2021 Rice Student Association Elections
Bria Weisz, Director of Elections
Information Packet for Candidates

Includes:
Petition (due by Wednesday, February 3rd at 11:59PM)
Campaign Rules and Summary
Election Timeline
Campaign Finance Form

Student Association President, Student Association Internal Vice President, Student Association External Vice President, Student Association Secretary, Student Association Treasurer, Honor Council Senior Class Rep, Honor Council Junior Class Rep, Honor Council Sophomore Class Rep, Thresher Editor-in-Chief, RSVP Chair, Rice Program Council President, UCourt Chair, Campanile Editor-in-Chief, KTRU Station Manager, Rally Club President
2021 Elections Petition Information

To accommodate remote students and maintain proper public health measures, election petition procedures will be modified this cycle. Petitions will be circulated as secured Google Forms. Students interested in becoming a candidate for election shall email the Director of Elections (saelections@rice.edu) registering their desire to be nominated, along with their contact phone number and email address.

The Director of Elections will provide prospective candidates with links to a nominating petition and register of petition entries, so that candidates may gather form submissions in lieu of physical signatures. Google Forms petitions will be locked so that duplicate signatures do not count for the required 25 entries to formally nominate a candidate.

Petitions with 25 valid entries and campaign statements are due at 11:59PM on February 3rd, 2021. All candidates must submit an electronic copy of this petition and a campaign statement and photo to the Director of Elections before the deadline. Any candidate may elect to waive the campaign statement and photo by emailing the Director of Elections. Any detected attempt to circumvent the Google Forms procedure as outlined in this packet shall constitute a violation subject to sanction and potential disqualification by the Election Committee.
Candidacy
All members of the Student Association (as certified by the most recent class roster of the Registrar), except those on disciplinary or academic probation, are eligible for candidacy. In the case of Honor Council representatives, candidates cannot have been found in violation of the Honor Code. Some offices, marked below with an asterisk, have additional requirements.

Amendments, Referenda and Initiatives
If a student or organization wishes to pass a referendum or an initiative, adjust the blanket tax, amend the SA Constitution or take any other action in the General Election, they are required to contact the Director of Elections (Bria Weisz, saelections@rice.edu) and SA Parliamentarian (sapar@rice.edu) before the petition deadline. The Student Senate will introduce any necessary legislation at its February 1st meeting and finalize the ballot at its February 15th meeting. Refer to the SA Constitution for specific information pertaining to amendments, referenda and initiatives.

Positions in the 2020 Elections

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Association President</td>
<td>Thresher Editor-in-Chief*</td>
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<td>Student Association Internal Vice President</td>
<td>University Court Chair</td>
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<td>Student Association External Vice President</td>
<td>RSVP Chair*</td>
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<td>Student Association Secretary</td>
<td>Rice Program Council President*</td>
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<td>Student Association Treasurer*</td>
<td>Campanile Editor-in-Chief*</td>
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<td>Honor Council Senior Class Rep (4)</td>
<td>KTRU Station Manager*</td>
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<td>Honor Council Junior Class Rep (4)</td>
<td>Rally Club President</td>
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<td>Honor Council Sophomore Class Rep (4)</td>
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*These positions have additional requirements

**Student Association Treasurer:** Every candidate must have successfully completed a course in accounting and/or have successfully completed an interview with the outgoing Treasurer and Student Association Advisor demonstrating their qualifications.

**Thresher Editor-in-Chief:** Each candidate must be nominated by no less than ⅔ of the current Thresher Editorial Board

**RSVP Chair:** Each candidate requires at least two semesters of experience with RSVP

**Rice Program Council Chair:** All candidates must have been a member of Rice Program Council for at least one full semester and be a current member of the Council, as defined in the Rice Program Council Constitution

**Campanile Editor-in-Chief:** Each candidate must be nominated by no less than ⅔ of the current Campanile Executive Board

**KTRU Station Manager:** Each candidate must be nominated by no less than ⅔ of the board of
Election Timeline

November 30, 9PM - Present election timeline & info to Senate, election packets available
January 25, 8PM - SA Info Session for Interested Applicants
February 1, 8PM - SA Info Session for Interested Applicants [2]
February 3, 11:59PM - Election Packet and statements due to saelections@rice.edu
February 8, 8PM - Candidate meeting with director of elections
February 9, 7AM - campaigning begins
February 15, 9PM - Senate votes on the ballot
February 18, 12PM - voting period begins
February 26, 12PM - voting period ends; campaign finance form due submitted to DOE via email
February 27, 12PM - election results announced

Campaigning & Communication

The Election Committee will use email to contact candidates, so please check it on a regular basis. Please consult this document and Bylaw 6 “Elections” of the SA Bylaws about information relating to campaigning. Honor Council candidates should also consult the constitution and bylaws of the Honor Council.

Basic Information

- Polling will start February 18th at 12 p.m., and will end February 26th at 12 p.m.. Results will be announced on the SA website and provided to student media blanket tax organizations.
- Candidates and causes will have the chance to write a 250-word campaign statement to be published on the SA website. Candidates may also submit a picture to be included with their campaign statement.
- Electronic campaigning, including social media and personal campaign websites, is allowed. Campaign emails from candidates or causes are prohibited.
- Candidates cannot begin campaigning until February 9th, at 7 AM. This includes any social media campaigning, flyers, events, as well as any individual or organization campaigning on behalf of a candidate.
- The Election Committee reserves the right to remove any campaign materials deemed inappropriate. Anyone campaigning on behalf of a candidate or cause is also bound by this election code.
- Candidates must abide by the rules of all buildings in which they post campaign materials. For example, all posters hung in the RMC must first be approved at the Info Desk.
- The Election Committee reserves the right to remove any candidate found in violation of these rules with the consent of the Student Association Executive Committee.
Campaign Statements (Due February 3rd, 11:59PM)

Candidates must include with their petition a campaign statement of not more than 250 words to be published on the SA website or a signed and dated statement affirming that they have chosen to waive their right to submit a campaign statement. Representatives of causes and representatives of groups opposing those causes may also submit campaign statements, although the Election Committee reserves the right to limit, if necessary, statements published to one statement in favor of and one statement in opposition to each cause.

Candidates must also submit a picture for the SA website by the petition deadline (February 3rd, 11:59PM). Submit photos and campaign statements to the director of elections, Bria Weisz (saelections@rice.edu).

A candidate's petition for inclusion on the ballot will be considered incomplete until a campaign statement or waiver is submitted. Campaign statements or waivers will not be accepted past the February 3rd deadline without special permission from the Election Committee. Failure to submit either a photo or statement by the deadline will constitute a waiver of the candidate’s right to do so.

Campaign Finance

Non-presidential candidates may spend and will be reimbursed up to $75 for campaign costs. Presidential candidates may spend and will be reimbursed up to $100 for campaign costs. Causes can spend up to $250 for campaign costs. Candidates will be reimbursed for their campaign costs with itemized receipts. Candidates may not spend more than these amounts.

No entity unaffiliated with Rice University may engage in the electoral process in any way, unless said organization is compensated at market value for the services rendered. Such restrictions include in-kind donations of intellectual or creative work product as well. All services and purchases made by and on behalf of a campaign must be reported.

All campaign purchases will be valued at market value.

ALL campaigns must submit a campaign finance form, regardless of spending amount (including zero dollars). Forms are due February 23rd at 12 PM to saelections@rice.edu. Failure to submit a finance form may result in disqualification from the election at the discretion of the Director of Elections. Direct all campaign finance questions to the Director of Elections (saelections@rice.edu).
Reimbursement

Student Activities Reimbursement Request Form
(https://owlnest.rice.edu/submitter/form/start/434239)

In order to be fully reimbursed, candidates must complete a Reimbursement Request Form for all items they have purchased, including but not limited to printing, online advertising expenses, and food. Candidates must also submit all itemized receipts along with these forms. To be reimbursed, candidates send these forms, and their receipts to the Director of Elections to be approved by the Student Association Advisor, Kristen Ernst, before submitting their forms to the Cashier’s Office for reimbursement.

Printing

For more information on printing reimbursement, consult the Student Center Printing Reimbursement Page:

https://studentcenter.rice.edu/student-activities/club-resources/marketing-advertising/printing

Please check sa.rice.edu for up-to-date information about the election.
Campaign Finance Form

Attach all receipts of purchase to this form.
DUE: February 26th, 11:59PM, emailed to saelections@rice.edu

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I ___________________________ (print name), candidate for the position of ___________________________, affirm the above finance information to be complete and accurate. I acknowledge that failure to complete this form completely and accurately may result in my disqualification.

Candidate Signature __________________________________

Date _________
Please check sa.rice.edu for up-to-date information about the election.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Bria Weisz
Director of Elections
btw4@rice.edu