

To: Prof Marlene Verhoef; *Registrar*
Dr Sibusiso Chalufu; *Executive Director: Student Life*

From: Adv. I. Mwanawina; Chairperson of the Independent Students' Electoral Commission (ISEC)

Date: 15 September 2023

Subject: Ratification and announcement of election results for the 2023/24 SCC and SRC: DSO Elections

Good day

1. The ISEC has resolved to ratify the results of the 2023/24 SCC and SRC: DSO Elections, in terms of paragraph 13.2 of the Institutional Rules on Student Governance (2023)¹.
2. During the course of the elections, the following events and/or circumstances arose:
 - 2.1. The commencement of the voting period was initially scheduled for 16-18 August 2023.
 - 2.2. Due to internal adjustments, the initial period was then rescheduled to 21-23 August 2023.
 - 2.3. The second period of the commencement of voting was then adjusted to 25-29 August 2023, owing to system-related challenges in the eFundi and QuestionPro environments. The relevant notice to this effect, published on 23 August 2023 by the Registrar, is attached hereto as Annexure P-01.
 - 2.4. Following the commencement of the voting period on 25 August 2023, the University was alerted to a security flaw in the voting system. The relevant notices published on 25 and 28 August 2023 are attached hereto as Annexures P-02 and P-03.
 - 2.5. The voting period for a select group of students who had not been granted access to the voting sites was extended from 06-07 September 2023. The relevant notice published on 05 September 2023 is attached hereto as Annexure P-04.
 - 2.6. Parallel to the above-mentioned occurrences, the ISEC continued to exercise oversight over the electoral process.
 - 2.7. Various objections were received and processed by the ISEC. Consequently, several candidates were disqualified. Attached hereto as Annexure P-05 is the final list of disqualified candidates.
3. In exercising oversight over the fairness and accuracy of the electoral process, the ISEC has considered the following:
 - 3.1. Objections and reports submitted by the student community in terms of the Institutional Rules.
 - 3.2. Reports submitted by the office of the Registrar to the ISEC.
 - 3.3. Reports produced by NWU Internal Audit at the conclusion of each voting period.

¹ Hereafter referred to as: the Institutional Rules.

3.4. The report submitted by the external auditors in terms of paragraph 13.2.1 of the Institutional Rules.

3.5. The controls, verifications and auditing tools implemented by the University, NWU Internal Audit, and the appointed External Auditors to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the electoral process.

4. The Electoral process was, therefore, not without reportable incidents. Further, it is evident that the schedule had to be adjusted as a result of these incidents.
5. However, the ISEC has observed that the cumulative effect of the controls, verifications, and auditing tools implemented in the electoral process has sufficiently eradicated any possibility of such incidents negatively affecting the integrity of the electoral process.
6. Consequently, the ISEC presents the attached final results as Annexures P-06 – P-09, and confirms that the election was free and fair.

Regards

Adv. I Mwanawina

Chairperson of the Independent Students' Electoral Commission 2023

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