



**University Board of Elections**  
**Fall 2024 Elections Analysis Report**



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## Letter from the Chair

To the University Community,

Hello and thank you for taking the time to read the inaugural University Board of Elections (UBE) Fall 2024 Elections Analysis Report. My name is Zach Lederer, and I serve as the Chair of the UBE. I joined the UBE in the fall of 2021 at a time when the Board was entirely novice outside of the Chair. Most of my tenure on the Board saw the leadership focus on rebuilding institutional memory following the COVID-19 Pandemic. This has been an ongoing and multi-year process that, when coupled with the UBE's supportive role to institutions of student self-governance, has resulted in a retreat from prominence in University life. While this time of rebuilding has been beneficial, it has created a perception of opaqueness, especially regarding public knowledge of the UBE's processes and actions. As Chair, I hope to firmly integrate the UBE with the rest of the University through partnerships with various groups on Grounds and by increasing transparency. This Report serves the latter purpose.

This Elections Analysis Report illuminates the operations of the UBE during the fall 2024 semester. Included in this document are a list of complaints alleging violations of the UBE's Election Rules committed by candidates during the fall elections, the actions of the marketing team, analysis of voter data from the elections the UBE managed, and improvements the UBE intends to make. The hope is to issue similar reports at the conclusion of each semester to update the University community on the UBE's activities.

Much occurred during the fall 2024 semester. Six new members (and a Virginia Democracy Fellow, a liaison with the Campus Vote Project) joined the UBE following the most competitive application cycle in recent memory. It has

been an immense pleasure working with them thus far and I am excited about what they, and the rest of the Board, will accomplish during the rest of my term and beyond. In addition, the UBE managed two elections during the fall: RLE elections for leadership positions for students living on Grounds (First Year Council and on-Grounds housing Association Councils) and New Student Elections (NSE). Errors in procedure during NSE resulted in a runoff for four of the seven positions on the NSE ballot. There are no excuses to justify what occurred. The UBE takes full responsibility and can assure the University community that these setbacks will not occur in the future. The UBE has worked tirelessly to rectify gaps in our processes while restoring faith in elections at the University. These efforts are detailed in this document. Despite these errors, the UBE was able to gain valuable insight into voter trends that the UBE hopes to utilize in its efforts to recruit candidates and increase voter turnout during the upcoming spring 2025 University-wide Elections. The data can be found in this document as well.

We hope you engage with the UBE while a student at the University. I encourage all to visit our website at [studentelections.virginia.edu](https://studentelections.virginia.edu) and follow our Instagram, [@uva\\_ube](https://www.instagram.com/uva_ube), to learn more and stay updated on all activities of the UBE. If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to the UBE at [ube-admin@virginia.edu](mailto:ube-admin@virginia.edu).

Sincerely,

Zach Lederer

*Chair, University Board of Elections*

# Rules Complaint Summary

\*This information was compiled from the UBE's Fall 2024 Rules Report, which can be read in its entirety on the UBE's [website](#)\*

## Introduction

As part of its mandate to supervise student elections, the UBE maintains an internal Rules Committee, whose purpose is to enforce the [UBE Rules and Regulations](#) in order to sustain the trust and honor in student elections. The jurisdiction, extent, and depth of these rules and regulations are detailed in the preceding rules document. The same document details the power and jurisdiction of the UBE Rules Committee, rules regarding campaigning and electioneering, election procedures, processes in event of rules violations, and procedures to amend the rules.

When the UBE receives a complaint via the online complaint form, the UBE Rules Committee team performs an investigation to determine whether a violation has occurred. The Rules Team makes an Initial Ruling and determines the appropriate sanction. Additionally, the UBE provides advisory opinions to aid students, upon their inquiry, in interpreting the UBE rules and regulations. These opinions are nonbinding advice and are given when no rules violation has taken place. Historically, the two most common violations that the UBE encounters are both minor violations: improper signage and improper campaign material attribution. These also make up the majority of advisory opinions the UBE makes, as it is often what most candidate inquiries are regarding.

At the conclusion of the spring 2024 semester, the UBE established a Rules Revision Subcommittee to review the existing rules and regulations with the aim of increasing the transparency of the UBE's rule adjudication process, codifying existing practices, and providing clarity of ambiguous language. The proposed edits were released for a two-week public comment period beginning on August 27th, 2024. The public comment period saw the UBE

solicit opinions from the University community through posting the information on the UBE's website, creating an anonymous feedback form, and hosting an in-person town hall on September 1st, 2024. Opinions were further solicited from the organizations whose elections the UBE manages.

Following the public comment period and approval by the entire Board, the new Rules and Regulations became effective on September 10th, 2024. The Fall Residence-Leadership Experience (RLE) elections and the New Student Elections (NSE) were the first elections administered by the UBE operating under these new rules.

This semester, the UBE Rules team issued a rules report (as required by the UBE Rules and Regulations) along with holding office hours for candidates in the NSE to ask questions about the rules.

## **Public Summaries of Fall 2024 Cases**

There were five official UBE Rules decisions along with four advisory UBE Rules decisions during the fall election cycle. Details of advisory opinions are not included, but summaries of official rulings are included below. These summaries are written in a way to maintain the anonymity of the complainants and the accused.

### **Official Rulings**

#### **Official Ruling 1 (NSE):**

A complaint was made to the UBE alleging that a prospective candidate in the NSE had created a campaign-oriented social media account prior to the stated allowed campaigning date.

The initial ruling of the UBE Rules Committee was for the candidate to delete or archive the social media account. The accused student complied and no appeal was made on their behalf.

#### **Official Ruling 2 (NSE):**

A complaint was made to the UBE alleging two separate minor violations

against two candidates in the NSE: both candidates were accused of improper signage and leaving a campaign table unattended for multiple hours.

The initial ruling of the UBE Rules Committee was to issue two minor violations to each accused candidate. Both students complied, removed the improper files, and no appeal was made on either of their behalfs.

**Official Ruling 3 (NSE):**

Complaints were made to the UBE by a single complainant alleging eight separate examples of improper signage against two candidates in the NSE.

The initial ruling of the UBE Rules Committee was for the candidates to remove the improper signage, along with issuing a singular minor violation individually to each accused candidate for all of the improper signage examples. Both candidates complied, removed the improper fliers, and no appeal was filed on their behalf.

**Official Ruling 4 (NSE):**

A complaint was made to the UBE alleging a minor violation against the same two candidates mentioned in Official Ruling 2 in the NSE. The complaint alleged improper signage. While the complaint was substantiated, it detailed improper signage documented during the ‘grace period’ given to the accused candidates in Official Ruling 2 to take down the improper fliers detailed in that ruling. The fliers had already been taken down.

Thus, the UBE Rules Committee ruled no action was necessary.

**Official Ruling 5 (NSE Runoff):**

A complaint was made to the UBE alleging that two candidates in the NSE had posted campaign material to a social media platform prior to the allowed stated campaigning start time.

The accused candidates provided proof that the material had not been posted prior to the allowed stated campaigning start time. Thus, the UBE Rules

Committee ruled no action was necessary.

### Rulings Statistics for Fall 2024<sup>1</sup>

Item	Count	Percent of Total <sup>2</sup>
<b>Number (#) of Rulings</b>	9	100%
Advisory	4	44%
Official	5	55%
<b># of Complainants</b>	7	100%
<b># of Accused (in official)</b>	5	-
# of minor violations given to candidates	6	-
# of major violations given to candidates	0	0%
# of candidates disqualified	0	-
<b># of Complaints Submitted to UBE</b>	11	100%
# of complaints Involving signage	9	81%
# of complaints Involving social media	2	18%

### Mean Ruling Processing Time for Fall 2024

Item	Time
Average Ruling Processing Time	2.11 days
Rulings processed in ≤2 days	6
Rulings processed in >2 days	3

<sup>1</sup> Rulings in 'Fall' refer to those rulings issued during the RLE, NSE, and the NSE Runoff which the UBE administered.

<sup>2</sup> Percent totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.



## **UBE Fall 2024 Marketing Activities**

Historically, the University Board of Elections' Marketing Team has been tasked with getting out the word for the UBE-run and -affiliated elections on Grounds, which in the fall include RLE and New Student Elections (NSE). RLE officials generally take the lead on outreach for both candidate registration and get-out-the-vote efforts for the RLE election, and the UBE takes on a support role in this election process. Somewhat unique to the fall 2024 election season for the UBE was the 2024 General Election for federal, state, and local officials. Although the UBE has maintained its focus on supporting student elections, this year marked an initial attempt to engage with get-out-the-vote efforts for non-student elections. The sections below detail UBE Marketing's role in fall elections on Grounds as a whole.

### **Activities Fair**

During and following the activities fair, the Marketing Team used in-person communication and social media to share the mission and goals of the UBE as well as recruit new members to fill vacant positions. For the fall, these included the following:

- Referendum and Documentation Liaison
- Organizations Coordinator
- Director of Investigations
- Director of School Councils and Outreach
- Rules Documentation Coordinator
- Election Week Analyst
- Virginia Democracy Fellow

Following the activities fair and social media posts, interviews and internal deliberation filled all vacant positions. This was the most competitive application cycle since the COVID-19 Pandemic, representing an increase in the total number of applicants from last year.

### **RLE, New Student Elections, and NSE Runoff Special Election**

### *RLE Election*

For the RLE election, the Marketing Team supported GOTV efforts through social media, but Housing and Residence Life officials were able to handle the majority of outreach and informational efforts for the election.

### *New Student Elections*

For the New Student Elections, the Marketing Team played a much more involved role in the outreach process, for both candidate registration and get-out-the-vote efforts. Regarding the former, the UBE worked with Housing and Residence Life and University administrators to post digital signage urging interested students to register as candidates for the NSE. Analysis from the 2023 NSE suggested that candidate registration was low for certain positions, particularly for Transfer and International Representatives for both undergraduate and graduate students. In response, the team put together digital and physical materials targeted at reaching interested students, also including the special addition of a UJC Data Science Representative in the NSE. Outreach for these positions was mostly successful, as candidate registration for these positions increased in two out of three cases. The UBE's social media presence was continuous during the candidate registration period, communicating the registration deadline for the NSE.

After the candidate registration period closed, the Marketing Team worked to increase student engagement with the NSE ballot.

Following the technical difficulties of the first day of voting, the Marketing Team communicated the UBE's response on social media. For the next two days of voting, the UBE continued to update the student body on the election process through social media while tabling with donuts to get out the vote. Marketing worked with other teams to address questions and comments about the NSE election process.

### *NSE Runoff Special Election*

After the decision of the UBE to hold a Runoff Special Election, the Marketing Team continued to communicate with the student body through social media

regarding the process for the Runoff. At the same time, Marketing made efforts to work with candidates in the Runoff Special Election to post candidate spotlights and tabled to get out the vote.

Turnout in both the NSE and the NSE Runoff Special Election was high — significantly higher than in recent years — which can largely be attributed to the efforts of NSE candidates, though the UBE cannot discount the possibility of spillover effects resulting from the 2024 Elections (creating increased feelings of civic engagement) or the likelihood the electorate for the NSE was more interested in student self-governance than past electorates.

### **November General Election and Collaboration with Campus Vote Project**

Part of the Marketing Team’s fall 2024 project portfolio included promoting voter engagement in the general election. Following the departure of Dr. Carah Ong Whaley, the University was left without a clear leader for channeling civic engagement efforts, critically in the period before the 2024 Presidential Election. As a result, organizations like the Center for Politics, Student Council’s Legislative Affairs Agency, University Democrats, College Republicans, and other civic-minded organizations led relatively individual initiatives to register students to vote and turn them out in October/November. The University Board of Elections also has a Democracy Fellow on its Marketing Team, which presents a unique opportunity to tie student elections to U.S. elections.

#### *Tabling*

In an attempt to strengthen the University’s GOTV efforts, the University Board of Elections led tabling on Election Day alongside a therapy miniature horse (T-Rex), therapy golden retriever (Blue), and their owner and speech pathologist, Ada Haensel. The tabling event also featured Bodo’s bagels and coffee while the UBE members encouraged students to vote.



## *Absentee Ballot Information*

For the general election in November, the Marketing Team created a shareable resource for the greater University community. This resource included a provisional voting explainer, a Virginia absentee ballot tracker, and a universal ballot tracking tool for voters to check the status of their ballot.

## **Room for Improvement**

Looking to both spring 2025 and fall 2025 election seasons, the Marketing Team has several areas of improvement. First, the tabling events for the fall were successful in improving turnout, but candidate campaigning was more efficient and comprehensive in turning out voters for NSE and the NSE Runoff Special Election. When dealing with competitive and engaging races like fall 2024, UBE Marketing should adjust to support the universal elevation of campaign platforms rather than tabling simply for get-out-the-vote efforts. Second, the Marketing Team could benefit from a more structured approach to social media outreach, which the Team plans to implement in the spring. Third, the Marketing Team's outreach campaigns could benefit from more concrete relationships with the schools and organizations the UBE serves — by developing relationships with these groups ahead of time, the UBE will be able to streamline candidate registration and GOTV efforts. Finally, the UBE's initial involvement in get-out-the-vote efforts for U.S. elections opens new doors to engagement with the Center for Politics, Karsh Institute, Student Council, and other civic-oriented organizations. By fostering these relationships, the UBE can serve at the forefront of building a unified coalition of civic engagement organizing.

## **Fall Election Data Analysis**

As noted previously, the UBE managed two elections (the runoff is grouped with the NSE for data analysis purposes): RLE and New Student Elections (NSE). In an attempt to glean insight regarding voter behavior, the UBE analyzed data centered around candidates and voters alike. The purpose of this analysis is to inform the University community of voter trends and to better identify shortcomings in the UBE's marketing for both candidate recruitment and voter turnout.

### **Fall 2024 RLE Election**

Fall 2024 RLE Elections, conducted from September 12th-14th, 2024, centered around First Year Council (FYC) and Association Council positions, all of whom are elected by residents of on-Grounds housing.

There were a total of 99 candidates for FYC races (92 from first-year housing areas and 7 from residential colleges) and 99 candidates for Association Council positions (68 from first-year housing areas and 31 from upper-class housing areas). This distribution was not equally divided amongst housing areas. The three housing areas that produced the most Association Council candidates were Woody-Cauthen (13), Gaston-Ramazani (10), and Bice (9). The three housing areas that produced the most FYC candidates were Woody-Cauthen (15), Kent-Dabney (11), and a tie between Gooch and Echols-Humphreys (8).

A total of 1,471 votes were cast during the RLE election, constituting a 20.68% voter turnout. A breakdown can be seen in the table below. The UBE finds the presence or absence of contested elections to be a crucial factor in determining voter turnout. In first-year housing areas that saw uncontested elections, turnout was 10.81%, compared to 33.68% in first-year housing areas with at least one contested race. However, this does not correlate with the area producing the most candidates automatically possessing the highest turnout. For example, Woody-Cauthen had the most candidates of all housing

areas, yet, four housing areas had higher turnout. As such, the UBE recognizes the need to, alongside Housing and Residence Life, recruit more candidates in order to bolster civic engagement on Grounds.

**RLE Voter Turnout**

Location	Voter Turnout <sup>3</sup>
<b>First-year housing areas</b> (excluding residential colleges)	28.83%
First-year housing areas with contested elections	33.68%
First-year housing areas with uncontested elections	10.81%
<b>Upper-class housing areas</b>	10.67%
<b>Residential College turnout</b>	8.68%
<b>TOTAL TURNOUT</b>	20.68%

**Housing Area Voter Turnout**

Rank	Residence Area	Number of Candidates	Voter Turnout
1st	Kent-Dabney	17	42.5%
2nd	Balz-Dobie	9	41.42%
3rd	Bonnycastle-Hancock	5	40.20%

**Fall 2024 NSE & Runoff Special Election**

Fall 2024 New Student Elections, conducted from October 7th-9th, 2024, had seven positions on the ballot: First Year Council President, First Year Council Vice President, First Year Student Council Representative (3 winners), Transfer Student Council Representative, Undergraduate International

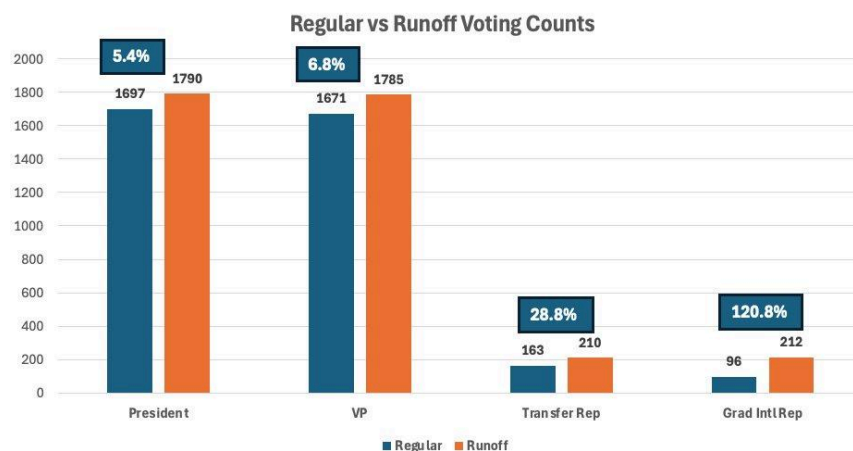
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<sup>3</sup> All figures are rounded

Student Council Representative, Graduate International Student Council Representative, and a special election for the School of Data Science University Judiciary Committee (UJC) Representative. Ballot errors, detailed in the succeeding section, resulted in a runoff special election for First Year Council President, First Year Council Vice President, Transfer Student Council Representative, and Graduate International Student Council Representative, which was conducted from October 16th-18th, 2024.

Across all races, a total of 56 candidates ran in the NSE: 10 candidates for FYC President, 9 for FYC Vice President, 21 for First Year Student Council Representative, 9 for Transfer Student Council Representative, 1 for Undergraduate International Student Council Representative, 4 for Graduate International Student Council Representative, and 2 for the School of Data Science UJC Representative. The figures below better contextualize this data over time. Overall, the significant declines in the number of candidates for Transfer Student Council Representative and Undergraduate Student Council Representative races indicates a shortcoming in recruitment that the UBE aims to improve in subsequent elections. The decline in candidates, especially the uncontested Undergraduate International Student Council Representative, most likely played a role in lower voter turnout in these races as well.

The runoff presented an interesting opportunity to study voter turnout: two elections conducted a week apart could result in voter fatigue and lower turnout. However, the opposite occurred: voter turnout was higher across all races for the Runoff than NSE, as can be seen in the figure below.



### Turnout & Candidate Numbers: NSE 2023 vs. NSE 2024

	NSE 2023 Turnout	NSE 2023 # of candidates	NSE 2024 Turnout	NSE 2024 # of candidates	Runoff 2024 Turnout <sup>4</sup>
<b>FYC President</b>	38.67%	10	41.47%	10	43.74%
<b>FYC Vice President</b>	36.11%	7	40.84%	9	43.62%
<b>First Year Student Council Rep.</b>	27.85%	27	39.17%	21	-
<b>Transfer Student Council Rep.</b>	13.27%	17	7.67%	9	9.89%
<b>Undergraduate International Student Council Rep.</b>	5.92%	12	5.16%	1	-
<b>Graduate International Student Council Rep.</b>	3.61%	3	5.57%	4	12.31%

While there were differences between the NSE and the Runoff Special Election, many of the trends were consistent between the two elections. Besides the graduate international student council race, women voted at a higher proportion than men, which is consistent with the data gathered from the spring 2024 University-wide elections. In the undergraduate races (first year and transfer), students in the College of Arts & Sciences voted at a higher rate than students enrolled in the School of Engineering & Applied Sciences. When evaluating the first year races in particular, voter turnout was not equally distributed across housing areas: Alderman Road residents voted at a higher rate than McCormick Road and Gooch/Dillard residents. The UBE has a few ideas why this occurred. As observed by members of the UBE, first year

<sup>4</sup> Each race in the runoff had two candidates, selected based on the top two vote getters from NSE 2024. Some races did not result in a runoff, as reflected by an omission of turnout in this column



candidates often tabled in front of the Observatory Hill dining hall, adjacent to the Alderman Road housing area (though residents of McCormick Road housing areas also frequent that dining hall). However, the more likely cause is the residences of the candidates themselves: 11 of the 19 candidates for FYC President and Vice President were residents of Alderman Road housing areas. Furthermore, the four Alderman Road dormitories with outsized proportions of voter turnout (Balz-Dobie, Cauthen, Tuttle-Dunnington, and Watson-Webb) produced seven candidates in the FYC Presidential and Vice Presidential races. As such, the UBE hopes to improve voter turnout in on-Grounds residential areas that saw lower turnout (namely Gooch/Dillard and the McCormick Road housing areas) in the spring 2025 student elections.

## **New Student Election Errors & Procedural Changes**

On Monday, October 7th, 2024 the University Board of Elections released the ballot for New Student Elections containing the following positions: First Year Council President, First Year Council Vice President, First Year Student Council Representatives (3), Undergraduate International Student Council Representative, Graduate International Student Council Representative, Transfer Student Council Representative, and Data Science UJC Representative.

Within the first hour of voting, the University Board of Elections received multiple emails from multiple eligible candidates saying that their names were not listed under their respective races, particularly for First Year Council President & Vice President. By the time the UBE received these emails, several hundred students had already voted on a ballot which did not reflect the full range of candidate options. Consequently, the UBE closed the ballot and set up a new ballot with all eligible candidates listed on the ballot for all races. The UBE opted to send out a new ballot rather than updating the currently-available ballot because the hundreds of voters who had already submitted their votes were previously unable to select from a comprehensive candidate list.

When the UBE re-released the updated ballot that afternoon, all candidates were listed, but a second issue with the ballot was revealed— this ballot was run as “first-past-the-post” voting and not “ranked choice” voting for multiple offices which are mandated to be run as ranked choice elections per the Board’s Election Rules. Races where there is only one winner must be conducted using the ranked choice method of voting, while races with multiple winners are conducted using the first-past-the-post system. To correct distortions which may have arisen from first-past-the-post voting (versus ranked choice voting), the UBE soon decided to hold a runoff election for the top two vote-getters in the First Year Council President, First Year Council Vice President, Graduate International Student Council Representative, and Transfer Student Council Representatives elections the following week. Per

the UBE's Election Rules, the UBE cannot alter the election procedures or rules midway through an election. As such, the UBE could not declare winners in the races conducted in a manner contrary to the UBE's Election Rules. The UBE also determined that, due to becoming aware of the error so late in the election process, rescinding and reissuing the ballot for a third time would decrease turnout and create an inaccurate picture of voter preferences. After the decision was made to hold a runoff, notice was provided to all impacted candidates on October 8th, 2024, and the altered rules/procedures (including offering reimbursements and instituting a campaign "pause" over fall reading days) were finalized the following day. The UBE did not hold a runoff for First Year Student Council Representatives, because that race was supposed to be first-past-the-post race to identify multiple winners; the UBE did not hold a runoff for Undergraduate International Student Representative, as there was only one candidate on the ballot; the UBE did not hold a runoff for Data Science UJC Representative, because there were only two candidates on the ballot, meaning at least one would win a majority.

Since New Student Elections, the UBE has worked diligently to uncover why & how these errors occurred.

The UBE believes that the first issue— candidates being suppressed off of the original ballot— most likely occurred because several eligible candidates incorrectly appeared as "ghost candidates," who are individuals who clicked the link to explore the BigPulse candidate nomination link but did not intend to run in an election. Before most elections, the UBE has to manually suppress hundreds of ghost candidates who do not intend to appear on the ballot from appearing on the ballot. This has traditionally been done by suppressing the candidates who do not input their platform & personal data, signaling that they do not intend to run in the election for which they clicked the nomination form for. However, the UBE now believes that real candidates who intend to run but do upload optional data like a profile photo (which has traditionally been considered optional) are classified as having "missing data" and so incorrectly appear as ghost candidates. The UBE is working closely with

BigPulse, the election management software platform, to understand how & why this may have occurred.

The UBE believes that the second error— the voting mechanism for all elections being “first-past-the-post” and not “ranked choice,” which should have applied to all races besides First Year Student Council Representative— most likely occurred because of a ballot misspecification. In communicating with BigPulse, the UBE attempted to ensure the First Year Student Council Representatives race was conducted using the first-past-the-post method. However, the UBE believes this specification was erroneously applied to all races. During the UBE’s ballot checks prior to its release to voters, this error went undetected. As such, the failure to apply the proper voting methods to the correct races was a preventable error, one that could and should have been caught by members of the UBE prior to releasing the ballot.

Since New Student Elections, the UBE has consequently taken multiple measures to make sure that neither of these issues— (1) candidates being suppressed off of the ballot and (2) races being run in the incorrect voting format— happen again. Some of the steps the Board has taken include:

1. Multiple UBE members will now be in charge of setting up the ballot. Once it has been set up, it will be checked by the Vice Chair for Elections, then checked again by the Chair. All three waves of ballot verification will involve checking the candidate list against the eligibility quiz responses (more information below) to make sure all interested, eligible candidates are listed on BigPulse. The voting format will be checked against the Election Specification Document.
2. The Board will write new Election Specification Documents for every election that the UBE runs throughout the school year. These will preserve information on what voting format races should be, how candidates are to be verified, and other logistical facets as the Board transitions roles & leadership year after year; it will also contain information on how to use BigPulse & how to work with BigPulse administrators.

3. To avoid active candidates being suppressed off of the ballot, uploading a profile photo will be made optional on BigPulse so that candidates who choose to run but don't upload a photo will not be flagged as "incomplete profiles" by BigPulse.
4. To avoid active candidates being suppressed off the ballot, candidate profiles will not be generated until after candidates input a candidate bio on BigPulse. This year, there were hundreds of "ghost candidates," who were not students wanting to run for any election, but who were marked as "incomplete profiles" simply because they clicked the nomination link. The UBE believes that, going forward, having to manually suppress these profiles could pose a risk of human error if an active candidate was accidentally suppressed as a ghost candidate. As the UBE works to prevent past mistakes, the UBE also wants to preempt future mistakes, and so are working to change this setting in BigPulse. \*this will *not* make it harder for candidates to run, but will simply filter candidate IDs of students explicitly *not* wanting to run\*. Additionally, the UBE will institute an eligibility quiz for fall elections. An eligibility quiz, which features information pertaining to the UBE's Rules and election calendar, are used in the university-wide elections held in the spring to ensure all candidates have a strong knowledge of procedure and to filter out prospective candidates. In the spring, only candidates who attend an information session or complete the eligibility quiz receive the BigPulse link to register their candidacy. However, for fall elections, all members of the electorate receive BigPulse links to register, resulting in many clicking the link to simply learn more about the opportunity. This contributes to the excessive number of "ghost candidates." By adding eligibility quizzes for fall elections as a precondition to receiving the BigPulse candidate registration link, the UBE hopes to limit the number of "ghost candidates" while ensuring candidates are versed in the UBE's procedures.