



## ELECTION RULES

*Accepted by the Student Union Council of the Student Union of the University of Turku on 27 Jan 2010, revised on 20 May 2013, 22 Apr 2015, 22 Feb 2017, 24 Oct 2018 and 19 May 2021.*

### Chapter I General Rules

Section 1 Forty-one (41) members shall be elected in the elections of the Student Union Council of the Student Union of the University of Turku, as prescribed in these election rules.

The elections of the Student Union Council shall be held every two years in October-November, on four election days set by the Central Election Committee. In the electronic elections, voting shall be possible 25 hours.

Section 2 The Student Union members who are students registered as present in the University of Turku shall have the right to vote in the elections. The right to vote shall be verified from the list of voters confirmed by the Central Election Committee. The Central Election Committee shall decide the procedure with which the right to vote may be granted to a person registered after the confirmation of the list of voters. Cases in which voters are not able to verify their right to vote, shall be submitted for the Central Election Committee.

All those entitled to vote shall also be eligible to stand as a candidate, except for the regular staff of the Student Union and people in leading positions in the companies of the Student Union.

Section 3 Each person entitled to vote shall have one (1) vote in the elections. A vote shall be used personally, and the vote cannot be changed after it has been cast.

Section 4 Proportional representation is used in the elections, which are secret.

### Chapter II Central Election Committee

Section 5 the Student Union Council elects latest in the March of the election year the Central Election Committee for the organisation of the elections, including a Chair, a Vice-Chair and five other members. The Student Union Council shall elect the Chair of the Central Election Committee.

The Central Election Committee shall elect a Chair among its members.

If there are more than one candidate, the elected Chair shall receive two thirds of the votes cast. If nobody received the required majority in the first ballot, another ballot shall be organised between the two candidates with the most votes, applying the same majority rule.

*In case of no unanimity, the election of the members of the Central Election Committee shall be held with closed ballot.* Lists will be set for the voting, which each include the people proposed as the members of the Central Election Committee. The list shall always be presented complete. The same person may serve as a candidate on several lists, but the presenter of the list shall have the consent of the person in question. In order to be elected, the list must receive two thirds of the votes cast. If there are more than two lists in the first voting, and none of them



receives more than two thirds of the votes cast, another vote shall be held, in which two lists which received the most votes in the first vote shall compete.

The members of the Central Election Committee cannot stand as candidates in the elections or serve as a representative of an electoral coalition.

The Secretary General or an employee appointed by the Secretary General shall serve as the Secretary of the Central Election Committee.

The Central Election Committee shall constitute a quorum when the Chair or the Vice-Chair and at least half of the other committee members or deputy members are present.

Section 6 Justified minutes concerning the decisions made in the meetings of the Central Election Committee shall be maintained and it shall be signed by the Chair and the Secretary.

## II Chapter III Nomination of candidates, electoral coalitions and electoral alliances

### Candidates

Section 7 An eligible member of the Student Union may stand as a candidate in the elections by informing the Central Election Committee by means of submitting a declaration form confirmed by the Central Election Committee (declaration of candidature). The declaration of candidature shall include the signatures of the candidate and of two witnesses, the code of the electoral coalition and the and the name of the representative of the coalition.

A written declaration of candidature fulfilling the requirements of the election rules is valid, even though it was not made on the declaration form drafted by the Central Election Committee.

### Electoral coalition

Section 8 Two or more candidates shall be entitled to form an electoral coalition. Candidates wishing to establish an electoral coalition shall draft a founding document using the form confirmed by the Central Election Committee (founding document for a list of candidates).

The founding document for an electoral coalition shall inform the name of the list and the representative, who may only serve as a representative of one electoral coalition. The representative must be eligible to stand as a candidate. The representative of an electoral coalition signs the founding document of an electoral alliance.

The founding document for an electoral coalition shall list the names of the candidates in the order that they are requested to be included in the composition of candidates.

At the maximum, an electoral coalition may contain twice as much candidates as the number of seats to be elected.

### Electoral alliance

Section 9 Two or more electoral coalitions shall be entitled to form an electoral alliance. The same right shall apply to an electoral coalition and individual candidates not part of an electoral coalition.



A founding document shall be drafted for an electoral alliance using the agreement form confirmed by the Central Election Committee (agreement to form an electoral alliance). The founding document shall include the name of the alliance and the names of the coalitions or candidates forming the alliance. The representatives of the electoral coalitions and candidates not part of an electoral coalition shall sign the founding document.

The founding document of an electoral alliance shall list the names in the order that the electoral coalitions and candidates not part of an electoral coalition are requested to be included in the complete candidate list.

Section 10 A candidate may only be part of one electoral coalition or one electoral alliance. If a person is standing as a candidate in more than one electoral coalition or electoral alliance, the Central Election Committee shall inquire of the candidate immediately, after preliminary control of the documents stated in Section 21, which electoral coalition or electoral alliance they want to be part of.

If a candidate does not submit a correction before the final confirmation of the complete candidate list, the Central Election Committee shall reject their candidature and remove them from all electoral coalitions and alliances. The Central Election Committee can approve candidature only when the candidate cancels joining in all but one electoral coalition or alliance.

Section 11 Documents submitted to the Central Election Committee shall be public after the nomination of candidates is completed.

#### Chapter IV Preparations for the elections by the Central Election Committee

Section 12 The Central Election Committee shall convene in its first meeting by the invitation of the Chair at the latest in the end of April of the election year.

Section 13 The Central Election Committee shall decide the time of the elections within the limits of Section 1(2) of these Election Rules.

Section 14 The Central Election Committee decides on the election announcement at least 5 days before the publication of the election announcement referred to in Section 20.

Section 15 The Central Election Committee shall confirm the list of voters at the latest 7 days before the end of the nomination of candidates.

Section 16 The Central Election Committee shall ensure that the electronic system is safe and ready for the elections.

Section 17 The Central Election Committee shall provide the necessary orders concerning the modes of election advertising, practical arrangements and ethical guidelines, and controls that they are complied with.

Section 18 The Central Election Committee shall negotiate with the University of Turku concerning the election advertising occurring in its premises and other election-related activities.

#### Election announcement

Section 19 The election announcement must include the following information:



- election days and times when voting is possible
- the time limit within which the documents stated in Sections 7, 8 and 9 of these Election Rules shall be submitted to the Central Election Committee and where they shall be submitted. The period from the time limit shall be twenty-one (21) days, at the maximum.

Section 20 The election announcement shall be published fourteen (14) days before the time limit prescribed in Section 19(1)(2) on the official bulletin board of the Student Union. The cancellation of the elections in the case provided for in Section 23(1) of these Election Rules shall be informed at least fourteen (14) days before the elections on the official bulletin board of the Student Union, on TYY's webpages and at the Student Union's mailing list.

Nomination of candidates

Section 21 The Central Election Committee shall convene after the time limit prescribed in Section 19(1)(2) of these Election Rules for the preliminary control of the submitted documents as defined in Sections 7, 8 and 9.

If a document has not been submitted to the Central Election Committee within the time limit, it shall not be processed or controlled.

If a declaration for candidature is incomplete or erroneous, the candidate and the representative of the electoral coalition, if the candidate is part of an electoral coalition, shall be notified immediately. The notification shall also be provided for a candidate who has submitted more than one declarations of candidature or who is not eligible to stand as a candidate. If the founding document for an electoral coalition is incomplete or erroneous, the representative of the electoral coalition shall be notified. If the founding document to form an electoral alliance is incomplete or erroneous, the representatives of the electoral coalitions and the alliance's individual members, who are not part of the electoral coalition, shall be notified immediately.

The candidates and the representatives of the electoral coalitions for whom the Central Election Committee has provided a notification, shall be entitled to draft a rectification for the Central Election Committee in the course of three (3) working days from the meeting of the Central Election Committee stated in paragraph 1. The rectification shall either be in a written format, signed by the candidate or the representative of the electoral coalition, or presented orally in a meeting of the Central Election Committee. If the notification concerns an agreement to form an electoral alliance, the representatives of the electoral coalition and individual members not part of electoral coalitions belonging to the electoral alliance shall sign the rectification.

Section 22 The Central Election Committee shall convene after the rectification time established in Section 21(4) of these Election Rules for final confirmation of the complete candidate list.

If rectification stated in Section 21(4) of these Election Rule has not been made, the incomplete or erroneous declaration of candidature, founding document for an electoral coalition or the founding document to form an electoral alliance shall be rejected.

The Central Election Committee shall approve the candidates, electoral coalitions and electoral alliances in the complete candidate list, if the concerned documents have been duly drafted and submitted on time.

A candidate is entitled to cancel the candidature by announcing it to the Central Election



Committee before the final confirmation of the composition of the electoral coalitions.

Section 23 If the number of approved candidates matches the number of seats to be elected, no elections will be held but the Central Election Committee shall proceed as prescribed in Section 28(1) of these Election Rules.

If the number of approved candidates is more than the number of seats to be elected, the Central Election Committee shall draft a complete candidate list. The complete candidate list shall include the accepted candidates organised in a manner where the electoral coalitions and individual candidates of electoral alliances shall be listed in a numerical order under the same heading, and they are separated from the other candidates in a manner which clearly shows which candidates are part of which electoral alliances. The candidates of the electoral coalitions not in an electoral alliance shall be composed in the same manner.

The order of the electoral coalitions and electoral alliances shall be set by a random draw, and the individual candidates shall be drawn last in the list. After this, the Central Election Committee shall determine the consecutive serial numbers for the candidates, beginning from the electoral coalition or electoral alliance that was drawn first. Numbering shall be started from number two.

The electoral coalition not part of any electoral alliance shall be titled 'electoral coalition' and an electoral alliance shall be titled 'electoral alliance'.

The complete candidate list must indicate the election for which it was drawn up.

#### Chapter V Election procedure

Section 24 An online electronic voting system shall be used in the Student Union Council elections.

Section 25 The voting system shall be logged into with a personal identification. After logging into the electronic system, the complete candidate list shall be clearly visible. The electronic voting system shall also enable blank votes.

Section 26 The electronic voting system shall ensure that the vote of a single voter cannot be identified.

Section 27 Before the start of the voting, the Central Election Committee shall verify that the electronic ballot box is empty.

#### Chapter VI Tallying of votes and the announcement of the outcome

Section 28 If the number of approved candidates for the elections matches the number of seats to be elected, the Central Election Committee shall declare the candidates as elected without separate elections.

If the number of approved candidates for the elections is less than the number of seats to be elected, the Central Election Committee shall declare the candidates as elected. The elected people shall use the power of decision of the Student Union Council, until a by-election provided for in the paragraph 3 of this Section has been held.

In order to fill the open seats in the Student Union Council, the Central Election Committee shall announce a by-election and its time. The by-election shall follow the provisions of these Election Rules, for the applicable parts.



Tallying of the provided votes

Section 29 The outcome of the elections shall be counted by computer.

After the elections, the Central Election Committee shall count the provided votes and the number of people who used their right to vote.

The minutes of the tallying shall indicate the number of people who used their right to vote, the total number of provided votes and the votes provided for each candidate as well as the blank votes.

Proportional elections

Section 30 The order of the candidates of each electoral coalition shall be listed by the number of votes they received. A random draw shall decide the order of candidates who received the same number of votes.

As a comparison figure, the total number of the votes of the electoral coalition shall go to the candidate who received the highest number of votes, half to the candidate who came in second, one third to the third, and so forth.

Section 31 In an electoral alliance defined in Section 9 of the Election Rules, the comparison figure will be determined as follows:

The candidates in an electoral alliance are arranged in the order of the comparison figures achieved in their electoral coalition according to Section 33 of these Election Rules. A random draw shall decide the order of candidates who received the same comparison figure.

After that, as a final comparison figure, the total number of the electoral alliance's votes shall go to the first candidate of the electoral alliance, half to the candidate who came in second, one third to the third, and so forth.

Section 32 All candidates shall be arranged in the order of the final comparison figures. A random draw shall decide the order of candidates who received the same comparison figure. Beginning with the candidate who received the highest final comparison figure, the same number of candidates as there were seats to be elected will be declared elected.

Section 33 Electoral coalition specific personal deputy members shall also be declared for the elected, and they may serve as members of the Student Union Council when the regular members are temporarily or permanently inhibited. All the candidates in an electoral coalition are deputy members in the order according to their comparison figures.

Section 34 The outcome of the elections shall be announced on the official bulletin board of the Student Union in two weeks after the elections.

Chapter VII Miscellaneous provisions

Section 35 If a candidate commits an offence, the Central Election Committee shall process the issue and decide on the eventual consequences. Eventual offences include fraud in violation of these Election Rules, serious violation of the ethical guidelines of the Central Election Committee or other abuse. For an individual candidate, the consequences may consist of a written warning or the loss of eligibility for office. Consequences for an electoral



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coalition or alliance may consist of a written warning, public complaint or dissolution of the electoral coalition or alliance.

Loss of the eligibility or the dissolving of an electoral coalition or an electoral alliance shall apply only if the offence is grave as judged in its entirety or if the Central Election Committee deems the activity grave due to repeated disregards.

If the violation is committed by an organisation of the Student Union, the organisation may be punished with the means mentioned in the Regulation on organisations and financial support. If the person committing the breach is some

other party supporting the electoral coalition or alliance financially or with a work contribution, the consequences may be targeted towards the electoral coalition or alliance in question under the second paragraph.

Before deciding on the consequences, the party concerned shall have the possibility to be heard.

A person who has lost their eligibility for office shall be considered permanently inhibited for working in the Student Union Council during the term of office concerned.

Section 36 The election documents shall be stored in a locked location until the time limit for appeal has been expired or the correction or appeal has been resolved. After this, the documents will be attached in the archives of the Student Union.

Section 37 If the last day of the time limit or a fixed day established in these Election Rules is a holy day or Saturday, the day shall be the following working day.

Section 38 Correction may be demanded for decisions made by the Central Election Committee, or they can be appealed in accordance with the measures provided in the Rules of the Student Union.

Section 39 The Student Union Council decides on amending these Election Rules with a majority of two thirds (2/3).

Section 40 If there is a system error or ballot rigging endangering the correctness of the entire election results, the Central Election Committee may cancel or invalidate the elections with a 2/3 majority. In such case, the Central Election Committee shall immediately start implementing new elections. The new elections shall follow the provisions of these Election Rules, for the applicable parts.