

CSb 18/006

Recommendation of the Central Electoral Office regarding campaign etiquette during elections

Free and fair elections are a prerequisite for effective participation. Every student and employee should be entirely free to choose:

1. To vote or not to vote
2. To vote for a specific List of Candidates and/or Candidate.

The principle of the secret ballot plays an important part in this process:

The anonymity of the persons casting a vote must be ensured.

The rules of conduct contribute to that freedom, provided they are observed by everyone. Anyone who does not adhere to these rules may, intentionally or unintentionally, put pressure on voters.

The Central Electoral Office recommends the following rules of conduct for campaigners in the elections of university participation bodies (University Council, Faculty Council UCU Council or Employees' Consultative Body):

- For the campaign, in order to reach your electorate, do not use University systems or communication channels like Blackboard, which are not intended for widespread general communication. However, the use of Outlook, Teams and physical means of communication is permitted. If you have any doubts, consult the Central Electoral Office.
- Do not offer voters a reward or prize in return for voting – including through social media.
- Only offer voters voting facilities during the voting period if the secret ballot can be guaranteed (e.g. voting using a PC/tablet in a voting booth or separate room).
- Respect the campaign materials of other lists of candidates.
- Show respect to everyone involved.

Naturally, campaigners are allowed to use and distribute their own campaign materials.

On behalf of the Central Electoral Office,

Fred Toppen, Chair

Anne Marie Partridge, Secretary