

2023/24 CSRC GENERAL ELECTIONS CODE OF CONDUCT

1. PREAMBLE

This SRC General Elections Code of Conduct (“the Code”) Code is aimed at promoting conditions that are conducive to free and fair elections and that create a climate of tolerance, free campaigning, and open public debate. The Code espouses the values of dignity, integrity and diversity, enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (“the Constitution”) and the ISRC Constitution

2. DEFINITIONS

Candidate a Student who has accepted a nomination to run for election on to the SRC

Election Procedure The procedure for holding annual CSRC Elections as contemplated in Annexure B hereto;

Elective Portfolios The CSRC portfolios as contemplated in paragraph 13.2.2 of this Constitution with CSRC Members elected to such portfolios by the Student Body via annual CSRC Elections as contemplated in Annexure B hereto;

Eligibility Requirements The eligibility requirements for a CSRC Member as set out in paragraph 12 of this Constitution;

Ex Officio Portfolios The CSRC portfolios as contemplated in paragraph 13.2.3 with CSRC Members elected to such portfolios by the respective Student Councils and elected in their official capacities as the Chairpersons of their respective Student Councils;

Elections Logistics Committee Officers tasked by the Dean of Student Affairs with the responsibilities of ensuring proper and orderly voting processes. The team is led by a Chief Elections Officer.

Electoral Rules the set of rules enacted by the University that determine how elections are conducted and how the results are determined

ISRC The Institutional Student Representative Council established in terms of section 35 of the Act and section 33 of the Institutional Statute of the University;

ISRC Election(s) The annual election of CSRC Members to serve on the CSRC in accordance with the Election Procedure as contemplated in Annexure B

hereto;

Misconduct means Misconduct as defined in the Rules for Student Discipline

Student Any person who is registered for a formal Qualification at the UFS for the current academic year;

Student Body The collection of registered Students at the respective (and all) campuses of the UFS;

Supporter a member of the University Community who supports a Candidate, whether officially or unofficially

University Community means employees, students and alumni of the University, invitees, visitors and guests of the University, as well as those persons officially associated with the University

University Rules means the University's statute, policies, rules, regulations, procedures and standing orders as amended from time to time

3. PURPOSE OF THE CODE

The purpose of this Code is to promote:

- a) a climate that is conducive to free and fair elections
- b) tolerance of democratic activity
- c) free campaigning and open public debate
- d) To educate students on conduct of online electoral processes

4. APPLICATION OF THE CODE

4.1. The Code is applicable whenever SRC elections are being held and:

- a) applies to all activities undertaken by Students, student organizations or Candidates acting on their own behalf or on behalf of a Candidate
- b) must be read together with the applicable University Rules

4.2. Any activity pursuant to the SRC election referred to in this Code may take place utilizing online resources on such terms and conditions as determined by the Elections Logistics Committee.

5. PROMOTION AND COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE

5.1. Every Candidate is bound by this code and must:

- a) promote the purpose of the Code
- b) publicize the Code in election campaigns
- c) ensure that his/her supporters comply with the Code

5.2. Failure to comply with the provisions of this code may:

- a) constitute misconduct in terms of the Rules for Student Discipline, and/or
- b) result in the disqualification of the candidate from the elections.

6. PUBLIC COMMITMENT

Every Candidate must publicly state that everyone has a right:

- a) to express their beliefs and opinions free from harassment or intimidation
- b) to be heard
- c) to publish and distribute election and campaign materials to lawfully post banners, placards and posters related to the elections online or on any designated platforms as stipulated by the Elections Logistics Committee
- d) to canvass support for a Candidate
- e) to hold public meetings online or on any designated platforms as stipulated by the Elections Logistics Committee
- f) to condemn any action that may undermine the free and fair conduct of elections
- g) to vote freely and in secret

7. PUBLIC MEETINGS

All public meetings:

- a) Responsibility for public meetings will reside with the political structures and independent candidates while acts of misconduct that infringe on this code will be handled by the ELC in line with the SRC constitution
- b) Responsibility for inviting guests and students rests with the parties and candidates but this must be in line with the conduct prescribed in the ISRC Constitution and this document.
- c) On line campaigns and events will continue till the the last date of voting. The ELC will be informed of the events in advance and different venues will be allocated for events.

8. ROLES OF THE CANDIDATE

Every Candidate:

- a) recognizes the authority of the Elections Logistics Committee in the conduct of an election
- b) will comply with and give effect to any lawful direction or order of the ELC
- c) will cooperate in any investigation by the ELC
- d) must not, by commission or omission, jeopardize the safety of the ELC and the elections staff in the performance of their duties

- e) will ensure that the ELC and the elections staff are not subjected to insult, hazard or threat by any of the Supporters
- f) will attend all Candidate Workshops convened by the ELC
- g) must abide by the rules as described in the Candidates Workshops and the University Rules generally
- h) is vicariously liable under the Rules for Student Discipline for the Misconduct of his/her Supporters
- i) will not insult, harass or intimidate any members of staff of the institution particularly but not limited to Student Affairs.

9. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

9.1. No Candidate/Supporter may:

- a) use language or act in a manner that denigrates another Candidate
- b) provoke a disturbance or violence during the electoral processes
- c) intimidate another Candidate or Supporters
- d) publish false or defamatory allegations in respect of a Candidate or their Supporters
- e) plagiarize the symbols, colors, acronyms or manifestos of other Candidates
- f) discriminate or incite on the grounds of race, ethnicity, sex, gender, class, nationality, religion, creed or any other ground
- g) deface another Candidate's campaigning material
- h) put up posters that will damage University property – THE USE OF PERMANENT ADHESIVE MATERIALS IS PROHIBITED FOR POSTERS. Only temporary adhesives may be used, e.g., reusable adhesive putty

9.2. No Elections Logistics Committee member may:

- a) try to influence the outcome of the elections in anyway
- b) abuse their position or powers to gain undue favors from Students
- c) display or express any preferences regarding the Candidates
- d) campaign on behalf of any candidate
- e) insult or intimidate candidates, students and other electoral officers

9.4. No person may:

- a) subject to University Rules, prevent any other person access to voters for the purpose of canvassing support for a Candidate
- b) deface or unlawfully remove or destroy the placards, posters or any other election material of another Candidate
- c) abuse a position of power or privilege to influence the process or outcome of an election
- d) act in a manner which brings the University or any other member of the University Community into disrepute

10. USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Candidates/Supporters must:

- a) take reasonable steps to ensure that content published is accurate and not misleading
- b) ensure that the use of social media complies with the relevant rules of the University i.e. Electoral rules; ISRC Constitution; Electoral Code of Conduct; Student Code of Conduct and Social Media Policy
- c) NOT defame, discriminate and harass Candidates on social media
- d) always be respectful and courteous when using social media
- e) not release/publish the personal information related to other Candidates, including images or videos.

11. CONTRAVENTIONS

Any Candidate or Supporter found guilty of acting in contravention of these provisions or any additional provisions as may be instituted by the Elections Logistics Committee from time to time, may be reported to the Student Disciplinary Office and could be disqualified as a Candidate.

I hereby State that I know and understand the contents of this Code, I have no objection to the Code and I consider it binding on me.

Date:

Full Name of Structure Representative/Independent Candidate _____

Student Number _____

Signature _____

Full name of Electoral Logistics Chairperson

Initials of Electoral Office Member:

Date: