



The Election Commission

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Statement of the Election Commission to the UCT community

After extensive deliberation and having sought expert advice the Election Commission has come to the decision to suspend the 2016 SRC Elections indefinitely. This decision was made as a matter of principle. The Election Regulations mandate the Election Commission to ensure that the election process is free and fair.

This year the Election Commission is faced with the unusual situation of running an election with a candidate that is eligible to run for SRC as per the Election Regulations but is interdicted from accessing university property. All election campaign activities take place on university property.

The eligibility of the interdicted candidate was validated on Friday 26 August along with all other candidates. The next week the Election Commission requested that an exception to the interdict be granted allowing the candidate to freely campaign on campus for the duration of the SRC election period. It was communicated that no such exception could be secured.

The Election Commission cannot fulfil its mandate to conduct free and fair elections on university property as it cannot currently:

- provide all candidates with equal campaigning opportunities;
- provide voters with free and equal access to all candidates; and
- move campaign activities off campus as it does not have the capacity to ensure the safety of students present at these events.

The Election Commission has not taken this decision lightly. We see this course of action as the only way to ensure the integrity of the election process and to comply with our mandate.

It should be noted that the suspension applies only to the SRC elections.

Any queries regarding this statement can be directed to the Chief Electoral Office, Mr Roger Adams at roger.adams@uct.ac.za or 021 650 3925.

Regards

The 2016 Election Commission