rules was done knowingly or unknowingly. The Chief Standards Officer reserves the right to administer punishment. Any complaint about the election process shall be submitted to the SGA Chief Standards Officer. Note: Please identify yourself, your party affiliation, and your complaint. Any persons who feel they have been unreasonably, inordinately, or disproportionately punished by the Chief Standards Officer may appeal to the Standards Committee.

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Article 12:
No material shall be distributed of a negative nature. Name-calling, slander, or similar offensive activities are prohibited. Any campaigning deemed unethical or negative by the Chief Standards Officerwill be addressed seriously and could result in candidate disqualification.

Section 6: Political Parties

Article 1:
A political party must name a party chairperson and declare this party chairperson to the Chief Standards Officer in written documentation by the deadline.

Article 2:
The party chair must furnish a list of candidates and the offices for which they are by running the deadline. This list shall be alphabetized and shall include the name and phone number of each candidate.

Article 3:
The Chief Standards Officer must approve names used by all political parties. Party names should not be of a negative nature and should reflect well on the university. Party names shall be placed upon the party's written documents.

Section 7: Campus Debate

Article 1:
The debate is mandatory for all candidates. All candidates should come prepared to respond to questions on issues relevant to the student body.

Section 8: Referendums

Article 1:
Any student or recognized university organization may petition any item to be placed on the official ballot during the Student Government Association elections.

Article 2:
In order for an item to be placed on the ballot, 250 students must sign a petition that will be turned in to the Chief Standards Officer candidate filing deadline. Each petition must clearly state the referendum and its sponsor and have numbered lines upon which students write their names and student ID numbers.

Article 3:
Referendums will be reviewed by the Chief Standards Officer. Upon approval, the referendums will be placed on the ballot.

Article 4:
A referendum must be approved by a majority of the students voting in the election for it to pass. Any referendum that passes will be implemented in consultation with and subject to final actions and decisions

by the University of Tennessee at Martin Chancellor, University of Tennessee President, and the University of Tennessee Board of Trustees.

Disclaimer: The SGA Chief Standards Officer has the right to meet and discuss any potential violation of election or campaign rules, and to declare new rules upon the commission of questionable election practices.

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Campus Building Managers

Building or University Grounds	Manager & Alternate	Email address	Office
Ag Teaching & Demonstration Center	Wes Totten	wtotten@utm.edu	7936
Alternate contact:	Wes Totten	wtotten@utm.edu	7936
Alumni Center	Jackie Johnson	jjohn253@utm.edu	3612
Alternate contact:	Kelly Trevathan	ktrevath@utm.edu	7610
Animal Diagnostics Laboratory	Clint Ary	caryl@utm.edu	1071
Alternate contact:	Tara Woods	twoods25@utm.edu	1071
Baseball-Softball Fieldhouse	Brian Dunn	bdunn9@utm.edu	7162
Alternate contact:	Ryan Jenkins	pjenki11@utm.edu	7337
Brehm Hall	Todd Winters	winters@utm.edu	7251
Alternate contact:	Wes Totten	wtotten@utm.edu	7936
Business Administration Building	Elizabeth Lackey	elackey1@utm.edu	7306
Alternate contact:	Dr. Ahmad Tootoonchi	tootoonchi@utm.edu	7306
Child & Family Resource Center	Lori Wilson	lwilson@utm.edu	7113
Alternate contact:	Sandra Taylor	staylo64@utm.edu	7113
Child Care Facility	Briana Jimenez	bjimene1@utm.edu	7715
Alternate contact:	Shauna Moore	smoor130@utm.edu	7715
Chiller Plant	David Rinks	drinks@utm.edu	7640
Alternate contact:	Brandon Lee	blee31Eutm.edu	7640
Clement Hall	Allen Farmer	afarmer9@utm.edu	7754
Alternate contact:	Andrew Larkins	alarkins@utm.edu	3048
Crisp Hall	Steve Lemond	slemond@utm.edu	7895
Alternate contact:	Coty Crider	ccrider2@utm.edu	7008
Elam Center	Trudy Henderson	trudyh@utm.edu	7630
Alternate contact:	Jodie Duncan	jdunca64@utm.edu	3588
Electrical Generation Facility	Dana Hagan	dhagan@utm.edu	3647
Alternate contact:			
EPS Bldg.	Wes Totten	wtotten@utm.edu	7936
Alternate contact:	Tim Nipp	tnipp@utm.edu	7362
Farm Maintenance Bldg. & Swine Center	Wes Totten	wtotten@utm.edu	7936
Alternate contact:	Wes Totten	wtotten@utm.edu	7936
Fine & Performing Arts Building	Sarah Haig	shaig1@utm.edu	3404
Alternate contact:			
Football Bldg.	Bart Belew	bbelew@utm.edu	7689
Alternate contact:	Jason Simpson	jsimps15@utm.edu	7671
Gooch Hall	Selena Pearce	spearce2@utm.edu	7080
Alternate contact:	Alyssa Pettit	apettit4@utm.edu	3089
Hall Moody Administration Building	Laura Foltz	lfoltz@utm.edu	1428
Alternate contact:	Lori Donavant	ldonavant@utm.edu	7815
Heating Plant	Dale Burton	dburton1@utm.edu	7645
Alternate contact:	Dana Hagan	dhagan@utm.edu	3647
Holland McCombs Center	John Glass	jglass3@utm.edu	7436
Alternate contact:			7436
Humanities Building	David Coffey	dcoffey3@utm.edu	7342
Alternate contact:	Sheay McGehee	hmcgehe1@utm.edu	7490
Jackson Center	Anita Cannedy	acannedy@utm.edu	731-425-9277
Alternate contact:	Brooke Wagster	bwagster@utm.edu	731-425-9277
Latimer-Smith Engr & Science	Nancy Buschhaus	nbuschha@utm.edu	7385
Alternate contact:	Tammy Hall	thall19@utm.edu	7380

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Campus Building Managers - Continued

Maintenance Center	Dana Hagan	dhagan@utm.edu	3647
Alternate contact:			
McNairy County/Selmer Center	Alan Youngerman	ayounge3@utm.edu	731-646-1636
Alternate contact:	Kathleen Donnenworth	kdonnenw@utm.edu	731-645-1636
McWherter Ag Complex /Stalling Facility	Wes Totten	wtotten@utm.edu	7936
Alternate contact:	Wes Totten	wtotten@utm.edu	7936
Motor Pool	Mike Bivens	mbivens@utm.edu	7656
Alternate contact:	Jeff Merritt	jmerrit7@utm.edu	7655
NW Child Care Resource Center	Sharon Waterfield	swaterf2@utm.edu	7103
Alternate contact:	Deborah Abel	dabel2@utm.edu	7912
Paul Meek Library	Erik Nordberg	enorber@utm.edu	7070
Alternate contact:	Pat McKnight	pmcknig2@utm.edu	7075
Parsons Center	Kelli Deere	kdeere@utm.edu	731-847-3880
Alternate contact:	Amy Lee	alee56@utm.edu	731-847-3880
Plant Science Research Center	Wes Totten	wtotten@utm.edu	7936
Alternate contact:			
Ray & Wilma Smith Livestock Center	Wes Totten	wtotten@utm.edu	7936
Alternate contact:	Wes Totten	wtotten@utm.edu	7936
Recycle Center	Mike Davis, Jr.	wdavis11@utm.edu	3077
Alternate contact:			
Rhodes Golf Center	Austin Swafford	aswaffo9@utm.edu	3630
Alternate contact:	Jerry Carpenter	jecgolf@utm.edu	7665
Ripley Center	Jessica Cannon	jcanno23@utm.edu	731-221-8778
Alternate contact:	Xavier Andrews	xandrews@utm.edu	731-221-8778
ROTC Building	Bernard House	bhouse5@utm.edu	7154
Alternate contact:	Rochelle Alexander	rotcsupply@utm.edu	7159
Sheep and Goat Barn	Tara Woods	twoods25@utm.edu	1071
Alternate contact:	Wes Totten	wtotten@utm.edu	7936
Skyhawk Fieldhouse	Trudy Henderson	trudyh@utm.edu	7630
Alternate contact:			
Sociology	Justin Martin	jmart140@utm.edu	7519
Alternate contact:			
Somerville Center	Kara Tapp	ktapp1@utm.edu	901-465-7313
Alternate contact:	Kayla Dillon	kdillon7@utm.edu	901-465-7313
Stadium (Football Press Box)	Trudy Henderson	trudyh@utm.edu	7630
Alternate contact:			
Student Health Center	Shannon Deal	sdeal@utm.edu	7750
Alternate contact:			
Student Housing	Ryan Martin	rmartin@utm.edu	7731
Alternate contact:	Allen Farmer	afarmer9@utm.edu	7754
Student Life Center	Bart Belew	bbelew@utm.edu	7689
Alternate contact:	Jason Simpson	jsimps15@utm.edu	7671
Student Recreation Center	Kimberly Olive-Milligan	koliveli@utm.edu	7747
Alternate contact:			
Tennis Center	Kameron Echols	kechols3@utm.edu	1864
Alternate contact:			
University Center	Lindee McCurley	lmccurley@utm.edu	7766
Alternate contact:	Monica Black	mblack15@utm.edu	7836
University Grounds	Dana Hagan	dhagan@utm.edu	3647
Alternate contact:	Petra McPhearson	prencher@utm.edu	7801

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2026 Campaign Finance Report

Please circle or highlight the type of report being submitted:

Party Finance Report Individual Finance Report

Party Name or Individual Name:_____

Campaign Finance Resources

Date	Source/Donor	Amount

Total Campaign Budget:_____

Campaign Expenses

Date	Item Purchased	Amount	Purpose

Total Amount Spent on Campaign: _____

Please hold all receipts and documentation. These must be provided to the Chief Standards Officerupon request.

Printed Name _____ Signature _____

Please contact the SGA Chief Standards Officer with any questions.
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2026 Candidate Petition Form

I, _____ hereby nominate _____
Person making the nomination Nominee

for the office of _____. To the best of my knowledge, the person named above fulfills all requirements for this office. Below are the signatures of twenty-five students who agree to second this nomination.

Printed Name	Signature
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2.	
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