

RUSA

12/27/2017

Chris Kay, Parliamentarian

Complainant: Viktor Krapivin, Internal Affairs Chair

Question: Article 5.03.1.b states that the President of the Assembly “Shall have at least one year of experience on The Assembly”. How is a year of experience defined?

Finding: A year of experience on the Assembly means that a member has been in the Assembly for a majority of the meetings between the first meeting following the Fall Elections and the final meeting before the Spring Elections of the same school year. Members, elected and appointed, shall both be bound by the same attendance requirement. Members who are elected in the Spring Election immediately prior to the Fall Election shall be able to apply their attendance at Spring meetings, following their election, to their majority requirement as substitute for meetings held during the Fall-Spring Session of RUSA. But members elected in the Spring do not have any higher a requirement than those elected in Fall. The Elections Committee is charged with ensuring that all potential Candidates have the required length of experience. Furthermore the Assembly is defined here as the Legislative and Executive halves of the Assembly as defined in Article 2.01 and therefore only someone who has been in one of those two parts of the Assembly are eligible to stand for President. A candidate does not need to have served their year on the Assembly immediately prior to their stand for President; so long as a Candidate has met the experience requirement once they are eligible to stand for President in all future elections. Furthermore a member may resign after they have reached a majority of the meetings they are required to be in the Assembly for and they will still have satisfied their requirements.

While this Article has been interpreted differently in the past this ruling seeks to strike a balance between competing concerns of RUSA. The Constitution demands that a member has a year of membership in the Assembly. But having a strict 1 year policy would be unduly restrictive to the free and fair election of President. To balance between overly strict and constitutionally sound membership for a majority of the meetings has been chosen as the lowest reasonable standard for a year. The President of RUSA is a complicated job and a job which demands a level of understanding and awareness that a student with no RUSA experience would be unable to acquire. At the same time students should be able to elect whomever they choose as President. Keeping the requirements for President as few as possible insures that the position is open to a wide number of students while still protecting the needs of the office.