



Student Government Association

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **DENVER**

University of Colorado Denver Student Government Association Election Policy

(Known as the "Elections Code")

Amended February 2023

Article I - General Provisions and Definitions

- A. The elected officers of CU Denver SGA are President, Vice President of Senate, Vice President of Graduate Affairs, members of the Senate, the Events and Planning Committee Chair, Student Fee Review Committee Director, CU Denver SGA representatives to the Student Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board of Directors (SACAB), and College Council Members (1 per school or college).
- B. Current positions for candidacy include:
 - Executive Officers
 - SGA President (1)
 - SGA Vice President, Chair of the Senate (1)
 - SGA Vice President, Graduate Affairs (1)
 - Representative, Student Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board (SACAB) (2)
 - Director, Student Fee Review Committee (1) * *Must have previous SFRC Experience*
 - Director, Events & Planning (1)
 - College Council Representatives:
 - College of Architecture and Planning (1)
 - Business School (1)
 - College of Arts & Media (1)
 - School of Education & Human Development (1)
 - College of Engineering, Design and Computing (1)
 - College of Liberal Arts & Science (1)
 - School of Public Affairs (1)
 - Senator at Large (15)
- C. Running Type: Students running for SGA President and SGA Vice President must run as a ticket together. Students running for all other elected positions run as individuals.
- D. *The 2022-2023 SGA has proposed constitutional updates which may impact position titles and duties for students elected in Spring 2023. Elected student positions may change at the discretion of the SGA President, to fulfill position in the new constitution, if adopted by the student body in the April 2023. All duly elected April 2023 officials will be assigned to an SGA role or position.*

Qualifications for Office

- A. CU Denver SGA constituents are eligible to serve in the elected office of CU Denver SGA subject to the following conditions:
 - a. Undergraduate students must be degree-seeking and enrolled in a minimum of six (6) credit hours for the duration of the term. Graduate students must be enrolled in a minimum of three (3) credit hours

for the duration of their term or receiving thesis/dissertation credits.

- b. All students holding elected office within CU Denver SGA must remain in good academic standing, i.e., not on academic probation, as defined by CU Denver, and in good standing with their respective academic program(s), school(s), and/ or college(s). Students must be clear of student conduct charges during the semester of which they are campaigning for any SGA position, as well as for the duration of their respective term of office.
- B. The Office of Student Life will assist the Election Commissioner(s) in conducting academic standing and student conduct checks of all Candidates prior to and during Election Week. Candidates and tickets, including any write-in candidates, who do not meet the academic standing and student conduct standards during this time shall have their name struck from the ballot and all votes for such candidates will be invalidated.
 - a. All students holding elected office within CU Denver SGA must disclose any affiliations with any/all recognized CU Denver and/or student fee funded organizations. The President, Vice President(s), Chairs, and members of the Judicial Branch may not concurrently hold any executive office, including the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer in any student-fee funded organization. If the candidate holds one of these positions in a student-fee funded organization prior to being elected, they shall have a week to resign from the position.
 - b. A candidate or any, one (1) member of an Executive Ticket may only run for one (1) position within the CU Denver Student Government Association during any given election season.

Definitions

- A. Declared Candidate - is any eligible individual, whether or not part of any Ticket, who has met all requirements for office as set by the SGA Hiring Packet, completed all election paperwork prior to the Declaration of Candidacy Packet deadline, and has not been disqualified in any way for violating Elections Regulations.
- B. Incumbent Candidate - An Incumbent candidate is one that currently or previously has ever held any SGA office.
 - a. A candidate is considered incumbent regardless of whether they were elected, appointed, or hired into their previous or existing position.
 - b. A candidate is considered incumbent even if they do not currently hold an SGA position but have held SGA office at all in the past.
- C. Write-In Candidates - A candidate may be permitted to be a "Write-In Candidate" in the race(s) of any office of SGA, and "Write-in Races" shall refer to those races of which no one (0) candidates (if applicable) has declared candidacy
 - a. A Write-In Candidate must receive 30 votes to hold that office. If any Write-In Candidate does not receive at least 30 votes, then that position will remain vacant until an eligible student is selected through the SGA hiring process.
 - b. Write-In Candidates can choose to run in contested races, however, they are held to the same rules/regulations that Declared Candidates must follow, and are expected to have the same knowledge of these rules and regulations.
 - i. Write-in candidates are expected to turn in a Campaign Expense and Revenue Tracking Form and Campaign Team Form by March 20, 2023. Failure to provide such documentation will result in the Write-In Candidate's removal from the races and invalidation of all votes cast.
 - ii. Write-In Candidates for Contestable races additionally shall not receive the same printing privileges within the Office of Student Life, shall not appear on any SGA social media, and shall have the maximum "point limit" of infractions set to five (5) points for that Election Week.
 - c. Write-In Candidates for the Executive office must meet the same requirements as to the definition of a "Ticket." Any Write-In votes for the Executive Team with only one candidate shall be invalidated.

- D. Ticket - A "Ticket" comprises of two (2) eligible candidates running for the Executive office, made up of the positions of President and Vice-President of the Senate.
- Only eligible tickets are permitted to run for the Executive officer positions. A candidate may not run for either Executive position alone/without being a part of a Ticket.
 - Tickets are not permitted in any other race(s) in SGA elections other than that of the Executive. Running as part of a ticket in any other race will result in all members' disqualifications from that race.
 - All rules regarding candidates within this Election Code also apply to Tickets, as well as their individual members.
- E. Campaign Team – A campaign team is defined as multiple candidates working together to win their respective seats, which includes sharing campaign materials, using the same campaign funds, and endorsements. A campaign team includes any CU Denver voting-eligible individual(s) who voluntarily campaigns on a candidate's behalf. A campaign team member may not be a current candidate in any student elections race. Only a candidate's campaign team is permitted to create, print, post, or distribute campaign material on a candidate's behalf.
- Team members are volunteers and may not be monetarily compensated.
 - Individuals recruited to be part of a campaign team must register to be a team member by the first day of campaigning.
 - Any infractions committed by any member(s) of a candidate's campaign team will result in the appropriate disqualification and/or points deduction of that candidate.
- F. Contestable Race - The race for any SGA office is defined as "Contestable" if at least one (1) candidate or Ticket has declared their candidacy through the process of turning in the required documentation prior to the deadline. A race in which no (0) candidates have declared candidacy through the proper process is defined as a "Write-In" race.
- G. Campaign Materials - Candidate may create and use marketing items such as posters, buttons, fliers, clothing, business cards, toys, or any material that is given with the purpose of supporting any candidate or candidate's campaign. Food, drinks, and money are not allowed as campaign materials.
- H. SGA Materials and Resources - Any clothing, spirit items, printed materials (including materials printed in the SGA Office), office resources, name tags, or office supplies as purchased, given, or otherwise provided by and/or for CU Denver Student Government Association events, offices, members, advisors, etc. may not be used for any candidate's campaign.
- I. Endorsement – An endorsement is the mindful, informed, public approval/support for any candidate, ticket, and referendum, made by an individual/organization.
- Student organizations, clubs, and associations are both welcome and encouraged to endorse Candidates, Tickets, and Referenda that they support.
 - Professional staff members associated with the CU Denver Office of Student Life, ex-officio(s), and/or advisor(s), Election Commissioner, or any member of the SGA Judicial Branch are prohibited from endorsing any candidate/Ticket/question.
 - Publicly advertised claims of any endorsement made without the consent of said organization, group, club, etc. shall result in the disqualification of said candidate or ticket. It is highly encouraged that faculty and staff members do not make/publicize any endorsements for any candidate, ticket, or question.

Article II - Election Process

Partisan Policy

- A. All CU Denver Student Elections shall remain non-partisan races, meaning that candidates and tickets shall not run on the platform of, be endorsed by, or identify as advocating for the platform or policy of any political association or party on any governmental level.
- B. Partisan and political groups, clubs, associations, etc. on campus are permitted to endorse, criticize and/or in anyway discuss any candidates, tickets, referenda in SGA elections, and are subject to the same campaign regulations or rules if such support or criticism is made public.

Election Dates and Deadlines

- A. Voting - Voting opens at 8am Monday, April 10, 2023 and closes by 5pm, Friday, April 14, 2023 . All voting shall be done electronically.
- B. Declaration of Candidacy - The Declaration of Candidacy application packet is due online by 5pm Friday, March 10, 2023 unless otherwise coordinated with election commissioners.
 - a. The declaration of candidacy and eligibility packet includes candidate information and eligibility form and turned in online by Friday, March 10, 2023
 - b. If using a campaign team, the Campaign Team form must be completed and turned in online by Monday, March 20, 2023.
 - c. Candidates will be asked to submit a head shot and bio with a 300-word limit.
 - d. The Election Commission withholds the right to revise, edit, and/or remove position statements that exceed the word limit, have major spelling and/or grammatical errors, contain any sort of vulgarity, or contain content that is otherwise prohibited by the regulations set forth by this code.
 - e. Any content that qualifies as an infraction to be placed on a Candidate's or Ticket's record shall also be enforced by the Election Commission.
- C. Candidate Orientation - Candidates and Tickets must attend one (1) of the two (2) available Candidate Orientation Meetings after turning in their Declaration of Candidacy application. These sessions will occur on Thursday March 16, 2023 or Friday, March 17, 2023. Candidates will receive additional information via email. If a Candidate or Ticket cannot attend one of the scheduled meetings, it is up to them to coordinate with the Election Commission to meet at a separate time before 8pm Sunday, March 19, 2023 to have a one-on-one Candidate meeting (virtual meeting).
- D. Candidate Forum: The Candidate Forum is an opportunity for Executive Tickets and Executive Branch candidates to share their opinions on various topics. This event will take place which includes a live stream on Monday, April 3, 2023 at 7pm. This Candidate forum will be for contested races in the Executive Branch, the Vice President of Graduate Affairs.
- E. Candidate Expenses & Revenue - The Candidate Expense and Revenue Tracking Form (including all relevant receipts) is due to the Election Commission, by 5pm each Friday: March 24, 31, and April 7, 14. All candidates must turn in reports even if there are no expenses for that week.
- F. Training: All elected candidates are required to attend the following mandatory SGA leadership and student staff employee training. Training is held on the CU Denver campus, in-person, with lunch provided. Students will be paid for their time if they have completed the CU Denver hiring process through the Student Life office. Students are expected to make arrangements in advance with all employers / internship supervisors, etc.
 - a. Required Training Dates:
 - i. Wednesday, August 9, 2023
 - ii. Thursday, August 10, 2023
 - iii. Friday, August 11, 2023

- iv. Monday, August 14, 2023
- v. Tuesday, August 15, 2023
- b. Optional (Paid) Volunteer Dates: (Welcome Week Event Support)
 - i. Wednesday, August 16, 2023 – Residence Hall Move In (Up to 4 Hours)
 - ii. Thursday, August 17, 2023 – Connect 2 Campus Event (Up to 4 Hours)
 - iii. Friday, August 19, 2023 – Playfair (Up to 6 Hours) or SGA Table @ Student Org Table (2 Hours)
- G. Executive Officer Summer Work – The two elected Executive Officers (President / Vice President of the Senate) work approximately 20 hours a week in the summer to prepare for the upcoming year. They participate in the planning of SGA training, budgeting, goal setting, hiring of vacant positions, establishing relationships with university administration and campus partners, and participate as needed in CU Denver Orientation duties. Executives are discouraged from participating in full-time employment or internship after being elected, taking a large academic course load or studying abroad during the summer session. The Executive Officers will attend the NACA SGA West Institute with the CU Denver SGA Advisor June 13-16, 2023. This trip is paid for by the SGA budget.
- H. Hourly Commitment Upon Election – SGA members are student employees and are eligible to work up to:
 - a. 25 hours per week: SGA President and SGA Vice President of Senate,
 - b. 20 Hours: SACAB Representatives
 - c. 15 hours: Directors and Vice President of Graduate Affairs
 - d. 7 hours: All other elected members

Voter Eligibility

- A. All CU Denver students in the spring semester that have paid the student activity fee are eligible to vote in any election.

Required Forms for Candidates

- A. All candidates must complete the following three (3) forms found on the SGA website and/or on the university's student engagement platform, submit a headshot of the candidate, and submit a position statement (300 word maximum) by the deadlines below.
 - a. Candidate Information & Eligibility Form: This form will act as the campaign contract.
 - i. This form indicates the position the student is running for and gives consent for the Elections Advisor to verify academic good standing, enrollment and conduct record.
 - ii. The student agrees to attend identified SGA student staff training dates.
 - iii. This form must be received by 5pm on Friday March 10, 2023.
 - b. SGA Campaign Team Form: By submitting this document, the candidate is indicating they have selected volunteers to support their campaign.
 - i. The candidate is responsible for having each volunteer submit an SGA Campaign Team – Individual Member Registration form no later than the first day of campaigning.
 - ii. The candidate agrees to abide by AHEC posting policies and the Student Code of Conduct. Any candidate or Ticket, whether declared or Write-In, is to understand that any action in violation of these policies by either the candidate, or the candidate's campaign team, will result in immediate disqualification of their candidacy. Only the candidate's campaign team is authorized to create, print, and post promotional material on the candidate's behalf. Candidates and Tickets shall inform the Election Commission any time before the end of Election Week of the addition of more members added to the respective candidate's or Ticket's Campaign Team. Must be received by 5pm Monday, March 20, 2023.
 - c. Candidate Expense & Donation Tracking Form

- i. Campaign spending and contribution limits for Senators, College Council Representatives, and SACAB Representatives shall be set at \$500. Campaign spending and contribution limits for Executive Tickets shall be set at \$1,000.
- ii. This form is due every Friday by 5pm during active campaigning Form by 5pm each Friday: March 24, 31, and April 7, 14.
- iii. Failure to submit this weekly form, or exceeding campaign-spending limits, will result in infraction points and may result in the disqualification of the candidate.
- iv. If disqualified once in office, the candidate will be removed, and the candidate with the next highest number of votes shall assume the office from which the removal occurred.
- v. The final form is due by 5pm the last day the ballot is open. Failure to submit this final form will result in automatic disqualification.

Withdrawal

- A. Any candidate or ticket may withdraw from the election at any time.
- B. Withdrawals are declared through written and/or electronic correspondence, or verbal declaration to the Election Commission (elections@ucdenver.edu) who shall verify the withdrawal in writing.
 - a. If a candidate or ticket withdraws before Election Week, their name(s) shall be removed/not placed on the ballot.
 - b. If a candidate or ticket withdraws during Election Week or prior to the announcement of the preliminary election results, then all votes cast for that candidate(s) shall be invalidated, and, in the case of their majority, the candidate or ticket with the next highest number of votes shall take their place as winner.
 - c. Withdrawal of any one (1) member of an executive ticket shall result in the withdrawal of the entire ticket.

Campaign Regulations

- A. Disrupting or tampering with any election may constitute a violation of the CU Denver Student Code of Conduct. Depending on the severity of campaign related infractions, the Election Commission may decide to report candidates in question to the Student Conduct Office.
- B. All members of a campaign team shall follow CU Denver and Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC) respective building and campus posting policies as follows: Policies available at (www.ahec.edu)

Candidate Disqualification and Infraction System

Candidates may be immediately disqualified for the following reasons:

- A. Failure to attend the Mandatory Candidate Orientation Meeting, without making alternate arrangements with the Election Commission, prior to the start of campaigning.
- B. Violation of the CU Denver Student Code of Conduct
- C. Falsification of candidate information
- D. Failure to submit candidate expense and revenue tracking form at the designated deadline.
- E. Campaigning as a team or paying another person to campaign on a candidate's or ticket's behalf.
- F. Interfering with other candidates' postings can lead up to disqualification
- G. Any sort of campaigning at SGA sponsored events unless otherwise informed by the election commissioners that all candidates may campaign at said SGA event..
- H. A candidate may not provide any monetary compensation to any person, CU Denver student, staff, faculty, or otherwise, for their help toward that candidate's campaign.
- I. Filing a grievance/complaint against another candidate in bad faith, including for the purpose to disqualify that

candidate from the race.

- J. Campaign materials:
 - a. May not be given to a voter in direct exchange for a vote. This includes money, food, drinks, candy, gifts, clothing, "spirit items," etc. as compensation for a vote.
 - b. The Election Commissioners reserve the right to deem any material that any candidate or ticket is using as allowed or unallowed.
- K. Harassment, intimidation, threats, vulgar language, or any otherwise hostile interaction initiated toward the Election Commission and/or another candidate, ticket, or campaign team.
- L. Falsely claiming the endorsement of any individual, group, organization, club, etc. without consent.
- M. Disseminating any objectively false information in order to impede or influence any Election and/or Election Commission responsibilities and/or activities.
- N. Disseminating any objectively false information to mislead, misinform, or deceive voters as to how, when, and where they can vote.
- O. Viewing, completing, or otherwise exercising unfair influence on the voting choice of a student without their informed and expressed consent.

Student Government Association Infraction System

- A. The infraction system is designed to ensure open, fair, accessible, and efficient elections, and discourage any candidates from participating in activities counter to the Election Code, AHEC posting policies, or University Code of Student Conduct. The Election Commission reserves the right to interpret and enforce campaign regulations and distribute infractions in the manner best fit for fair and accessible elections. The infraction system will not take effect until after candidate orientation.
 - a. Commissioners reserve the right to instruct candidates to avoid inappropriate conduct that is otherwise not enumerated in this Election Code.
 - b. Candidates reserve the right to appeal any infractions to the Judicial Committee.
- B. Candidates and tickets will start with 7 total points. If the following rules are broken the respective points will be deducted from the total points. If a candidate lose all points (0), they are disqualified from their respective race.
 - a. Executive Tickets shall be treated as one candidate and shall have a combined total of 7 points to begin.
 - b. Candidates shall be held responsible for the infractions committed by members of that candidate's campaign team, and infractions committed by team members shall be deducted from the points of that Candidate or Ticket.
- C. Write-In candidates for contestable races shall start with 5 total points.
- D. In addition to the disqualifying infractions, candidates/tickets may also lose a predetermined number of points for violations of any of the following minor violations/infractions. Examples include:
 - a. 4 points:
 - i. Improper advertising including not following AHEC or CU Denver posting policies
 - b. 3 points:
 - i. Using the intellectual property of another person, organization, etc. without the permission of said property's rightful owner
 - ii. Soliciting support, votes, or otherwise conducting themselves in a manner deemed to be "campaigning" during an SGA run event will be penalized
 - c. 2 pts:
 - i. Arriving 10 or more minutes late to any Candidate Meeting without informing the Election

Commissioners beforehand

- ii. Submitting a late weekly Candidate Expense & Donation Tracking Form
- iii. Wearing/Displaying CU Denver SGA clothing, materials, etc. while campaigning
- iv. Use of any illegal campaign materials
- v. Disregard of Election Commission's instructions related to infractions
- vi. Any candidate or ticket taking action deemed inappropriate or in violation of this Code that they have been previously instructed to avoid by the Election Commission

E. Incumbent Candidate / Ticket

- a. No candidate or ticket, who are current members of CU Denver SGA, may wear any SGA branded clothing or nametags, distribute any SGA materials, or in any way use SGA office resources as part of their campaign. This is to minimize confusion among students as to which activities are SGA related and which activities are for the purpose of campaigning.
- b. An incumbent and/or returning candidate is permitted to state, post, or mention that they are seeking re-election, as well as any previous work/initiatives, achievements, etc. completed whilst in office, but may not wear their SGA name tag, or use/display any of the SGA materials and resources.

F. Any person in the office of CU Denver Student Life and/or any person eligible to vote can file a complaint/grievance against any candidate to the Election Commission. Additionally, the Election Commission has the authority to file complaints/grievances and investigate said complaints/grievances as a Commission.

G. The reporting party can file a complaint using the SGA Campaign Incident Report Form located on the SGA Website of university student engagement platform. Any violations of the election policy must be reported within 24 hours of the occurrence of the event to ensure timely investigation, and if warranted, action.

H. Any candidate facing disqualification must be notified electronically by the Election Commission within twenty-four (24) hours of a reports receipt. Notification should include notice of the violation(s) of the election policy, who was reported (candidate, ticket, campaign team member), and request a special meeting between the candidate and the Election Commission. If the candidate takes no action to respond to the violation within forty-eight (48) hours, they shall be disqualified from the election.

I. Only the Election Commission and one (1) Judicial member may disqualify candidates.

J. Candidates have the right to appeal disqualification to the Senate within two (2) days of the decision by the Election commission and the Judicial member.

Vote Tabulation Process

- A. CU Denver students receive their ballot in their university email account. Once submitted, votes are tallied at the close of elections, with the candidate receiving the highest number of votes will be declared the winner of the available position up to the specified number of seats available. The election advisor will report the results to the Elections Commission for announcement.
- B. Preliminary election results shall be announced within seventy-two (72) hours after the close of voting in the election on Monday, April 17, 2023. Results may be viewed online on the Student Government Association Website.
- C. In the event of a tie, the election commission will hold a run-off election which will last for a period of three (3) business days, after which a winner will be declared by the election commission.
- D. Election commissioners do not have access to the ballot or individual votes and results. The election advisor will provide the total number of votes per candidate with the election results. This information will provide guidance for the election commissioners to know how much outreach is needed to encourage voting before the end of elections and to ensure transparency.

Election Report

- A. At the end of the semester, the Election Commission will submit a brief report to the CU Denver SGA outlining any special actions taken and certifying that any necessary preparations for the next elections. Copies of this report shall be sent to the Senate of the CU Denver SGA.
- B. A list of disqualified candidates and candidates with 7 or more infractions shall be made available to the public. This information will be posted on the SGA website until the end of the election week.
- C. The Election Commission shall maintain a public file in the CU Denver SGA office containing the results of the past elections, previous budgets, documents, and other materials deemed to be general or commission interest.

Petition for Referendum

- A. Upon approval by a majority vote of the sitting membership of the Senate questions may be submitted to the student body for approval at the next general election, or at a special election, or upon petition by at least ten percent (10%) of the CU Denver Student Body.
- B. A referendum shall consist of a single question such that a student may vote either yes or no/ Any referendum submitted to the student body, by student petition, shall have the exact wording of the petition or motion initiating the election.
- C. Any student eligible to vote in CU Denver Student Elections may campaign, advocate for or against a referendum question as long as:
 - a. the campaign of the referendum question is separated from the campaigns of any other candidate/question/ticket, and
 - b. those participating in campaigning abide by all campaign rules as set forth by the SGA Constitution and this document.

Article III - Election Commission Appointments

Selection and Removal

- A. The Chief of Staff, or designee, shall review applications and interview applicants for the Election Commissioner position, which is made up of 2-3 commissioners. They shall appoint the most qualified candidate to the position.
- B. The Election Commissioners appointed by the Chief of Staff shall go before the Senate for review and must be ratified.

Powers and Responsibilities

- A. The CU Denver SGA Election Commission shall prepare and submit for approval a budget for the election. The CU Denver SGA must approve the final election budget by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
- B. The Election Commissioner(s) shall ensure that all elections run smoothly and in accordance with the CU Denver SGA Election Policy. They shall provide every candidate with a copy of this policy, hold candidate meetings, insure adequate publicity for CU Denver SGA elections, prepare the ballots, approve credentials of all candidates and referendum items, provide a forum for public speeches issue voting information, ensure that election zones are staffed and monitored, and announce election results.
- C. The Election Commission shall be responsible for encouraging voting-eligible students to research and discuss candidates, tickets, and referenda to be considered and to think mindfully of the Election and their vote.
- D. The Elections Commissioner(s) shall host 1 virtual candidate forum when races are contested.
- E. At least 1 Election Commission shall attend the weekly Senate meetings to provide an update during the elections season. Additionally, they shall attend Judicial meetings, and all other necessary SGA events related to election processes.
- F. Election Commissioner will behave in a manner set forth by CU Denver’s Code of Conduct and the SGA

Constitution and bylaws or may be removed from their position.

- G. The Election Commission shall provide resources and access, plan events, inform and engage the student body, use social media, etc., among other activities and initiatives, in order to encourage the largest percentage of voter turnout as possible.

Article IV - Inclusivity Policy

Right to Vote

The right of an eligible student to vote shall not be denied, abridged, or in any way hindered by the University of Colorado Denver's Student Government Association on the basis of, but not limited to, race, color, national origin, pregnancy, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation, or political philosophy.

Right to Run

The right of an eligible student to be a candidate for CU Denver SGA office shall not be denied, abridged, or in any way hindered by the University of Colorado Denver's Student Government Association on the bases of, but not limited to, race, color, national origin, pregnancy, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation, or political philosophy.