Mission Statement

The Student Elections Commission (SEC) is an independent student-led entity. The commission’s purpose it to administer elections for the Boston University Student Government as well as election for those College governments that wish to leverage the SEC as a supporting organization. The SEC accepts petitions from students wishing to run for office, maintains guidelines surrounding candidates’ campaign processes, oversees candidates to ensure adherence to the Elections Code and university policy, works with the appropriate offices to maintain the online voting system, promotes and executes a fair election cycle, and publishes the results of the elections. It is the commission’s continuing goal to provide the Boston University Student Body with just and fair Student Government Elections and to promote increased student participation in every aspect of the election.

Composition of the Commission

The Student Elections Commission will be composed of Boston University undergraduate students in good academic standing. Commissioners cannot be elected or appointed officials of the Student Government, or an elected or appointed of any subcommittee thereof. Commissioners having close personal relationships with candidates will be asked to step down for the election cycle by a majority vote of the remaining commissioners.

Authority of the Commission

The Student Elections Commission is granted authority by the Student Government to preside over the election of Student Government positions. Additionally, the commission may be granted authority by the Executive Boards of the College Governments to preside over the election of college government positions.

Official Roles

1. Chairperson

   The Chairperson acts as the Chief Executive Officer of the commission. He/She enforces the Election Code and university policy, and ensures that the commissioners perform their duties well and faithfully in an impartial
manner. He/She acts as a liaison between the commissioners and the administration.

2. Vice Chairperson of Events

The Vice Chairperson of Events assumes the duties of the Chairperson if, for any reason, the Chairperson cannot perform them. He/She coordinates and assists with activities of the commissioners. The Vice Chairperson of Events is responsible for organizing and planning all SEC related events for candidates.

3. Vice Chairperson of Rules

The Vice Chairperson of Rules interprets and enforces the Election Code and the Commission Internal Code, and ensures that the Student Government Charter and the Election Code are non-conflicting. He/She is responsible for overseeing the amendment process and ensuring that no provisions in either code conflict with university policy.

4. Voting members

Voting members are responsible for appearing and voting upon all amendments to the code as well as complaints filed during the election cycle. Voting members are also responsible for attending all code-door meetings to vote on any complaints.

Appointment of Commissioners

1. Chairperson

The Chairperson will be appointed by the existing Chairperson at the close of the election cycle prior to the beginning of the next academic year. No Chairperson may serve on the commission after his/her term as Chairperson.

2. Vice Chairperson of Events

The Vice Chairperson of Events will be appointed by the exiting Chairperson at the close of the election cycle prior to the beginning of the next academic year. The Vice Chairperson of Events will remain on the commission until he/she graduates, becomes Chairperson, or steps down.
3. Vice Chairperson of Rules

The newly appointed Chairperson will appoint the Vice Chairperson of Rules. The Student Government holds the right to challenge the appointment prior to the start of the election cycle. The Rules Commissioner will remain on the commission until he/she graduates, becomes Chairperson, or steps down.

Removal of Commissioners

1. Commissioners may be removed by a simple majority vote of the commission.

2. Vacancy in the role of Chairperson

   In the event of a vacancy in the role of Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson of Events will assume the role of Chairperson. The new Chairperson will appoint a new Vice Chairperson from within the commission. To maintain continuity in the interpretation of the election rules, the new Chairperson may not select the Rules Commissioner to fill the vacant position. The new Chairperson will appoint a new commissioner from the student body.

3. Vacancy in the role of Vice Chairpersons

   In the event of a vacancy in the role of Vice Chairperson, the Chairperson will appoint a new Vice Chairperson from within the commission. To maintain continuity in the interpretation of the election rules, the Chairperson may not select the Rules Commissioner to fill the vacant position. The new Chairperson will appoint a new commissioner from the student body.

4. In the event that there are no existing commissioners to appoint a new commissioner, the Director of the Student Activities Office, the Executive Director of Student Affairs, and the dean of Students will appoint a new Chairperson.

Commission Meetings

1. The commission will hold closed-door meetings as required to discuss sensitive commission topics. Such topics include but are not limited to the discussion of violations and associated penalties, and internal problems.
2. In the event that time-sensitive information requires an emergency meeting. It will be the discretion of the commission to public announce this meeting.

**Voting Procedures**

1. Each commissioner and designated voting member of the SEC will carry one vote. In the event of a tie vote, the Chairperson will cast a deciding vote.

2. Two-thirds of commissioners must be present in order to put a matter to vote.

3. A commissioner must be present for the presentation of arguments and associated discussion in order to cast a vote on the matter in question.

**Interview Procedures**

1. At the start of the election cycle the commission will appoint one commissioner to handle public affairs. These duties will include all communication with the free media.

2. All requests for interviews of commissions must be made in writing.

**Funding**

1. Donation of Funds

   A. The commission may accept donations of funds from the Student Government and College Governments, in order to properly oversee their election. The donation of such funds will not be accepted if they are given with the intention of eliciting preference toward any candidate or group.

   B. The commission may accept donations of funds from groups whose purpose is to impartially fund student organizations, such as Student Activities Office and Allocations Board.

   C. The commission may accept donations of funds from any university department or office.

   D. The commission may not accept donations from groups with vested interest in the election. This includes but is not limited to groups to which candidates belong.
E. The commission may accept or decline any further funds at their discretion.

2. Commission funds will be used exclusively for actives related to publicizing the election or planning events for candidates

Amendment Process

1. Requests for amendment to this code must be made in writing and submitted to a member of the commission. The request must be made one month prior to the date of the first information session of the election cycle, or after the close of the current election cycle.

2. The commission will hold an open-door meeting to discuss the proposed amendment.

3. The commission will hold a closed-door vote to either accept or deny the amendment.

   A. If approved, the amendment will take effect immediately, and an updated copy of the code will be made publicly available in a timely manner.

   B. If denied, the individual proposing the amendment will have the opportunity to revise the proposed amendment and re-submit to the commission.