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UCT's statement on suspension of SRC elections

Please cite Gerda Kruger: Executive Director: Communication and Marketing Department, UCT

The Student Representative Council (SRC) Election Regulations provide for the Election Commission, as an independent and impartial body, to oversee and govern the SRC elections or by-elections in a free and fair manner. The Election Commission has released a statement in which they announce the temporary and indefinite suspension of the SRC election process. Their statement is [here](#).

UCT makes the following statement:

- A particular student standing as a candidate for the elections is the subject of a high court interdict which prohibits him from being on campus.
- The interdict was sought by UCT during the protest action in February this year when we faced arson and other serious unlawful activities by a small group of protesters. As a result this student also faces disciplinary charges in the UCT internal disciplinary process which has started but is not yet concluded.
- He also faces charges of contravening the interdict on several occasions by disregarding the High Court order and entering campus.
- UCT has taken legal opinion and it is clear that the interdict prohibits the student from being on campus to campaign. The university is bound by the provisions of an order of the High Court. In the terms of this specific Court Order, the Vice-Chancellor does not have the authority to grant permission for exceptions. Furthermore, UCT cannot collude in breaking the High Court order by allowing the student onto campus for the purposes of the election.

- The Electoral Commission and the University Executive agreed that there is nothing in the election rules that prohibit the student from being registered as a candidate. The rules make provision for the exclusion of a person who has a guilty finding against them but are silent on a person that is interdicted.
- The student is therefore in a position where he is free to stand for election but may not be on campus.
- UCT respects the independence of the Electoral Commission and has noted its decision.
- The executive is considering the impact of the decision and is in discussion with multiple stakeholders as we continue to seek further solutions to the challenges we face.

ENDS

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