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## Report on the 2017 RUSA Fall Elections

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Prepared by the RUSA Elections Committee  
and the Election Appeals Committee  
October 30, 2017

Authors:

Viktor Krapivin, *Off Campus Senator*, Elections Committee Chair  
Christopher Kay, *Parliamentarian*, Elections Appeals Chair

Advisors:

Laura Christiansen

## 1 RUSA ELECTION COMMITTEE

The Election Committee is a committee that is charged with overseeing all RUSA elections in our Constitution. The composition of this committee is determined with consultation of the RUSA Standing Rules. As per the rules, the Chair of the Internal Affairs Committee, Viktor Krapivin, served as the chair of the Elections Committee. Furthermore, as indicated in the RUSA Standing Rules, the President appoints the Chair of the Election Appeals Committee. In regard to this mandate President Covello appointed the Parliamentarian of RUSA, Christopher Kay to serve as the Election Appeals Committee Chair.

The Elections committee was organized several months prior to the RUSA Fall elections and its members were appointed by the President of the Assembly in consultation with Chairman Krapivin. The final roster of the committee was comprised of Viktor Krapivin, Samuel Reichman, Paulee Manich, Lauren Williams, Avi Desai, Hasin Tasmeeen, and Julie Serrano. The final roster for the Election Appeals committee was Michael Nanchanatt, Natalie Settimo, and Christopher Kay.

This committee began its by at its first meeting in August. At this meeting proposed fall 2017 election guidelines and amendments were discussed by the committee as well as changes from previous guidelines.

Some goals were set. These goals included:

1. Increasing voter turnout from last year's total of 6.7%
2. Increasing student participation in the elections
3. Reducing barriers to getting involved in the elections
4. Creating enforceable and just rules governing the elections

These goals were used to create the election guidelines. These guidelines were then reported by the Elections Committee and were adopted by the Assembly.

## 2 ELECTION GUIDELINES & APPEALS PROCESS

The election guidelines were drafted in by the elections committee with consultation of prior guidelines and with the goals listed above in mind. The proposed guidelines were approved by the elections committee on September 12<sup>th</sup> and circulated to the executive board and eventually the entire Assembly soon afterwards. Of significance in the recommended changes were proposals to allow candidates to directly interact with students in order to increase student engagement in elections. Multiple different requests were made for tabling through the elections committee and most of them were fulfilled. Requests were typically denied due to short notice. We recommend that there be a deadline of when students can request tabling through the elections committee.

The appeals process was formalized through the election guidelines. Alleged factual basis behind an appeal must be established by clear and convincing evidence.

### 3 CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT & INFO SESSIONS

The Elections Committee set a goal of recruiting 2 candidates per open position and had 70 students declare candidacy for the 35 open positions. Although this goal was exceeded as a whole, the Cook Campus and separately Douglass Campus at large elections was uncontested as two candidates had signed up to run for five positions. This observation lends credence to some of the recommendations in this report.

The declaration of intent to run form was open from September 15th till the end of day on September 25st. Additionally, all undergraduate students were encouraged to run in the elections by an email blast to all undergraduate students in the New Brunswick campus. (See Appendix A for email). Lastly, all interested students were encouraged to attend information sessions, which discussed the process of running in the elections as well as the election rules and procedures.

The committee used a PowerPoint presentation for Info Sessions to retain consistency of information shared. Additionally, the Elections Chair answered any question posed by any potential candidate at the information sessions.

### 4 ELECTION PROCESS

The Election was done online through Collegiate Link. Student eligibility to vote was managed through eligibility lists. All undergraduate students in Rutgers New Brunswick were eligible to vote in these elections. Only students enrolled in the class of 2021 were eligible to vote for the class of 2021 representatives. The committee recommends future elections committees consider not using these system as this system allows for voting to take place after the end of the election. Additionally, this system does not support forensic logging, which could allow any person with administrative access to the system to modify the election without this modification being logged. This undermines the integrity of the elections.

During the election no instances of students having difficulty voting were reported. The committee thanks Residence life and Executive Director Dan Morrison for their assistance with campus voter eligibility lists. This assistance allowed the elections committee to configure the voting system to permit students to only casts votes for the campus on which they lived on (or allow off campus students to only cast votes for off campus positions).

### 5 ELECTION PROCESS

This year 2687 students voted in the elections, which is approximately 8% of the full time eligible voters as of this semester. This is a 24% increase from 2168 votes in Fall 2016. 70 students submitted declaration of intent to run, but only 67 students were eligible to run (two students were ineligible for submitting an untimely declaration, and one for another reason). About 40 students attended election informational sessions.

## 5.1 ELECTION BREAKDOWN BY POSITION

- Busch Class of 2021 Representative (1)
  - Malik Obeidallah, 70 (41.91%)
  - Tuna Yildiz (Knights), 61 (36.52%)
  - Nithi Kumar 36 (21.55%)
- College Avenue Campus Class of 2021 Representative (1)
  - Tilak Bhatnagar (UnScrew RU), 117 (44.65%)
  - Kermina Hanna, 86 (32.82%)
  - Aman Virdi, 38 (14.5%)
  - Eric Jiang, 21 (8.01%)
- Cook Campus Class of 2021 Representative (1)
  - Julien Rosenbloom, 25 (92.59%)
- Douglass Campus Class of 2021 Representative (1)
  - Emily Kane, 42 (93.33%)
- Livingston Campus Class of 2021 Representative (1)
  - Juiette Rolffot (Rutgers Uknighted), 266 (72.47%)
- Busch At-large Representatives (4)
  - Eseosa Idumwonyi (Knights), 132 (17.3%)
  - Neeharika Thuravil (UnScrew RU), 128 (16.77%)
  - Ali Pasha, 121 (15.85%)
  - Jhanvi Virani (UnScrew RU), 107 (14.02%)
  - Anik Joshi (UnScrew RU), 102 (13.36%)
  - DoKyum (William) Kim (Knights), 95 (12.45%)
  - Robert Novicke, 78 (10.22%)
- College Avenue At-large Representatives (5)
  - Husain Vohra (UnScrew RU), 259 (18.35%)
  - Wamia Siddiqui (UnScrew RU), 233 (16.51%)
  - Paul Ziessler (UnScrew RU), 198 (14.03%)
  - Mario Carbajal (UnScrew RU), 175 (12.4%)
  - Samantha Salem, 120 (8.5%)
  - Sam Kaplan, 101 (7.15%)
  - Matthew Massey, 92 (6.52%)

- Lauren Kramer, 91 (6.44%)
- Tenaya Washington, 85 (6.02%)
- Joseph Mansont, 57 (4.03%)
- Cook At-large Representatives (4)
  - Nicholas LaBelle, 72 (56.69%)
  - Patrick Grifone, 55 (43.3%)
- Douglass At-large Representatives (4)
  - Sara Bailey, 65 (51.18%)
  - Veronica Smith, 62 (48.81%)
- Off Campus At-large Representatives (7)
  - Paveena Sachdeva (UnScrew RU), 349 (10.08%)
  - Amina Zaidi (UnScrew RU), 332 (9.59%)
  - George A Zapata (UnScrew RU), 324 (9.36%)
  - Ramsey Abdeljaber (UnScrew RU), 315 (9.1%)
  - Julius Solatorio (UnScrew RU), 305 (8.81%)
  - Seth Wasserman (Bring Back The Alley), 243 (7.02%)
  - Evan Koslowski (Bring Back The Alley), 221 (6.38%)
  - Brian Jun (Bring Back The Alley), 220 (6.35%)
  - Martin Lagoduke (Bring Back The Alley), 216 (6.24%)
  - Angelica Flores-Valencia, 138 (3.98%)
  - Jacob A. Miller, 119 (3.43%)
  - Disha Patel (Knights), 117 (3.38%)
  - Kevin Gao, 111 (3.2%)
  - Kyle Gordon, 89 (2.57%)
  - Nick Lelchitsky, 77 (2.22%)
  - Brandon Rodriguez, 76 (2.19%)
  - Austin Altman, 76 (2.19%)
  - Chinmayi Mungara, 71 (2.05%)
  - Stephen Christos, 62 (1.79%)
- Livingston At-large Representatives (5)
  - Kammi Law (IgKnight), 371 (11.63%)
  - Yeswin Chinta (IgKnight), 359 (11.25%)

- Divya Bhagat (IgKnight), 333 (10.44%)
  - Andes Lee (IgKnight), 330 (10.34%)
  - Michelle Glauberzon (Rutgers Uknighthed), 329 (10.31%)
  - Joe Campisano (Rutgers Uknighthed), 327 (10.25%)
  - Lauren Choi (Rutgers Uknighthed), 327 (10.25%)
  - Hena Mehta (Rutgers Uknighthed), 325 (10.19%)
  - Brad Espinosa (Rutgers Uknighthed), 322 (10.09%)
  - Kelley Chung (Knights), 166 (5.2%)
- SAS Senators at Large (2)
    - Adeel Ahmed (UnScrew RU), 611 (25.14%)
    - Meet Patel (UnScrew RU), 600 (24.69%)
    - Jae Song (Rutgers Uknighthed), 524 (21.56%)
    - Eric Eaton, 227 (9.34%)
    - Ron Williams, 173 (7.11%)
    - Christian Wityk, 155 (6.37%)
    - Ahan Sikri, 140 (5.76%)

## 5.2 ELECTION APPEALS

This year the Appeals Committee was fully independent of the Elections Committee. All matters of interpretation of the Guidelines were referred to the Appeals Committee. In this regard, two candidates who wished to file their DOI after the DOI deadline were referred to the Appeals Committee. In both cases the committee ruled that it is the candidate's responsibility to establish their DOI is submitted and this could be done by emailing the Elections Committee.

Additionally, two appeals were submitted against candidates. One appeal alleged conduct which incentivized students to vote for a specific candidate by holding a raffle for all students who voted in the election only if the candidate who was holding the raffle won the election. This appeal was denied as the conduct did not violate the election rules. The second appeal concerned violation of the university policy on soliciting. This appeal was denied as the facts were not established by clear and convincing evidence.

## 6 PLANNING TIMELINE

The following is an outline of the election:

**August:** Election committee fully formed tasked with creating guidelines and running elections.

**September 4:** Election guidelines draft sent out to Assembly and Executive Board for review.

**September 10:** Executive Board reviews draft guidelines and schedules them for debate in the Assembly on the 14th.

**September 12:** Elections Committee formally approves Election Guidelines at an open meeting.

**September 14:** The Assembly formally approves Election Guidelines.

**September 18:** Info Session I (BSC)

**September 19:** Info Session II (BSC)

**September 20:** Info Session III (CASC)

**September 25:** DOI Is due at 11:59pm

**September 29:** Eligible Candidates Announced

**October 2-3:** Elections

**October 5:** Appeals close at noon

**October 5:** After appeals have concluded, Election Results Announced prior to the RUSA meeting

## 7 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Elections Committee Recommends that:

1. The Assembly should continue its efforts to increase interest in elections.
2. The Elections committee should be selected earlier, preferably before the end of the Spring Semester; this would allow the elections committee to make better informed reservations for fall elections. Additionally, members of committee should have better defined job descriptions in the RUSA Standing Rules.
3. The Assembly should consider using other voting systems to allow for forensic logging of any changes to the election and allow for the elections to be student run. Currently, the advisers have a disproportionate control of the voting system and there is no forensic log of any changes made in the ballot or the voting system.
4. Any reservations made by advisers should be articulated in reports to the Assembly and to newly elected officers.
5. The Assembly allocate representatives based on population of respective campuses as a voter on the Cook and Douglass campus has twice the representation by population of a voter on College Avenue Campus.
6. Candidates be prohibited in using monetary rewards to incentivize students to vote for them. Candidates should be allowed to use monetary rewards to incentivize voting in general.

/s/ Viktor Krapivin

**Viktor Krapivin**

*Election Committee Chair*

/s/ Christopher Kay

**Christopher Kay**

*Election Appeals Committee Chair*

Balance of the Elections Committee:

Samuel Reichman

Paulee Manich

Lauren Williams

Avi Desai

Hasin Tasneem

Julie Serrano

Balance of the Election Appeals Committee:

Michael Nanchanatt

Natalie Settimo

## APPENDIX A: RECRUITMENT EMAIL BLAST

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VIKTOR KRAPIVIN &lt;vk284@scarletmail.rutgers.edu&gt;

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## Run in the RUSA Elections!

1 message

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**Evan Covello** <president.rusa@gmail.com>  
To: NB\_UNDERGRAD@rams.rutgers.edu

Mon, Sep 18, 2017 at 2:39 PM

Dear Fellow Scarlet Knight,

I hope you are off to a great start of this semester!

I am writing to inform you that the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA), your student government, is holding elections this fall. Being the representatives of our student body is a uniquely challenging and worthwhile experience. For me, being an elected member of RUSA has helped me grow as a person, and as a leader. We are looking for dedicated students that will be committed to helping to strengthen the student voice and improve the Rutgers experience.

There are a few steps you have to take if you are interested in running in the Fall Election:

1. Read through our [Elections Guidelines](#) to better understand our rules and procedures.
2. Fill out the Declaration of Intent to Run form [here](#).
3. Get ready to campaign and get votes!

These are some information sessions you can attend to receive more insight into the election process:

Monday, September 18th, 8:00PM-9:00PM, The Cove, Busch Student Center

Tuesday, September 19th, 8:00PM-9:00PM, The Cove, Busch Student Center

Wednesday, September 20th, 8:00PM-9:00PM, Graduate Student Lounge, College Avenue Student Center

The deadline to submit your Declaration of Intent to Run form is September 25th at 11:45PM. If you have questions or any concerns about the elections process, contact [rusa.elections@gmail.com](mailto:rusa.elections@gmail.com) and we'll be glad to help! This information is also available on our [website](#).

Thank you, and good luck!

Evan Covello

RUSA President

## APPENDIX B: VOTE IN RUSA ELECTIONS EMAIL BLAST

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10/20/2017

Rutgers University Mail - VOTE in the RUSA Fall Election



VIKTOR KRAPIVIN <vk284@scarletmail.rutgers.edu>

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## VOTE in the RUSA Fall Election

1 message

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**RUSA Assembly** <rusa.assembly@gmail.com>  
To: NB\_UNDERGRAD@rams.rutgers.edu

Tue, Oct 3, 2017 at 8:58 AM

Dear Scarlet Knight,

Today is the last day to vote in the RUSA Fall 2017 Election. This is to elect representatives to YOUR student government.

**TO VOTE** for your representatives, follow this [link](#).

You can also learn more about the candidates by following this [link](#).

Voting closes tonight at 11:45pm! We encourage you to have your voice heard and vote in the election.

Sincerely,

Evan Covello  
President  
Rutgers University Student Assembly

Rutgers University Student Assembly  
College Avenue Campus  
Student Activities Center  
[613 George Street, Room 113](#)  
[New Brunswick, NJ 08901](#)  
[rusa.assembly@gmail.com](mailto:rusa.assembly@gmail.com)  
[ruassembly.com](http://ruassembly.com)  
Phone: (848) 932 7593

## APPENDIX C: FALL ELECTION GUIDELINES

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# RUSA

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT ASSEMBLY

Election Guidelines – Fall 2017

Email: [rusa.elections@gmail.com](mailto:rusa.elections@gmail.com)

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for choosing to take part in the Fall 2017 Election for the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA), the undergraduate student government at Rutgers—New Brunswick! You will be held responsible for all of the information contained in these Elections Guidelines, therefore please read this entire document thoroughly. If you have any questions the best way to connect with the Elections Committee is via the email address located on the top of every page of this document.

These Election Guidelines will be presented to the body during the meeting on Thursday, September 14, 2017.

Best,



Viktor A. Krapivin

Rutgers University Student Assembly Elections Chair



Election Guidelines – Fall 2017

Email: [rusa.elections@gmail.com](mailto:rusa.elections@gmail.com)

## Available Positions

All RUSA positions are open to contest for the coming election; below is the list of all positions available for contest and the number of seats available for each respective category. A student may only run for one (1) position during the Election. For the purpose of these election guidelines, “Off Campus” is defined as students who do not live on campus.

### **College Ave Campus:**

- At-Large Representatives (5)\*\*
- Class of 2021 Representative (1)

### **Douglass Campus:**

- At-Large Representatives (4)
- Class of 2021 Representative (1)

### **Cook Campus:**

- At-Large Representatives (4)
- Class of 2021 Representative (1)

### **Livingston Campus:**

- At-Large Representatives (5)\*\*
- Class of 2021 Representative (1)

### **Busch Campus:**

- At-Large Representatives (4)
- Class of 2021 Representative (1)

### **Off Campus:**

- Off-Campus Representative (7)

### **SAS Senator at Large:**

- School of Arts and Sciences Senator (2)\*

\*This election is mandated as this position is currently vacant or filled by an appointed member and must be elected in the fall.

\*\*This election has an additional at-large position due a vacancy in the class of 2019 position for that campus.

# RUSA

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT ASSEMBLY

Election Guidelines – Fall 2017

Email: [rusa.elections@gmail.com](mailto:rusa.elections@gmail.com)



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## **Responsibilities**

If elected, candidates are required to attend all RUSA meetings. These include general meetings which are held Thursdays at the Student Activities Center at 7:30 PM during the 2017-2018 school year as well as committee meetings which are held at a time that will be determined and communicated in advance by the committee chairperson. Thus, there will be a RUSA meeting every Thursday. Members must join a committee and to actively work to ensure the success of the committee's objectives. Please be aware of this commitment before running. Furthermore, each member is expected to represent one's constituency to the best of one's ability and to act in a manner becoming of a RUSA member. Below are a list of meetings that candidates need to be made aware of:

Candidates for all positions will be required to complete one (1) office hours per academic week during the fall and spring semester. The office hours will be conducted in the RUSA office. Please feel free to contact the elections committee if you have any questions about these obligations.

For all hours mandated above, time spent during regular RUSA Meetings or Executive Board or Committee meetings will not count towards a body member's total hours for that week.

There will be additional workshops or training sessions that all elected representatives will be expected to attend unless otherwise excused.

Students seeking the position of University Senator are advised that the student should not have any classes on Fridays in order to be eligible for this position. Student availability as a Senator is mandatory once a month from 9am till 6pm on Fridays in the University Senate. Unexcused absences from the University Senate will lead to impeachment.

**PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THESE ARE THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS AND THAT MORE TIME COMMITMENT MAY BE REQUIRED TO BE SUCCESSFUL.**

# RUSA

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT ASSEMBLY

Election Guidelines – Fall 2017

Email: [rusa.elections@gmail.com](mailto:rusa.elections@gmail.com)



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## **Rules and Regulations**

All candidates must currently be full-time undergraduate students, and must maintain that status for the Fall 2017 semester. Any candidate on Restrictive Probation (as determined by the Office of Student Conduct) is prohibited from contesting or occupying a position within RUSA, and all candidates must have a minimum 2.50 GPA in accordance with guidelines set forth by the Division of Student Affairs. First year or first semester transfer students have no GPA requirement.

Candidates for the At-Large Representative positions are not class specific but candidates must be residing on that campus for the Fall 2017 semester. Candidates for a Representative position may belong to any of Rutgers' colleges or schools. Candidates for the SAS Senator position shall be students enrolled in the school of Arts and Sciences at the time of their election. Winners will be determined by those with the most number of votes. Any ties will be decided by a coin flip, with an opportunity for both candidates or their designee to witness the flip.

For example: a candidate for College Avenue Campus At-Large Representative must be an undergraduate student living on the College Avenue Campus for the 2017-2018 academic year. A student who lives off campus cannot run for the At-Large Representative on College Avenue Position.

Any rules indicated within this packet shall bind all candidates seeking election; however, nothing in this packet shall be construed to regulate any conduct not mentioned within, unless such conduct is prohibited by university policy, local, state, federal law, or any other legal authority.

### **Budget:**

Each candidate will be required to maintain a list of all campaign expenses, and retain all receipts to document those expenses. Absolutely any purchase made by a candidate that directly



Election Guidelines – Fall 2017

Email: [rusa.elections@gmail.com](mailto:rusa.elections@gmail.com)

or indirectly benefits his or her campaign will be considered a campaign-related expense. This includes, but is not limited to, purchases of supplies, photocopies, and advertising. Candidates who decide to run on a ticket may pool their funding with other members of their ticket, and will be required to share a list of campaign expenses for their ticket. Candidates may self fund their campaign and/or seek outside funding. Any outside contributions are limited to a total of \$50 per contributor to a specific candidate. Thus if a group of candidates decide to run together, an outside contributor may donate up to \$50 to each candidate. Each candidate may spend a total of \$150. Each ticket may collectively spend a total of \$150 per person to a maximum of \$750 per ticket. These candidates may later pool the money together. However, each candidate must retain a record of the source of this contribution.

Candidates may seek out funding using whatever means they deem appropriate; however, they may only accept contributions from natural persons. No person or entity may reimburse these contributions from natural persons. Candidates may not violate local, state, and federal law in their efforts to obtain funding. Violation of local, state, or federal law will serve as grounds for expulsion from the Election.

Should an appeal be brought forth against a candidate for a violation of these budget requirements, the Elections Committee reserves the right to audit the campaign budget of the said candidate during the Review of Appeals. A candidate's failure to submit his or her budget for review, or fabrication of line-items in a campaign budget, will serve as immediate grounds for expulsion from the Election.

### **Campaign Rules:**

1. No candidate may intentionally ask a student to vote more than once.
  - a. If a specific candidate asks repeatedly for a student to vote for them after the student has asked to not be disturbed, that candidate may be disqualified from the race.



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2. No candidate may observe a student vote in the elections.
  - a. A candidate may ask a student to vote for them and provide a computer or similar device with which to vote; however, at no time may both the candidate and the voter be able to see the same screen while voting is occurring.
3. Candidates may not go door to door in residence halls to ask for votes.
4. There are no restrictions to candidate's use of social media or other web based programs, as long as candidates do not violate federal, state, local law and/or university policy and/or procedure.
5. Candidates may not violate Federal, State, or local laws and regulations. Candidates additionally must comply with all university policies and procedures.
6. These rules apply at any time even prior to a candidate's submission of a Declaration of Intent.
7. During the election any attempt to unduly influence or view a specific voter's vote shall be grounds for disqualification from the election. In the event a candidate is provided with a table in a student center, residence hall, or dining hall, the candidate must remain in the vicinity of the table while they are campaigning in that location.
8. Candidates are encouraged to be courteous and respectful to one another. Libel and slander are prohibited. True statements or one's opinions shall not be considered libelous or slanderous.

**Ticketing:** Ticketing is defined as the following: the pooling of funds and joint campaigning. A ticket is further permitted to include all representatives who wish to associate themselves with the aforementioned entity by forming a larger ticket. Candidates who choose to run on a given ticket must indicate this on their Declaration of Intent by providing a common name. No ticket name will be ascribed to groups consisting of less than three RUSA candidates. Registration must include at least 3 members. A candidates may also ask to join a ticket after a candidate fills



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out their Declaration of Intent, but such request must be emailed to the Elections Committee prior to the Declaration of Intent deadline. Ticket names shall be assigned on a first come first served basis.

**Tables:** They may be provided to candidates upon request. Any candidate may request the elections committee provide them with an opportunity to table in any of the dining halls, student centers, residence halls, or other Rutgers property. The elections committee makes no guarantee that the request will be fulfilled, but will attempt to fulfill any reasonable request.

**Voting:** All current undergraduate students are eligible to vote. Students will be able to vote for any University Wide positions as well as for the campus they reside on. The election of the SAS Senator at Large shall be limited to SAS students.

**Neutrality of Elections Committee:** All members of the Elections Committee or Election Appeals Committee are forbidden from publicly endorsing and actively campaigning on behalf of any candidate from the beginning of their tenure on the Elections Committee until the Announcement of Results. Managers of Election Day Polling Locations are forbidden from publicly endorsing and actively campaigning on behalf of any candidate during the time of active campaigning and elections. Any violation of this commitment to neutrality will result in an investigation by the Internal Affairs Committee of RUSA.

**Appeals:** Candidates will have the opportunity to bring forth appeals to the Elections Appeals Committee via the appeals form that will be released once campaigning begins. In the event an appellant meets the threshold of clear and convincing evidence, the Elections Appeal Committee may expel the candidate in question from the election or issue any other appropriate sanction. If a candidate intentionally violates these guidelines on more than one occasion, should have



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reasonably known that such conduct is in violation of these guidelines, and such conduct provides that candidate an unfair advantage in the election, that candidate shall be expelled from the race.

The Election Appeals Committee shall not be bound by formal rules of evidence, but in their decisions the Committee shall weigh evidence based on reliability and relevance.

The Election Committee may also independently file charges against candidates. Eyewitness accounts of Election Committee members shall be presumed to be inherently more reliable by the appeals committee, unless that presumption is overcome by other evidence (such as bias or unreliability of the eyewitness account).

Hearings before the Elections Appeals Committee shall operate in an adversary manner and reasonable cross examination of witnesses shall be permitted, if requested. The Appeals Committee shall decide the form and nature of such hearings and the manner of cross examination. All decisions of the Appeals Committee shall be public.



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Email: [rusa.elections@gmail.com](mailto:rusa.elections@gmail.com)

## Official Timeline

### **Election Information Sessions:**

Monday, September 18th 8pm-9pm, The Cove, Busch Student Center

Tuesday, September 19th 8pm-9pm, The Cove, Busch Student Center

Wednesday, September 20th, 8pm-9pm, Graduate Student Lounge, College Ave Student Center

*A representative of the elections committee will also be available immediately before the RUSA general assembly meeting on Thursday, September 21st from 6:30pm to the start of the meeting at 7:30pm.*

The Elections Committee will discuss and answer questions about the timeline, and guidelines of the RUSA Election. Candidates will be provided with RUSA's Elections Guidelines, including the "Declaration of Intent." It is strongly advised that students seeking candidacy attend. You are free to drop in at any time to receive the information. If you cannot make any of the below meeting times please email us and we can set up a meeting time to go over the process and share the PowerPoint with you.

### **Declaration of Intent to Run Deadline:**

Friday, September 15, 2017 @ 12:01 AM — Monday, September 25, 2017 @ 11:45 PM

Candidate's MAY NOT fill out a Declaration of Intent after this deadline. The candidate must have, by this time completed the Declaration of Intent form available online. A Get Involved Form will be created and needs to be submitted. A link to the form will be made available to the public on September 15, 2017 at 12:01 AM.

It will close by 11:45 PM on Monday, September 25, 2017.



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Students seeking office will complete a Declaration of Intent that specifies the position they will be running for and affirms that they agree to carry out their campaigns in accordance with the established Election Guidelines. The Declaration of Intent to Run will serve to verify the correct spelling of candidates' names, and the names of tickets that they affiliate with. The information that they provide will be used to create the ballots that will be featured at online on Election Day. This declaration will also verify that these candidates are aware that they have no reasonable expectation of privacy in public places and may be filmed by others in those places.

The Declaration of Intent to Run will be made available on the RUSA website in advance of the deadline. The form will be available to all candidates. Candidates can email the elections committee to inquire if they have properly filled out the Declaration of Intent form and whether the committee received the form. Failure to complete the Declaration of Intent form by the deadline will result in a forfeiture of the right to run for a position within RUSA. Write-in votes will not be made possible.

All candidates will receive confirmation of their eligibility. Please note that our advisor will be checking all candidates' grades, and campus residency for eligibility. All personal information will be strictly confidential and only known by the RUSA advisor and the Elections Chair.

**Campaigning Period:**

Friday, September 15, 2017 @ 12:01 AM — Sunday, October 1, 2017 @ 11:59 PM

During this period, candidates may begin campaigning for votes.

**Election Days:**

Monday, October 2, 2017 @ 12:00 AM — Tuesday, October 3, 2017 @ 11:45 PM



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For the purposes of these rules, candidate shall refer to any specific candidate and/or any group of candidates running together. All candidates are permitted to solicit votes from students, consistent with the rules in this document.

**Appeals:**

Friday, September 15, 2017 @ 12:00 AM to Thursday, October 5th @ 12:00 PM

Appeals submitted by candidates should be completed and emailed to the RUSA Elections email account for the Appeals chair to reference.

The filing deadline for an appeal shall be Thursday, October 5th at noon. If a particular election is contested the Appeals Committee may delay the certification of the results of that election until the appeal is decided.

**Announcements:**

At 7:00PM on Thursday, October 5th before the start of the general RUSA meeting. Elections results will be announced once the appeals process has been completed. This may push back the aforementioned announcement time and is at the discretion of the Elections Committee. All newly elected members of RUSA will be welcomed and sworn in by the Elections Chairperson. Any newly elected member, who arrives late and is not sworn in, will not be able to enjoy the privileges of their office until that member is sworn in.

**First Meeting for Newly Elected RUSA Body:**

Thursday, October 5th, 2017

Location: Student Activities Center, Raritan River Lounge

Time: 7:30 PM



Election Guidelines – Fall 2017

Email: [rusa.elections@gmail.com](mailto:rusa.elections@gmail.com)

**Any questions regarding campaigning procedures should immediately be referred to the Elections Committee at [rusa.elections@gmail.com](mailto:rusa.elections@gmail.com).**

**These guidelines are subject to clarifications issued by the Elections Committee.**



Election Guidelines – Fall 2017

Email: [rusa.elections@gmail.com](mailto:rusa.elections@gmail.com)

## **Resolution to Approve Fall 2017 Election Guidelines**

Author: Viktor Krapivin, on behalf of the members of the Elections Committee

Sponsor: Elections Committee

**Whereas**, the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) has a duty to coordinate fall elections, and

**Whereas**, the Election Guidelines that govern an election should provide clear and enforceable expectations, and ensure that the election is accessible to all students regardless of current membership within RUSA,

**Be it hereby resolved**, that the RUSA general body approves the Election Guidelines for the Fall 2017 Elections.

**Be it further resolved**, the Elections Committee have the authority to modify the dates in the Fall 2017 Election Guidelines and issue other clarifications which supercede the Fall 2017 Election Guidelines provided:

1. One of the following applies:
  - a. The action by the Elections Committee is approved by the Executive Board, OR
  - b. The change in dates are to address problems caused due to natural or man-made disasters, technological issues preventing voting or filing the Declaration of Intent to Run, or other unforeseen event causing substantial disruption to the election process, OR
  - c. Clarifications issued to address inconsistencies in the Election Guidelines; AND
2. The Election Guideline clarifications may not be substantial in scope; AND
3. The Assembly and all candidates in the election receive notice of such action by the Elections Committee.

## APPENDIX D: DOI FORM

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Welcome Candidate,

[This](#) is the Fall 2017 Declaration of Intent to Run.

This form is to be completed by the candidate and furnished to the Elections Chairperson by the candidate NO LATER THAN 11:45 pm on September 25th. Incomplete or improperly completed forms will not be accepted.

Please read the election guidelines on rules relating to campaigning this fall. You can access the guidelines [here](#).

A list of available positions can be found in the guidelines.

Any questions can be directed to [rusa.elections@gmail.com](mailto:rusa.elections@gmail.com)

**First Name**

**Last Name**

**NetID**

ex: JohnDoe

**RUID**

ex: 132-45-6789

**Class Year**

- 2018
- 2019
- 2020
- 2021

**Where do you live? Eligibility for RUSA positions is determined by your residential status at Rutgers.**

- College Avenue
- Cook
- Douglass
- Busch
- Livingston
- Commuter or Off-Campus

**What school are you a part of? Please put either your school name or school acronym (i.e. SAS (School of Arts and Sciences), SEBS (School of Environmental and Biological Sciences), etc.)**

**What is your cumulative GPA? (All Candidates must have a least a 2.5 cumulative GPA and be in good academic and discipline standing with the University in order to be eligible). Transfer students should put N/A or if they have questions contact the Elections Committee at [rusa.elections@gmail.com](mailto:rusa.elections@gmail.com).**

**Grade checks will be performed to confirm what you have reported and your eligibility.**

**Candidate Cell Number**  
**ex: 732-555-5555**

**Email**  
**The one you check most often**

**Which position do you wish to run for?**

**Ticket Name (Optional)**

Enter the name of the ticket you are running on if you are running on one. A ticket is not required to run for any RUSA position.

Note that three (3) members must claim to be part of a ticket before it is officially recognized.

Please write a personal statement for inclusion on election marketing materials. You may include links to websites or pictures. This statement will be accessible to all voters in the elections.

I also affirm that I understand that my campaign for this position on RUSA must be carried out in accordance with the current RUSA Elections Guidelines. I understand that any deviation from the rules set forth in these guidelines on my part will result in my being determined ineligible to participate in this election. I understand that if elected it is my responsibility to attend all RUSA meetings, both general body and committee. As a candidate for RUSA election you understand that you are a public person on campus and should act accordingly.

Type your initials and date. This will count as your signature.

You will receive confirmation of of your candidacy. Campaigning has already begun.

Please enter your t-shirt size.

- Small
- Medium
- Large
- Extra Large

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Thank you for participating in a long-standing tradition of student government. Best of luck!

*-Viktor*

RUSA Elections Chair