

Electoral Regulations for the TU Delft Central Student Council and Faculty Student Councils 2021¹

I Definition of terms

Article 1

1. Terms used in these regulations shall be understood as follows:

the Executive Board:	the Executive Board of Delft University of Technology
the dean:	the dean of one of the faculties at TU Delft;
the electronic voting system:	the digital environment that comprises the entire election process, including the voting and determining the election results;
the Student Council:	the Central Student Council or Faculty Student Council;
the university:	Delft University of Technology;
the election committee:	the Central Election Committee or the Faculty Election Committee as described in Article 3 paragraph 2 and Article 3 paragraph 3 respectively of these Regulations;
the WHW	the Higher Education and Research Act of the Netherlands;

2. Where personal identifiers are used in these regulations, they should be read in gender-neutral form.

II Term of office of the Student Council

Article 2

1. The term of office of the Student Council shall be one year, beginning on 1 September of the year in which the election has taken place.
2. Retiring members are immediately eligible for re-election.
3. Apart from by the expiry of the elected term, membership of the Student Council may also be terminated:
 - a. by letter of resignation addressed to the chair of the Student Council;
 - b. upon the termination of enrolment as a student on the grounds of the provisions made in Section 7.42 of the WHW;
 - c. by death.
4. The membership of a member elected to fill a vacancy shall expire at the same time that the membership of the person whom they have replaced would have expired.

¹ The Electoral Regulations are an appendix as referred to in Article 3.1 of the Student Council Regulations. On 2 February 2021, the Executive Board updated and reformulated the Electoral Regulations of 2010, with the consent of the Central Student Council on 29 January 2021. The Supervisory Board approved the revisions to the Electoral Regulations on 15 February 2021.

III Preparation for the election / right to vote and to stand for election, and nomination

Article 3. preparation for the election

1. The organisation of the election of the members of the student council is the responsibility of the Executive Board.
2. The Executive Board shall assign the task of organising elections for the Central Student Council to a central election committee consisting of three members and three deputy members. The Executive Board shall provide support to this committee. Membership of this election committee may not be combined with membership of the Central Student Council. Membership of the committee ends immediately if a committee member stands as candidate for the Central Student Council.
3. The dean of each faculty shall assign the task of organising elections for the Faculty Student Council to a faculty election committee consisting of three members and three deputy members. Membership of this committee may not be combined with membership of the Faculty Student Council. Membership of the committee ends immediately if a committee member stands as candidate for the Faculty Student Council.
4. The central election committee is authorised to issue instructions to the faculty election committee in connection with the organisation of the elections. It shall notify the deans of any such instructions. The faculty election committee shall observe the instructions in the exercise of its duties.

Article 4. right to vote and to stand for election

Only persons enrolled as a student at the university on the first day of the month preceding the date on which the electoral register is drawn up are entitled to vote and to stand for election.

Article 5. date of elections

1. The Executive Board shall set the date(s) of elections as well as the times that voting opens and closes, after consultation with the Central Student Council. The Executive Board shall report this to the Central Student Council and the Faculty Student Councils, the deans and the student organisations and announce the details via the usual communication channels for the students at the university. These announcements must take place at least 12 weeks prior to the date of the election.
2. The election of members of the Student Council shall take place in the second quarter of the calendar year unless, in exceptional cases and after consultation with the Central Student Council, the Executive Board decides otherwise.

Article 6. electoral register

1. No later than seven weeks prior to the date of the election the Executive Board shall draw up a list of persons enrolled as a student who on the date of the election are entitled to vote or eligible for election. Once the online voting system is opened, all students who are entitled to vote can see for which election(s) they are authorised.
2. The list referred to in paragraph 1 in any case shows the surname, initials, student number, degree programme(s) and address of all students who are entitled to vote.

Article 7. nomination of candidates

1. Nomination shall take place by the submission of a list of one or more eligible candidates to the secretary of the election committee. They shall issue a dated receipt in the name of the person who has submitted the list.
2. Any candidate seeking nomination for election to a Faculty Student Council must be enrolled as a student at the university on the programme for which they are seeking nomination.
3. The Executive Board determines, after consultation with the Central Student Council, the deadline for submission of the lists of candidates. The Executive Board shall notify the Central Student Council, the Faculty Student Councils and faculty deans of the deadline and announce the details via the usual communication channels for the students at the university.
4. A candidates list may contain a maximum of thirty names of candidates. For the submission of a candidates list the support is required of at least ten persons who are entitled to vote for the Central Student Council and at least five persons who are entitled to vote for the Faculty Student Council, as evidenced by their signatures. A person who is entitled to vote may support only one list and may not appear as a candidate on that list.
5. The candidates list states at least the surname, initials, place of residence and address of the candidates.
6. Each candidates list must be accompanied by a written declaration by each candidate on the list stating their student number and indicating that they accept the nomination.
7. For nominations both for the election of the Faculty Student Council and the Central Student Council, the name of a candidate may appear on only one candidates list, except that a candidate may appear both on a list for the Central Student Council and on a list for a Faculty Student Council.

Article 8. investigation of candidates lists

1. The election committee shall investigate whether the candidates lists, and the candidates that appear on them, fulfil the requirement of these regulations.
2. The election committee shall remove from the list any names of candidates that do not fulfil these requirements, and declare any candidates list that does not fulfil these requirements invalid, and shall immediately inform the person(s) by whom the list was submitted, stating the reasons. The election committee shall subsequently allow this/these person(s) one week to amend the list so that it conforms to the requirements.
3. The election committee shall make the candidates lists known to the students enrolled at the university no later than two weeks prior to the date of the election.
4. The election committee shall assign a number from one onwards to the candidates lists of groupings that won one or more seats in the previous election, the number one being assigned to the grouping that received the largest number of seats.
5. The faculty election committee arranges the candidates on the list in the order in which their announcement that they were standing for candidate was received.
6. The name of a grouping may not entirely or for the main part resemble that of another grouping which has submitted a candidates list earlier or which won one or more seats in the previous student council election.

Article 9. fewer candidates than places

If fewer candidates are nominated than there are places to be filled on the Student Council, no election shall take place and the candidates nominated shall be considered to have been elected.

IV Voting methods at elections

Article 10. invitation to participate

At least ten days before the day or the last day of voting as referred to in Article 5, the election committee shall send all students who are entitled to vote an email containing an invitation to participate in the election. This will state at least the manner of voting and the dates on which votes can be cast.

Article 11. manner of voting

Every student who is entitled to vote shall be given the opportunity to cast their vote anonymously using the electronic voting system, on the date(s) set by the Executive Board.

Article 12. number of votes per student

1. Every student who is entitled to vote may do so once in the elections for the Central Student Council.
2. Every student who is entitled to vote may do so once in the elections for the Faculty Student Council, or for the chamber of a Faculty Student Council under which the programme falls in which they are enrolled as a student at the university.

Article 13. end of voting and determining the result

1. Once voting has closed, the election committee shall establish the number of valid votes that have been cast for each candidate, on the basis of a report from the manager of the electronic voting system.
2. To determine the result of the election:
 - a. the central election committee shall first calculate the quota by dividing the number of votes cast by the number of seats available on the Student Council. Each candidates list shall then be allotted a number of seats equal to the number of valid votes cast for that list divided by the quota. The remaining votes, as well as those votes cast for a list that received less votes than the quota, shall count as remainders. Seats that cannot be filled in this way shall be successively awarded to the lists with the largest remainders of votes. If two or more lists have the same remainder of votes, it shall be decided by lot which list is to receive a remaining seat first. Lists that have received less than 75% of the quota shall not be eligible to be awarded a remaining seat. Seats falling to a list shall be awarded to the candidates in the order that they appear on the list, on the understanding that a candidate who has personally attained a quota is elected automatically.
 - b. the faculty election committee shall first calculate the quota by dividing the number of votes cast by the number of seats available on the student council. Each candidates list shall then be allotted a number of seats equal to the number of valid votes cast for that list divided by the quota. If applicable, lists that have attained less than 75% of the quota shall not be eligible to be awarded a remaining seat. The then remaining votes, as well as those votes cast for a list that attained less than 75% of the quota, shall count as remainders.

For each candidates list, the election committee shall rearrange the candidates that appear on it as follows. Candidates who have personally attained the quota are elected automatically, and shall be placed at the top of the list. These are followed by the candidates that have received a number of votes that is larger than one quarter of the quota, ordered according to the number of votes received. The remaining candidates shall then follow in the order in which they appear on the candidates list. Where candidates have received an equal number of votes, their position shall be

decided according to the order of the candidates list.

As soon as this rearrangement of candidates on the candidates lists has taken place, the election committee shall allocate the remaining seats to be filled. These remaining seats shall be allocated successively to the lists with the largest remainders of votes. If two or more lists have the same remainder of votes, it shall be decided by lot which list is to receive a remaining seat first. Seats that fall to a list shall be allocated to the candidates on that list in the order in which they appear after rearrangement.

Article 14. determining the result

1. The election result shall be determined by the election committee and announced in full to the Executive Board and the students enrolled at the university.
2. After the period for objections (Article 18 paragraph 1) has elapsed, the election committee shall inform each candidate in writing whether or not they have been elected. This announcement will in any case be made by email to the student email address known to the university.
3. If the candidate does not make it known to the election committee that they accept their election within one month of receiving the declaration of election, they shall be regarded as not having accepted their election.
4. The election committee shall inform the chair of the student council of the declaration of election and the candidate's acceptance of it.

Article 15. irregularities

Any person who is entitled to vote may submit a complaint within one week of the announcement of the election results to the election committee if they are of the opinion that irregularities have occurred that may have influenced the result of the election. The election committee shall investigate such a complaint at once and make a decision on the validity of the complaint. Depending on the seriousness of the complaint, the election committee may decide to annul the election and immediately call a new one.

Article 16. retention period for voting data

Once the election results have been determined, the voting data will be retained for six months, unless a longer period is justified due to pending proceedings concerning the election result.

V Provision for interim vacancies

Article 17.

1. Where a candidate does not accept their election, or a vacancy on the student council arises on the basis of Article 2 paragraph 3, the election committee shall declare as elected the most highly placed candidate who is not yet elected, or not yet serving, on the list to which the committee member who is to be succeeded belongs. The following candidates are excluded:
 - a. the candidate whose vacancy is being filled;
 - b. candidates who are not prepared to accept an election at that time;
 - c. candidates who have terminated their enrolment based on the provisions of Section 7.42 of the WHW;
 - d. candidates who have died.
2. The appointment shall be made within one month of the arising of the vacancy. Article 14 paragraph 1 applies accordingly.

VI Objection regulation

Article 18.

1. Interested parties may object to a decision concerning:
 - a. the setting of the election date and the times at which voting opens and closes (Article 5 paragraph 1),
 - b. the drawing up of the list of those who are entitled to vote and eligible for election (Article 6 paragraph 1),
 - c. the validity of a candidates list (Article 8),
 - d. the determination of the election result (Article 14 paragraph 1),
 - e. the decision on a complaint concerning irregularities (Article 15),
 - f. the filling of an interim vacancy (Article 17 paragraph 1), within one week of its announcement. As regards points a and b objections should be submitted to the Executive Board, and as regards points c to f, for elections for the Central Student Council to the Executive Board, and, for elections for the Faculty Student Council, to the dean.
2. On receipt of an objection, the Executive Board or dean as appropriate shall inform the person or persons submitting the objection in writing that the TU Delft Committee for Student Objections, as referred to in the legal protection section of the Executive and Management Regulations, will make a recommendation on the objection to the Executive Board or dean respectively. The Executive Board or dean respectively shall make a decision on the objection within three days of receiving this recommendation.

Code of conduct for before and during elections

The aim of a code of conduct as given below is to provide guidelines for the way in which students and parties should interact during elections. If this code is 'breached' it does not necessarily mean that the elections are influenced. This is the purpose of the complaints procedure, as described in Article 15 of the Electoral Regulations, through which it may be ascertained whether irregularities have occurred that might have influenced the determination of the election result.

a. General code of conduct

It is important that the student council elections take place fairly and in a civilised manner and that parties interact respectfully. It is therefore important that students adhere to the prescribed code of conduct for before and during elections described in this appendix.

b. Code of conduct for during the campaign period

Parties promote themselves throughout the year. At the time of the election these promotional activities increase and are directed specifically at winning votes in the election. An election campaign is obviously about influencing people. *'How do I persuade my fellow students to vote for my party?'*, *'How do I convince them of my views?'*

However, there are limits to the methods of influence and persuasion. Where any manipulation or coercion takes place, these limits have been exceeded. So the focus during the campaign period is on active and passive campaigning and the associated influencing (within reasonable limits of course) of students.

- Campaign material and promotional activities may take many forms, such as active and passive use of social media, leafleting, market stalls and debates. However, bulk emails and other online communications addressed to larger groups of student voters are not permitted.
- Campaigning must be done with mutual respect for each other and each other's views and agreements.
- Campaign expressions and promotion must be truthful and not contain any misleading, indecent or unnecessarily hurtful texts.

c. Code of conduct during the election days

Unlike the campaign period, during the election days the focus is on providing information in a neutral way and on calling upon students to cast their vote. This means that during the election days, the parties do not engage in campaigning nor do they seek to influence students.

- It is the responsibility of all those who are entitled to vote to do so without being influenced by other voters, and to refrain from influencing other voters.
- It is not permitted to wear campaign clothing (including campaign accessories).
- It is permitted to address students, provided this takes the form of providing information in a neutral way or a neutral call to students to cast their vote.
- The use of social media is permitted, provided this takes the form of providing information in a neutral way or a neutral call to students to cast their vote.
- The tenor of the election days is observed. This means that it is not permitted to influence students during the election days, and that addressing students about the election is permitted provided this takes place in a neutral manner. *"Did you know that you can now cast your vote for the Student Council"*, *"You can now vote online via website x"*, *"The Student Council looks after the interests of all students"*, *"There are x (number) parties you can vote for"*.