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**2017-2018**

**Elections Packet**

SGA Senator

This completed elections packet, including all supporting documentation outlined must be turned into the Dean of Students Office no later than 3:0 p.m. on Friday, March 31, 2017.

**FOR O FFIC E U S E O N LY**

Date Received

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VAL D O S T A S T AT E UN I V E R S I T Y

Student Government Association

Dear Candidate:

Thank you for your interest in the Student Government Association (SGA) of Valdosta State University (VSU). SGA is the organized voice for each student at VSU. SGA strives to protect the students’ rights and to advocate on behalf of the students’ welfare in the university community. The organization also serves as a liaison between the students, faculty, and the administration on campus.

Enclosed in this packet, you will find the information and documents required to participate in the elections process. Please be sure to read the elections code, provided for you on the Elections website in its entirety to ensure that you are campaigning within the regulations set forth by the elections committee. This will also be discussed thoroughly at the mandatory candidate seminars. You can are also encouraged to review the governing documents of our organization on our website at www.valdosta.edu/sga.

Your involvement with SGA can have a significant impact on the student body. If you have any further questions related to elections, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes! Sincerely,

Erin Shaw Dr. Vincent Miller

SGA Comptroller Vice President of Student Affairs Elections Committee Member Elections Commissioner etshaw@valdosta.edu vicemiller@valdosta.edu

Table of Contents &

 Packet Completion Checklist

Statement of Intent Position Description Elections Calendar Application Questions

Petition of Student Signatures

 Statement of Intent

I, (print full name), hereby agree to participate as an official Student Government Association Senator candidate.

While conducting my campaign, I hereby agree to abide by the Student Government Association Constitution, By-Laws and Statutes, and Elections Code of Ethics, in addition to the rulings of the Student Government Association Judicial Council. I agree to release my academic performance to the Elections committee to verify my eligibility to participate.

If elected, I will serve the Student Government Association and the Valdosta State University’s student body to the best of my ability. In order to complete my duty, I will be fully aware of the current problems facing VSU’s student body. In addition, I will work with the student government and the entire Valdosta State University community to improve and better the campus.

Respectfully submitted,

Candidate Signature Date

Senator

Duties and Responsibilities

Senators compose the Legislative Branch of the Student Government Association. Individuals are elected to represent various constituencies with VSU’s student body. Senators are elected for a one academic school year term.

**Communicating with the Student Body**

Senators are tasked with developing relationship with their constituents, the students, in order to respond to their needs and concerns. Senators are expected to abide by the expectations set forth of the executive branch and advisors in order to fulfill the vision, mission, goals, and objectives of this body.

**Initiating Action to Improve Student Experience**

In listening to the needs and concerns of the student body, senators should be actively working together to develop ideas and plans to improve Valdosta State. There are opportunities available to work with a number of SGA and Faculty Senate committees including Elections & Rules, Student Affairs, Judiciary, Health Services, Parking & Transportation, Public Relations, and Finance. From this work, senators can bring forth legislation to the Senate body to formally establish SGA support on an issue.

**Active Engagement in the Legislative Process**

Senators are expected to be active participants during Senate and committee meetings. As a number of issues are brought before the body, Senators should be well-informed about the topic and be able to discuss and inquire where needed. It is imperative that Senators be knowledgeable of the governing documents of SGA—Constitution, By-laws and Statues, and the Student Handbook. It is important that members of Senate participate in a civil and respectful way towards students, colleagues, and guests.

**Participating in SGA Initiatives, Programs, and Activities**

Senators are expected to work with members of other committees and branches within SGA to contribute to positive changes on campus. Senators will act as role models to the campus community by abiding by the Student Code of Conduct and advocate

effectively to their constituency the initiatives of SGA. Senators are required to attend all Senate meetings, which are held every Monday evening. Additionally, senators are expected to attend mandatory events and chamber meetings set forth by the

executive branch during their term.

**2017 Elections Time**l**ine**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Elections DocumentsReview/Approval | Sunday, March 198:00 p.m. |
| Elections Paperwork Released | Monday, March 208:00 a.m. |
| \*Completed Executive Elections Packets Due to Dean of Students OfficeExecutive Board CandidateSeminar\* | Friday, March 313:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 56:30 p.m. |
| \*Completed Senator Elections Packets Due to Dean of Students OfficeSenator Candidate Seminar\* | Friday, March 313:00 p.m. Thursday, April 66:30 p.m. |
| Campaigning Begins | Friday, April 712:00 midnight |
| Active Campaigning | Friday, April 7 – Friday, April 21 |
| Campaign Materials RemovalDeadline |  Saturday, April 22 7:00 a.m. |
| Voting Beginsvia VSU Website Homepage |  Thursday, April 2012:01 a.m. |
| Voting Ends |  Friday, April 2111:59 p.m. |
| Elections Violations/ Complaints Deadline |  Saturday, April 2211:59 p.m. |
| Executive Branch Debate\* |  Wednesday, April 197:00p.m. |
| Senator Candidate Forum | Tuesday, April 186:30 p.m. |
| Results AnnouncedVia VSU Student Activities SpecialAnnouncement Bulletin | Monday, April 244:00 p.m. |
| Run-off Campaign & Voting | Tuesday, April 25-26(if necessary) |
| First Required Senate MeetingSwearing In Ceremony |  Monday, April 25 7:00 p.m.(May 1 in event of run off) |

**\*MANDATORY attendance for all candidates**

Petition for Nomination of

Elected Position

Legal Name (PRINT):

Local Mailing Address:

VSUE-mail Address:

VSU Student ID Number:

Phone Number:

# of Completed Hours:

Classification:

Cumulative GPA:

Academic Major:

Anticipated Graduation (Semester/Year):

SGA Experience:

Date of Birth:

Polo Size:

Position Desired: Senator

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE BELOW.

CERTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION OF NOMINATION BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Academic Standing:

 Verified Cumulative GPA

 Statement of Intent

 Nomination Petition Completed

 Application Questions

Elections Committee Approval Signature:

Application Questions *Please provide a short answer to each of the following questions. Responses may be typed or handwritten in print.*

1. Why do you want to become an elected official of the Student Government

Association?

2. How are you qualified to serve as a member of SGA?

3. What specific and unique qualities will you bring to SGA and how will you utilize these qualities to serve the VSU community?

4. Identify a personal issue facing the students in your specific classification or major. If you were a part of SGA how would you deal with this issue?

5. Describe a time when you had to take a role as a leader. What were the circumstances? What was the outcome?

6. What organizations are you a member of on VSU campus? Please include any executive, leadership, or committee positions as well.

7. What SGA chamber would you be an asset to and why? What would be your second chamber interest if you first preference is not assigned?

*SGA chambers: Finance, Campus Affairs, Academic Affairs, Civic Service/ Public Relations*

PETITION FOR NOMINATION

The following list includes the petition of one hundred (100) student signatures who

support the nomination of:

print name

for the

position of SGA Senator.

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Student Government Association – Spring 2017 Elections Packet – Page 11

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Student Government Association – Spring 2017 Elections Packet – Page 12

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Student Government Association – Spring 2017 Elections Packet – Page 13