

Q: Is the information in this FAQ meant to serve as the official elections rules?

No, the official elections rules are contained in the By-Laws of the Elections Commission. The rules and regulations contained in the By-Laws supersede this FAQ and other elections materials. This FAQ is meant to provide more detailed descriptive information about elections as opposed to the rules and regulations found in the By-Laws.

Q: What is the Elections Commission?

The Elections Commission is a semi-autonomous body of the Senate of Rhodes Student Government (RSG), charged with the responsibility of administering elections for campus-wide representative organizations and holding elections for Mr. & Ms. Rhodes. Two Elections Commissioners, appointed by RSG Internal Affairs and confirmed by the Senate, as well as four RSG Senators comprise the Elections Commission.

Q: Who are the members of the Elections Commission?

See the listing at the bottom of the Elections Commission page.

Q: I can't decide for what position I want to run. Who can help me decide?

The leadership of the representative organizations will be glad to provide you with information about the role of their organization in campus life and the responsibilities of their members. Bear in mind that these organizations are important institutions and make many decisions that have real effects on all members of the Rhodes community. This considered, these organizations are looking for hard working, dedicated students who will be willing to shoulder all of the responsibilities associated with membership in the organizations.

For more information on individual representative bodies, email rsg@rhodes.edu.

Q: What positions are open within each representative body?

This varies with the type of election:

During First Year Elections:

Rhodes Student Government: 5 Senate Seats from the class of First Years

Honor Council: 1 male and 1 female representative from the class of First Years

Social Regulations Council: 2 male and 2 female representatives from the class of First Years

Rhodes Activities Board: 3 representatives from the class of First Years

During Mr. & Mrs. Rhodes Elections:

None.

During Officer Elections:

RSG: President, Vice President & Chair of the Senate, and 2 At-Large Student Trustees

Honor Council: President and Vice President

SRC: President and Vice President

Allocations Board: All (10) Seats on the Board

Publications Board: All elected positions of the Board

*Note though the Officer Elections take place early in the Spring, turnover in most organizations does not occur until later in the semester.

During General Elections:

RSG: 5 Senate Seats from each of the rising Sophomore, Junior, and Senior classes.

Honor Council: 2 male and 2 female representatives from each of the rising classes above.

SRC: 2 male and 2 female representatives from each of the rising classes above.

RAB: 3 representatives from each of the rising classes above.

Q: What if I have a grievance with the election process?

If you would like to file a grievance with any aspect of the election process, you should notify the Elections Commissioners and the RSG Vice President, by e-mail, stating the nature of your complaint within 48 hours of the infraction. Refer to Article IV, Section 10 of the Elections Commission By-Laws for more detailed grievance procedures.

Q: Will I be disqualified for failing to attend mandatory meetings and meet petition/biography deadlines?

Yes.

Q: How will voting take place?

Voting will take place online. The URL will be distributed via e-mail the morning of the election. The Elections Commissioners may also decide to conduct the elections with paper ballots if they deem it necessary.

Q: Are any positions filled through means other than election?

Yes! Each organization has several positions that are filled by application or appointments. For instance, Rhodes Student Government accepts applications for Secretary, Parliamentarian, Elections Commissioner, and various liaisons, as well as Student Representatives to several faculty and administrative committees and bodies. You should quickly get in touch with the leadership of the organization with which you want to be involved for specific information.

For more information on available application or appointment positions, email rsg@rhodes.edu.

Q: When and where are the election events, and what purpose do they serve?

Specific dates and locations for each of these election events will be publicized they approach each term. Watch for them on the web site, and on bulletin boards around campus. These are the events associated with each election:

Candidate Information Session

At the Candidate Information Session, leaders from each student organization will brief students on the role of their organizations on campus and the responsibilities of the organizations' members. Attendance at this session is not mandatory, but highly recommended.

Petitions Available in the RSG office

Students seeking candidacy in any campus-wide representative body election must petition the RSG Elections commission by gathering 30 signatures from the constituency they wish to represent.

Petitions and Biographies Due

Completed petitions must be turned in to the RSG office and 100-word biographies must be emailed to the Elections Commissioner no later than 8 am on the date due.

Campaign Information Session

At this mandatory session, the elections commissioners will verify candidate information and explain campaign rules to the candidates.

Campaign Begins

Campaigning begins at midnight on the announced date.

Campaign Forum

At the Campaign Forum, candidates will have the opportunity to give a five-minute speech and answer questions from the student body.

Elections

Elections are held online.

Runoff Elections

If there are not enough clear winners (that is, candidates receiving a clear majority – not just a plurality – of votes cast) in any race to fill the specified number of available positions, some of the remaining candidates (twice the number of unfilled positions) will be entered in runoff elections.