I. Timeline

1. *Wednesday, March 25*: Info session. Attendance is strongly encouraged but not mandatory. Must email maia.eliscovichsigal@yale.edu to receive election materials if meeting is missed.
2. *Friday, March 27*: pre-campaign period, teams can start forming
3. *Thursday, April 2*: Petition and candidacy statement due by 5 pm. Orientation meeting at 6 pm. Campaigns might begin after the meeting
4. *Monday, April 6*: Endorsing meeting and debate at 4 pm
5. *Thursday, April 9*: Polls open at 9 am
6. *Friday, April 10*: Polls close at 9 pm
7. *Tuesday, April 14*: Run-off polls open at 9 am
8. *Wednesday, April 15*: Run-off polls close at 9 pm

II. Officer Election Guidelines

Purpose
The purpose of these guidelines is to provide a simple, fair, and enforceable set of rules for the Yale College Council (YCC) Officer Elections. The Rules are in effect for offices of YCC President, YCC Vice President, YCC Finance Director, YCC Events Director, Sophomore Class Council (SoCo) President and Junior Class Council (JCC) President.

Enforcement
The Council Elections Commission (CEC) will be established. It will have complete authority over interpreting and enforcing these guidelines.

Clarification
It is the sole responsibility of the candidates to seek clarification on any issue not explicitly addressed in these guidelines. The Chair of the CEC will email all candidates with the answers to these clarification requests. Candidates who do not adhere to these regulations may be penalized at the discretion of the CEC, as provided for in Part VIII of these guidelines.
Amendments
The CEC may amend these guidelines at any time. Candidates who have submitted a petition to run will be notified of changes via email, and changes will be binding as soon as notification is sent.

III. The Council Elections Committee (CEC)

Membership
The CEC will consist of the Vice President of the YCC (unless the Vice President is running for an office, in which case a chair will be chosen) and four members-at-large who will be chosen by the YCC executive board from a pool of undergraduates.

Removal
The CEC will have the authority to dismiss any CEC members who campaigns for, publicly supports, derogates, or demonstrably aids any candidates. The CEC will also have the authority to dismiss any CEC member who is frequently unavailable for meetings or is otherwise delinquent in his/her duties.

Replacement
In the event that a member-at-large is dismissed, the chair of the CEC will choose a replacement from the unselected candidates in the pool.

Voting
A quorum of at least 3 members-at-large is required for votes. All CEC decisions will be decided by a majority vote of the members-at-large. In the event of a tie, the Chair of the CEC must vote to break the tie. Abstentions are not permitted.

Election Publicity
The CEC is responsible for publicizing all election activities with the help of the YCC.

IV. Candidates

Eligibility
Any undergraduate who will be enrolled at Yale College and in New Haven for the next two semesters is eligible to run for office. YCC President must have attended at least three meetings of the Council of Representatives in the spring semester prior to the
submission of candidacy declarations and petitions in order to be eligible to participate in the elections.

Registration
Each prospective candidate must register online at http://yalestation.yale.edu/ycc/elections by submitting a non-amendable candidacy statement and agreeing to follow the Officer Election Guidelines. Each prospective candidate must also submit a completed petition to the Yale College Dean’s Office by Thursday, April 2 at 5 pm.

Statements
Candidacy statements must be no more than 500 words (text only) and will be available to voters during polling.

Petitions
The candidate’s name, as it will appear on the ballot, must appear at the top of each petition sheet. The petition must be signed by EXACTLY one hundred Yale undergraduates, with the name, college, and year of each. An undergraduate may sign petitions for multiple candidates. If more than one hundred names are submitted, the candidate will be subject to penalties. No additional campaigning may take place at this time beyond this verbal communication.

Orientation
Candidates will be required to attend the orientation meetings held by the CEC. The first mandatory meeting for all Candidates will take place Thursday, April 2 at 6 pm.

Availability
Candidates must make themselves available to the CEC at all times.

V. Pre-Campaign Period

Start
Organizations of campaign teams may begin on Friday, March 27.

Acceptable Activity for Campaign Teams
Candidates may email close personal friends to ask for help in executing their campaign. A candidate should have no more than 30 such friends. Additionally, each prospective candidate may have one and only one mailing list for his or her campaign
to use throughout the pre-campaign and campaign periods in order to facilitate organization and planning. This list must be an EliList set up through the Yale servers, contain no more than 30 persons on the list (excluding the candidate and CEC), and also include a member of the CEC as an administrator to monitor its proper use. This mailing list is EXCLUDED from the CC, disclaimer, and “mass email” requirements for email. If you have questions about this regulation, please consult the chair of the CEC.

All email correspondence during this period must CC ycc.election@gmail.com

All email correspondence during this period must include the following disclaimer: “This is a disclaimer. No unsolicited e-mail may be sent during this period. This email may only petition for your aid during the campaign period, and may not ask for your vote. If you have received this e-mail from someone who you would not consider a close personal friend or it is asking for anything other than your help and you would like to file a formal complaint, please e-mail ycc.election@gmail.com

Unacceptable Activity

I. Active campaigning before the orientation meeting on Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 6 pm (other than in conversations used to garner the requisite 100 signatures required to run) is strictly prohibited. Students are not allowed to discuss their decision to seek YCC office in public. No communications that can be construed as asking for votes or support can be made, enforced by penalty to be decided by the CEC. Conversations of strategy or platform should not be made outside of those students that comprise the potential candidate’s campaign team formed after March 27, 2015.

II. It is unacceptable to seek organization endorsements before the endorsement meeting on Monday, April 6. Endorsements will only be considered valid (and published online) if at least one member of the endorsing organization attends the meeting and debate on Monday, April 6, and has their organization’s president (or equivalent leader) confirm the attending member’s selected endorsements.

III. It is unacceptable to utilize panlists or other general email lists during this process other than the designated campaign panlist.

IV. It is unacceptable to contact people who are not close personal friends.
V. Any campaign activity by third parties, including contacting friends on a candidate’s behalf, is unacceptable.

VI. The Campaign Period

Membership
The CEC will consist of the Vice President of the YCC (unless the Vice President is running for an office, in which case a chair will be chosen) and four members-at-large who will be chosen by the YCC executive board from a pool of undergraduates.

Start
Public campaigning (beyond organizing during the pre-campaign period) will begin on Thursday, April 2 after the mandatory meeting. No public campaigning is allowed before this time. Any question of what determines public campaigning should be directed to CEC.

Approval
All campaigning and publicity must be in accordance with the Undergraduate Regulations.

Spending
I. Each candidate for the YCC Executive Board or Class Council President is allowed to spend $100 on his or her campaign. This $100 encompasses both traditional and innovative (i.e. anything other than posters, table tents, business cards, etc.) publicity techniques. Candidates should retain receipts for proof of purchase should there be allegations of exceeding the spending limit.

II. Rule of Access: In general, a “rule of access” determining whether other candidates have access to the same form of publicity will be applied.

III. Non-purchased Items: Items used in campaigning that are not purchased because they are previously owned by candidates, or are given or loaned from another individual or organization, must be counted toward the $100 spending limit. The approximate value of all non-purchased campaign items must be reported to the Vice President at the outset of the campaign, or as soon as they are obtained.
IV. Donated Funds and Goods: Individuals or undergraduate organizations may donate funds to or spend money on behalf of any candidate or candidates, up to, but not in addition to, the $100 spending limit.

Paper
When possible, all posters and publicity must be on recyclable paper (colored or white paper).

Unacceptable Publicity

I. No campaigning publicity, verbal or otherwise, may occur in any of the computer clusters across campus.

II. Neither a candidate nor a member of the candidate’s campaign team may inappropriately harass or detain a student, either for purposes of campaigning or to get them to vote directly.

III. No notice of candidacy may be written with chalk.

IV. Any publicity that is deemed fraudulent, or deemed primarily to intimidate or derogate another candidate, is not permitted.

V. Candidates are NOT allowed to enter suites and bedrooms while residents are not present.

VI. No faculty or staff may be included in campaign videos or posters.

Size
No posters may be adjoined together to make a poster larger than the aforementioned sizes.

Multiple Candidates
Any poster with multiple candidates’ named on it counts toward the spending limit for each of the named candidates.

Poster Regulations
All posters must be hung in a way that is consistent with the poster regulations of Yale College and of the specific residential college in which they are hung. Any posters in violation of regulations will be removed and may not be replaced. You can find the regulations in the Undergraduate Regulations.
Supporters
Individuals aiding candidates must follow these guidelines. Any violation committed by an individual aiding a candidate may be considered as committed under the auspices of the candidate. Candidates will be held accountable for any infractions of these guidelines by other individuals campaigning on their behalf.

Tampering
Damaging, removing, or defacing other candidates’ publicity is strictly prohibited.

Emailing
  I. All email on behalf of the candidate or his or her supporters pertaining to the elections during the campaign period must CC ycc.election@gmail.com. No email addresses may be BCC’d.
  II. Candidates and individuals working on the candidate’s behalf may not email panlists to which they do not belong.
  III. Candidates and individuals aiding the candidate may not email the whole campus, an entire residential college, an entire class, or class years within a college.
  IV. Mass emails (emails sent to more than 20 recipients at a time) are strictly prohibited.
  V. All campaign emails (from the candidate or otherwise) sent during the campaign period must include the following disclaimer: This is a disclaimer. No emails sent by a candidate or on a candidate’s behalf may be sent to any panlist that the sender is not on. No emails may be sent to the entire campus, entire class years, entire residential colleges, or entire class years within residential colleges. Candidates are urged to act with restraint in the use of all electronic messaging systems. If you feel that this or any candidate is abusing the email system, please contact the CEC at ycc.election@gmail.com.
  VI. The CEC will not tolerate abuses of the Yale College email system for the purposes of campaigning. Candidates are urged to act with restraint in the use of all electronic messaging systems, and are advised that the Council Elections Commission will address complaints about abusive email practices on an ad hoc basis. The Commission will exercise its discretion in individual
cases to define unethical emailing practices, issuing at most one preliminary warning to offending candidates before taking disciplinary action, including the possible disqualification of any candidate who repeatedly abuses the email systems of Yale College.

VII. The Election

Voting Times
Voting will take place at http://yalestation.yale.edu/ycc/elections from 9 AM on Thursday, April 9, 2015 to Friday, April 10, 2015 at 9 PM.

I. Vote: Each voter may vote for one candidate for each office.

II. Ballots: The electronic ballots will present each candidate’s full name as it appeared on the petition along with the candidate’s college and year. The order in which the candidates’ names appear on the ballot will be chosen at random by the vote program.

III. Statements: The candidacy statement referred to in Part III Section C of these Guidelines will be available online as students vote.

IV. Absentee Ballots: No absentee ballots will be accepted.

V. Access: The Chair of the CEC and the administrator of the vote program will have sole authority over access to the voting system

VI. Persons not enrolled in Yale College are unable to vote.

Determination of Winners

I. Tabulation: All ballots will be collected and tabulated on the YaleStation voting system. Results will not be announced until all voting is completed.

II. A candidate shall be declared the winner of his or her election if he or she:
   a. Receives more than 50% of votes cast for his or her office.
b. Receives at least 40% of the votes cast for his or her office and at least 5% more votes than the nearest candidate.

c. Receives less than 40% of the number of votes and at least 10% more votes than the nearest candidate.

d. If a race is uncontested, the sole candidate shall be declared the winner.

III. Run-Off: If no candidate is declared the winner as detailed in Subsection II, then a run-off election between the two top vote-getters for that office will take place on the date specified above in the elections timeline.

Penalties
The CEC shall have the power to review infringements upon these guidelines and shall have the discretion to penalize candidates without appeal. Depending on the severity of the infringement, potential penalties include, but are not restricted to, decreasing of the $100 spending limit, revoking of campaign digital media privileges, forced removal of any portion or all of campaign materials, publicizing of a candidate’s infractions, and/or removal of a candidate’s place on the ballot.