

Appendix C: Standing Rules of the Elections

Standard Election Timeline and General Rules

1. The Spring election timeline shall be determined by the Elections committee and presented to the Senate no later than the 3rd Senate of the Spring semester
 - a. The timeline shall include but not be limited to
 - i. A petitioning for candidacy period
 - ii. Determination of eligible candidates
 - iii. A voting period
 - iv. An election result announcement
 - b. The Elections committee shall approve the election timeline with a majority vote
 - i. The election timeline can be amended during the election season with a 2/3 majority vote by the Senate
2. All students must be given a copy of Appendix C immediately beginning their petition for candidacy
3. Students must complete a petition for candidacy, excluding SAAC positions (Refer to SAAC Bylaws), in order to become a candidate.
4. Students, or individual(s) acting on their behalf, may distribute their petition for candidacy in any non-RIT distributed means
5. The candidates, and Student Government/RSO officers, are not permitted to engage in any destructive action against any candidate. This means tearing down flyers, slander, or any other unprofessional manner. Such actions will result in consequences as outlined in Penalties and Enforcements
6. Candidates or other individuals on their behalf may utilize social media for petitioning and campaigning
7. Advertising for candidates within the Student Government or any Representative Student Organization office is prohibited. Student Government will provide the Posting Procedures for Advertisement & Announcements from the Center for Campus Life
 - a. All questions regarding the Posting Procedures for Advertisement & Announcements should be brought to the Elections Committee
 - b. All Candidates must abide by RIT posting policies for all RIT locations

8. Student Government and RSO officers may not endorse or favor any candidates in any public manner, including on social media
 - a. Any form of content posted
 - b. on Student Government online platforms must be applied equally towards all candidates. Discussions about candidates and their campaigns are prohibited from taking place within the Student Government or RSO offices outside of the Elections Committee
9. On election dates, candidates, or anyone soliciting for them, may not campaign near voting locations or solicit votes using any electronic device. At no time can a candidate advertise or solicit votes within any computer lab.
10. Candidates hold themselves responsible for their actions and anyone acting on their behalf, including word-of-mouth communications of the candidate's intention to run. The division of Student Affairs, the Center for Campus Life, and Student Government will not assume responsibility for candidate actions. This includes any measures taken in advertising or soliciting.
11. Student Government is an equal opportunity vehicle for advertising. We obligate ourselves to inform students, faculty, and staff of the elections.
12. All disputes or grievances regarding the election should be directed to the Elections Committee.
13. Student Government defines campaigning as the dispersal of propaganda, in print and/or electronic forms, by prospective candidates to solicit votes from students. Included in propaganda are all visual forms of media and any form of personal communication that exceeds a reasonable level of speculation for candidacy. Campaigning does not include conversations.
 - a. Campaigning is not permitted until candidacy is confirmed
 - i. Students may not claim they are official candidates for their respective positions until their candidacy is confirmed
 - b. Meeting with official Student Groups to discuss one's candidacy is also not permitted until candidacy is confirmed.
 - c. Campaign materials may not have the Student Government logo in any form, including but not limited to graphics on apparel, logos, etc.
14. Candidates may not solicit support from University faculty, staff, or departments.

- a. University departments, programs, faculty, or staff may not publicly endorse specific candidates. If it is found that a department, program, faculty or staff member is publicly supporting a candidate, it is the candidate's responsibility to request them to remove their public support.
- 15. Candidates may not attempt to solicit votes through the use of RIT venues, RIT services or any subset of RIT at the discretion of the Elections committee.
 - a. Student Government ;and RSO candidates who are current employees of Student Government or an RSO, whether elected or unelected, are not permitted to use any benefits or privileges associated with their current position to promote their platforms or themselves.
- 16. All candidates must meet eligibility requirements outlined in the Student Government Bylaws
- 17. Student Government reserves the right to re-open the application process if there are zero (0) eligible applications to campaign returned during the initial application period.
 - a. If an office still has zero (0) eligible candidates after the application period has been re-opened, the election for that office will not be held during Spring Semester pursuant to the guidelines of Article III of the Student Government Bylaws
- 18. The Senate and Governance shall approve election amendments with a majority vote
 - a. During the election timeline, election amendments shall be approved by a two-thirds majority vote.

Penalties and Enforcement

1. The Elections Committee Chair shall review all infraction violation submissions and shall have the authority to dismiss submissions, as needed
 - a. All dismissed submissions shall be made available to the voting members of the Committee at the next available meeting
 - b. Any member of the Committee shall have the authority to introduce a dismissed infraction violation submission for discussion, with majority vote
 - c. All dismissed infraction violation submissions shall be permanently dismissed 7 days after initial dismissal by the Chair
2. Any infraction violation submission submitted for discussion shall be approved with majority vote
3. Any infraction violation submission shall be submitted no later than 24 hours after the conclusion of the election
4. Every candidate, prospective candidate, or presidential & vice presidential team shall begin with an initial zero infraction points
5. Student Government shall immediately make available the infraction level of the candidate, or presidential & vice presidential team on the official Student Government Elections page, levels shall include
 - a. Green Infraction Level: Zero-Three Points
 - b. Yellow Infraction Level: Four-Six Points
 - c. Orange Infraction Level: Seven-Eleven Points
 - d. Red Infraction Level: Twelve or more Points
6. In the event that a candidate or presidential & vice presidential team fail to comply with these campaign regulations, it shall be the jurisdiction of the Elections Committee to assign infraction points as outlined below and immediately update the infraction level on the official Student Government Elections page:

a. Three-point infractions

- i. Soliciting votes at an official RIT sponsored event
- ii. Campaigning before candidacy is approved
- iii. The Student Government logo is visible in a candidate's campaign material
- iv. Not following the advertising guidelines as defined by the Center for Campus Life
- v. Prior to candidacy approval, meeting with official Student Groups to discuss one's candidacy

b. Six-point infractions

- i. Using RIT sponsored services including any course or club/organization related platforms
- ii. Destroying other candidates campaigning materials
- iii. Slandering other candidates
- iv. Actively seeking support of official RIT offices, organizations, and clubs.
- v. Soliciting votes at a polling place

c. Twelve-point infractions

- i. The use student government internal resources to further one's own campaign
- ii. Any corrupt behavior that may change the outcome of the election
 - 1. Corrupt behavior is defined as dishonest, harmful or disruptive behavior, under the discretion of the Elections Committee including, but not limited to, the manipulation of the voting system or providing favors/compensation to members of the committee

7. Based on point totals, penalties shall include, but shall not be limited to:
- a. Any candidates or team of candidates at the Yellow Infraction level shall be subject to
 - i. Limits to campaign resources through Student Government including but not limited to the inability to campaign as determined by the Elections Committee
 - b. Any candidates or team of candidates at the Orange Infraction level shall be subject to
 - i. Restrictions on participation in Student Government sponsored campaign-related events as determined by the Elections Committee
 - c. Any candidate or team of candidates at the Red Infraction level shall be subject to expulsion from candidacy
 - i. Expulsion from candidacy:
 - 1. For a candidate or team of candidates to be expelled from candidacy, a member of the Elections Committee shall make an official written motion, including an evidence based, documented justification for the motion for expulsion
 - a. It shall be the responsibility of the Elections Committee chair to contact the candidate or team of candidates and to schedule and chair the meeting
 - i. Once an official motion has been made, the candidate or team of candidates shall be present for the discussion of their eligibility, and shall have the opportunity to present and defend their actions and motives to the Elections Committee. Expulsion from candidacy shall be decided by majority agreement of the Elections Committee, under supervision by the Administrative Advisors of Student Government
 - ii. Enforcement of this policy shall be at the discretion of the Elections Committee, under direct advisement by the Administrative

Advisors

2. In the event the candidate or team of candidates meet the Red Infraction level after the election has occurred, the candidate or team of candidates, not in the Red Infraction level, receiving the highest number of votes shall assume the position
3. The Elections Committee shall reinstate all candidates or teams of candidates if all candidates or team of candidates meet the Red Infraction level

Position Procedures

Section 1: President & Vice President

1. The candidates for President and Vice President shall run on the same ticket.
2. Each candidate must have fulfilled two academic semesters at RIT by the end of the current semester.
3. Each team shall gather support as determined by the Elections Committee.

Section 2: Academic Senators

1. Each Academic Senator shall, before being elected, gather support to be determined by the Elections Committee, from the students enrolled in their college.
2. Each Academic Senator must be pursuing a degree within the college they wish to represent.
 - a. An exception shall be granted for the position of NTID Senator. Eligibility for this role would include students currently enrolled in NTID as well as Cross-Registered students who have completed two full time terms in NTID, with at least one of these terms being in the last two years
3. Each candidate must have fulfilled two academic semesters at RIT and one semester in their respective constituency group or college by the end of the current semester.

Section 3: Community Senators

1. The Women's Senator shall be elected by a vote of her community's populace.
 - a. A woman student is considered eligible for this position and to vote for this position as long as they identify as a woman.
2. The Greek Senator shall be elected pursuant to the following guidelines:
 - a. All candidates must be a member of an Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (OFSL) chartered organization.
 - b. Each chapter recognized by the OFSL will receive one vote, to be cast by the chapter president. The method of determining the chapter vote is up to the respective chapter.
 - i. Colonies shall be given one vote subject to OFSL recognition
3. Each candidate must have fulfilled 2 academic semesters at RIT by the end of the current semester.