



The Student Electoral Commission
2024

ELECTION ADVISORY FORM

1. Name and surname: -----
2. Affiliated structure -----
3. Student number: -----
4. Cell number: -----
5. Email address: -----

6. Provide person(s) who convened on the matter you are seeking advice on.

7. Provide thorough insight into the problem including the steps you have taken to have the matter resolved by the structure.

8. Provide reason(s) why your matter should receive the attention of the Director of Compliance and Oversight.

9. Any further information that is relevant to the matter at hand and can assist the Director of Compliance and Oversight in furnishing your advisory notes.

Declaration:

I declare that the information provided by me on the above form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: -----

Date: -----



ELECTION ADVISORY GUIDELINES

Requesting advisory notes from the Electoral Commission: In addition to the responsibility for writing formal reports, the Compliance and Oversight Officer is authorised to provide advisory notes. These advisory notes can offer guidance on issues within the jurisdiction of the Electoral Commission.

The use of the advisory form by student leadership structures/election conveners at the Stellenbosch campus recommended under the following conditions:

(a) Initial resolution attempts by the structure: The representative of the student leadership structure must have convened a meeting and made a concerted effort to resolve the issue internally. This step is crucial to ensure that the matter is indeed significant and cannot be addressed without external input.

(b) Potential impact on electoral integrity: The nature of the issue in question must be such that it poses a risk to the integrity of the election process. If the problem is left unaddressed, it could lead to a situation where the election results are challenged or invalidated. This means that proceeding with the elections without seeking the necessary advice from the Electoral Commission could jeopardize the fairness and legitimacy of the electoral process, potentially resulting in the elections being annulled.

(c) Compliance with regulatory requirements: The matter at hand should involve compliance with regulatory or procedural requirements. If there is uncertainty about adherence to the rules and regulations governing the elections, it is advisable to seek guidance to ensure that all actions are compliant with established protocols. This helps prevent any legal or procedural challenges post-election.

(d) Ethical concerns or conflicts of interest: If the issue involves potential ethical concerns or conflicts of interest, the student leadership structure should seek advisory notes to navigate these sensitive areas appropriately. The Director of Compliance and Oversight can provide an unbiased perspective to ensure that ethical standards are maintained, and conflicts are managed effectively.

(e) Disputes or grievances among candidates or voters: In cases where there are disputes or grievances among candidates or voters that cannot be resolved internally, the advisory form should be used. The Director of Compliance and Oversight can mediate and provide recommendations to resolve such conflicts impartially, ensuring that the election process remains fair and transparent.

(f) Unforeseen circumstances or emergencies: If unforeseen circumstances or emergencies arise that could impact the election process, seeking advice is crucial. This might include natural disasters, security threats, or other significant events that could disrupt the elections. The Director of Compliance and Oversight can help in developing contingency plans and ensuring that the elections proceed smoothly despite such challenges.

(g) Need for clarification on election rules: When there is a need for clarification on specific election rules or procedures, the advisory form should be used. Ambiguities or uncertainties regarding the rules can lead to inconsistent application and potential disputes. Seeking advice ensures that all parties have a clear understanding of the rules and can adhere to them consistently.

(h) External influences or pressures: If there are indications of external influences or pressures that might affect the election outcomes, it is advisable to seek guidance. The Director of Compliance and Oversight can provide strategies to mitigate such influences and protect the integrity of the election process.

Usage of the Advisory Form

Student leadership structures should utilise the advisory form to seek guidance from the Electoral Commission, addressed to the Director of Compliance and Oversight when they encounter issues that meet the above criteria. The advisory form serves as a formal mechanism to request advice and ensure that any potential threats to election integrity are properly managed. This process helps maintain the credibility of the elections and upholds the principles of fair and transparent governance within the student body. Should any registered student want to submit an advisory request to the Electoral Commission it must be addressed to the Director of Compliance and Oversight Officer: and submitted to **electoralcommisson@sun.ac.za** and cc: **22868909@sun.ac.za**