



# Election arrangements

## 2024

RCP Council has reviewed and approved the election material available to voters for the election of the academic vice president, and members of Council in 2024.

- > The two elections will run concurrently to increase engagement.
- > New guidance is provided to candidates regarding the positive opportunities for engagement, including the appropriate use of social media – Candidate Code of Practice for RCP elections. **Fellows should be aware that this allows wider canvassing than in previous elections.**
- > The entire process of the elections, from nomination to distribution of ballot papers and voting, will be digital only. All fellows in good standing are encouraged to vote and ballot papers will be designed to enable a transferable voting procedure.
- > Please note that honorary fellows are ineligible to stand, nominate or vote in RCP elections.
- > A timetable of key dates is included at the end of this document.

### Academic vice president and councillor elections 2024

Candidates should provide the following materials, all of which will be placed on the election website:

- > an election statement of 500 words and a photograph
- > a short CV, to a common format
- > a declaration of interests, to a common format.

#### Rules governing election materials – held on the election website

- > The statement and other material must be used to communicate the qualities and suitability for election to the role.
- > Within the material, fellows may be asked to vote for a candidate by making that candidate a first choice only.
- > This should not contain any weblink or spell out the address of any website, although blogs and websites can be referred to in the body of the statement.

#### Bye-law 5.7 states:

*No candidate shall canvass for votes directly or indirectly for membership, fellowship or any office, distinction, advancement or promotion in the College or in any Faculty or Joint Faculty of the College except as may be expressly permitted by the Council.*

## Guidance to candidates on canvassing and positive opportunities for engagement

The revised election code recently approved by Council is designed to allow a level playing field in which the RCP encourages a fair promotion of candidates' views and profiles, giving each of them equity of access to resources and to the whole electorate using the election web platform. This provides a clear framework to candidates standing for election and a clear explanation to the electorate on the current rules regarding elections. Positive opportunities for engagement/campaigning are also open to candidates to inform the electorate. The use of social media by candidates regarding the election is permissible, **once the list of candidates is made public**.

All social media activity should be in line with the following:

- > Candidate Code of Practice for RCP elections
- > RCP social media principles and code of conduct
- > RCP Code of Conduct

Council wishes to emphasise the following:

- > The use of social media should conform to set standards of behaviour and be in line with RCP social media usage guidelines and other codes listed above. In effect, candidates for office should act as if they were already elected and in post.
- > There is a requirement to avoid negative comments about individuals or the RCP, in keeping with the RCP Code of Conduct for members and fellows.
- > Social media posts that breach the criteria of acceptability will be challenged and candidates will be asked to remove them.
- > Candidates who fail to conduct themselves accordingly will be subject to the established disciplinary mechanisms of the RCP.

## Election timetable 2024

- > **25 January** – Council to review nominations received.
- > **1 February** – deadline for submission of election material to the RCP by candidates.
- > **Early February** – public announcement of candidates in all elections.
- > **23 February** – voting opens, Civica Election Services to send voting invitation emails to all eligible voters.
- > **25 March** – voting closes.
- > **Early April** – public announcement of results.
- > **1 August** – successful candidates to take up office.