

# **Memorandum of Understanding On Student Body Referendum Process**

Ballot referenda for any legal purpose may be proposed by a two thirds simple majority vote in each of the Graduate Student Council Senate and the Student Government Association Senate, or by a verifiable petition<sup>1</sup> of 5% of the members of the Student Body.

A referendum will pass if it meets

- **A simple majority (more than 50%) of undergraduate and graduate votes combined.**
- **All proposed referenda must be submitted at least 4 weeks from the start of the semester and at least 4 weeks prior to the end of the semester.**
  
- The SGA/GSC Conference Committee will serve as a failsafe auxiliary committee who only convenes in the event the GSC and SGA leadership cannot come to terms with the writing, wording, or intent of any given referendum.
- Any SGA or GSC Constitutional changes may go straight to a referendum vote from their respective bodies.
- Fees that would be assessed to only one of the student bodies (undergrad or grad) may go straight to a referendum vote from their respective bodies.
- Issues only affecting one of the student bodies may go straight to a referendum vote from their respective bodies.
- If the Student Government Association or Graduate Student Council decides the issue affects the entire student body, the issue goes through the process outlined below.
- All other referenda must go through the process outlined in the chart below.

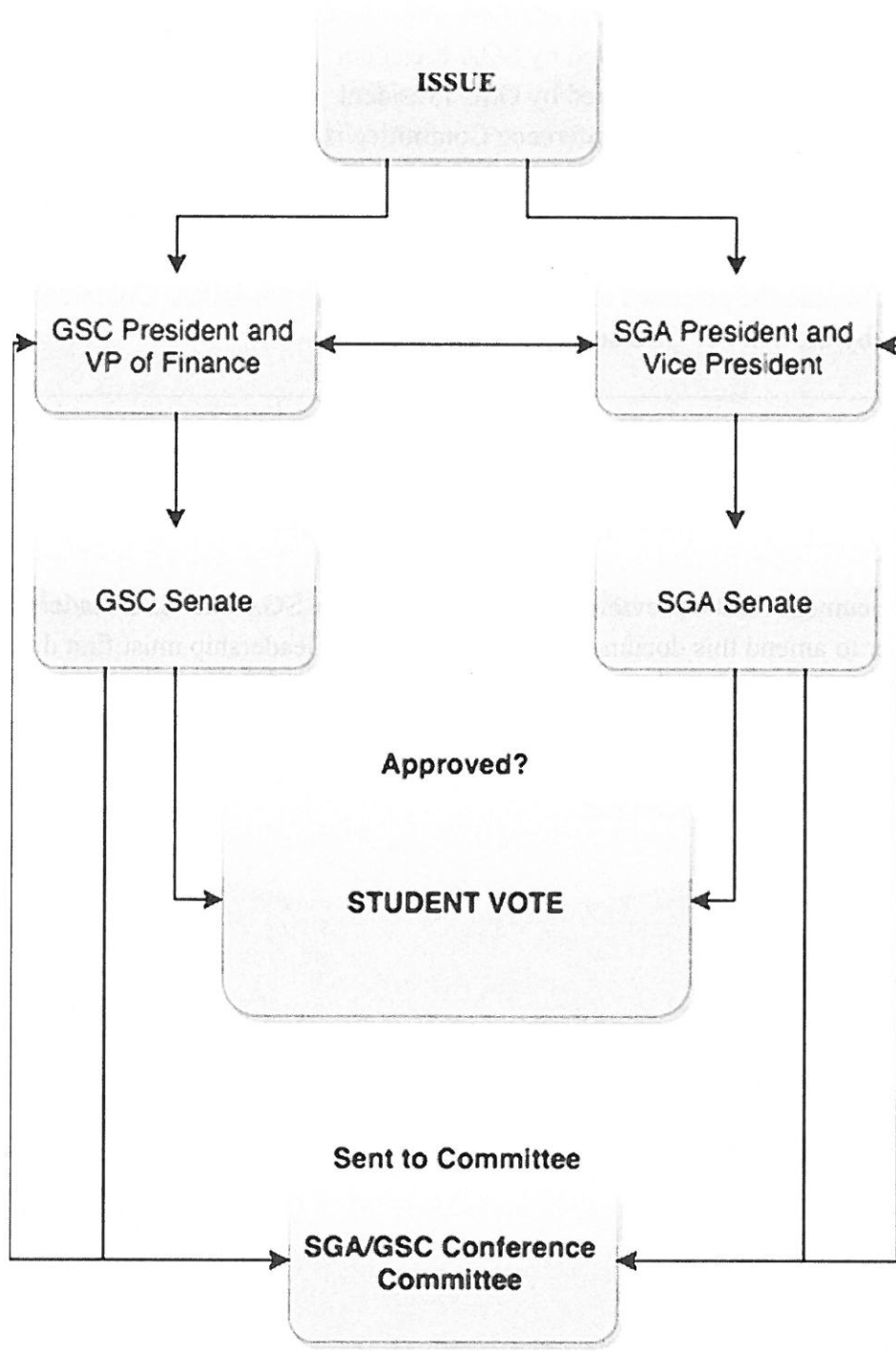
## **Process for Non-Constitutional Referendum Proposals**

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<sup>1</sup> The SGA and GSC advisors must oversee the petition verification process.

1. The issue is discussed between the SGA President, SGA Vice President, GSC President, and GSC VP of Finance.
2. The phrasing and terminology of the referendum is authored by either SGA or GSC and revised and edited by the opposite body.
3. If the leadership of both bodies agree with the referendum wording, the referendum is presented to the SGA and GSC Senates for approval.
4. If the leadership of both bodies do not agree with the referendum wording, they must present it to the SGA/GSC Conference Committee within 24 hours for further deliberation. It must then be represented to the SGA and GSC Leadership within 5 business days.
5. If the referendum is approved through SGA and GSC senates, the referendum is proposed to the University of North Texas Student Body.
6. If the referendum is approved through only one senate, it must be presented to the SGA/GSC conference committee.
7. In order for the referendum to pass, it must receive a simple majority (more than 50%) of undergraduate and graduate votes combined. If it does not receive more than 50% of the votes, it fails.

### **Flowchart of Referenda Deliberation**



**Structure of the SGA/GSC Conference Committee**

1. The SGA/GSC Conference Committee shall consist of (4) four delegates directly appointed by the SGA President and GSC President.
    - a. Two delegates appointed by SGA President
    - b. Two delegates appointed by GSC President
  2. The role of the SGA/GSC Conference Committee is to deliberate and amend any referenda
    - a. Should the SGA and GSC Leadership not be able to come to an agreement with the referendum wording
    - b. Should the proposed referendum be sent to the SGA/GSC Conference Committee by the SGA or GSC senates.
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### **Amending this Document**

1. This document must be reviewed and renewed by the SGA and GSC leadership annually.
2. In order to amend this document, the SGA and GSC leadership must first discuss the proposed amendments.
3. Once the amendments have been created and agreed upon by both leaderships, this document must be presented and approved by both the SGA and GSC senates at the beginning of each fall semester.

  
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SGA President

  
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GSC President

  
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SGA Vice President

  
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GSC VP of Finance