



INSTITUTIONAL RULES ON STUDENT GOVERNANCE

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Preamble

Against the background of the dream to be an internationally recognised university in Africa, distinguished for engaged scholarship, social responsiveness and an ethic of care, the council of the North-West University (NWU) has, in terms of sections 32 and 35 of the Higher Education Act, 101 of 1997 and paragraph 27 to 30 of the Statute of the NWU, approved the Institutional Rules on Student Governance on 19 June 2025.

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INTRODUCTION

1 Interpretation, Scope and Application

1.1 These institutional rules on student governance (hereinafter referred to as “the rules”) must be interpreted and applied in a manner consistent with the –

1.1.1 Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996;

1.1.2 Higher Education Act, 101 of 1997 (“the Act”);

1.1.3 Statute of the NWU (“the Statute”); and

1.1.4 provisions of the Constitution of the Students’ Representative Council (“SRC”) in respect of the functions and duties of the office-bearers of the SRC and the Students’ Campus Councils (“SCCs”) as well as the procedures, accountability and operation of the SRC and the SCCs.

1.2 The following definitions apply to the interpretation of these rules:

	Term	Definition
1.	“Candidate(s)”	Refers to a student who was nominated for election to an SCC or the SRC Distance Students’ Officer, who was declared by the ISEC to be eligible for election in accordance with these rules.
2.	“Day”	A day refers to a 24-hour period, including weekdays, workdays, weekends and public holidays.
3.	“First-time entrant”	For the purposes of these rules, a first-time entrant refers to a student who is registered with the NWU for the first time during the year of election.
4.	“Inaugural meeting”	Refers to the first meeting of a newly elected structure and the last meeting of an outgoing structure which is hosted simultaneously. The inaugural meeting serves as the handover meeting between the outgoing and incumbent structures, and is facilitated by the university.
5.	“In-person campaigning”	Refers to instances where student voters are engaged in-person with regards to the election of a specific candidate(s). This includes the gatherings, one-on-one engagements, rallies, door-to-door, and similar activities. This type of campaigning specifically excludes all forms of social media campaigning, as well as campaigning conducted via online events hosted on Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or similar online video conferencing platforms.
6.	“Module/course”	Refers to the definitions provided in the general academic rules of the NWU for semester modules and year modules.
7.	“Nominators’ roll”	Refers to the list of students who qualify to participate in the nomination process for the election of an SCC, with said list derived in accordance with these rules. This includes students who are qualified to nominate, or support the nomination or another student, as well as the ability to be nominated for election to a structure.
8.	“Nominee(s)”	Refers to a student who has been nominated for election to an SCC or the SRC Distance Students’ Officer, but who has not been declared eligible for election by the ISEC in accordance with these rules.
9.	“Occasional studies”	Refers to an individual who is registered for a module(s) that does not form part of a programme leading to a qualification. Modules completed as part of occasional studies will only result in the obtainment of credits, and do not contribute the completion of programme leading to a qualification. Occasional studies include modules taken for non-degree purposes as contemplated in the general academic rules of the university.
10.	“Online campaigning”	Refers to instances where student voters promote the candidature of a candidate through social media platforms and other digital communication and video conferencing platforms.
11.	“SCC”	Refers to the Students’ Campus Council.
12.	“Social media”	Includes Facebook, X, YouTube, Instagram, Tik-Tok, WhatsApp, Telegram, and similar online platforms generally regarded as social media. Social media excludes email and SMS correspondence, as well as online meetings or engagements conducted via MS Teams, Zoom, or similar platforms.
13.	“SRC”	Refers to the Students’ Representative Council.

	Term	Definition
14.	“SRC DSO”	Refers to the SRC: Distance Students’ Officer.
15.	“Student support group(s)”	Refers to the groups of students who are formally registered with the ISEC to participate in the approved campaign activities advocating for the election of a candidate or a group of candidates.
16.	“Subordinate student leadership structures”	Refers to the student leadership structures established by the SRC in the Constitution of the Students’ Representative Council of the North-West University.
17.	“University”	Refers to the North-West University.
18.	“University premises”	Refers to the premises, buildings and facilities that are owned or controlled by the North-West University, which includes premises, buildings and facilities leased by the NWU. This however excludes premises and buildings that have been accredited by the NWU.
19.	“Voters’ roll”	Refers to the list of students who qualify vote for the election of an SCC, with said list derived in accordance with these rules.
20.	“Workday”	A workday specifically excludes weekends and public holidays but does not exclude workdays that form part of the recess periods of the University.
21.	“Year of election”, or “election year”	Refers to the year in which the election or by-election is conducted.

2 Purpose

2.1 The purpose of these rules is to provide for –

- 2.1.1 the procedures and criteria for the manner of election and term of office, and the determination of the functions and privileges of the SCCs and the SRC;
- 2.1.2 the designation of members of the SCCs to the SRC;
- 2.1.3 the framework within which the constitution of the SRC must provide for the duties, procedures, accountability and operation of the SRC and SCCs;
- 2.1.4 the rules required by paragraph 30 of the Statute to ensure the continued performance of the functions of the SRC and its constituent components, and for intervention in the event of such functions not being performed; and
- 2.1.5 matters relating to student governance not regulated by the constitution of the SRC adopted in accordance with paragraph 29 of the Statute.

2.2 These rules take precedence over all rules relating to student governance, except for the regulation of the functions and duties of the office-bearers of the SRC and the SCCs, and the procedures, accountability and operation of the SRC and the SCCs as provided for in the constitution of the SRC.

3 Reporting

The registrar and the DVC: Student Life, Transformation, People and Culture (DVC SLTPC) must report twice annually to the University Management Committee (UMC), and other institutional committees and forums on matters related to the effective and efficient implementation of these rules.

4 Review

The registrar must, after consultation with the SRC, submit these rules to the council for review at least once in every three-year cycle.

ELECTION OF THE STUDENT CAMPUS COUNCILS (SCCs) AND THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (SRC) DISTANCE STUDENTS' OFFICER

5 Independent Students' Electoral Commission

5.1 Establishment

The Independent Students' Electoral Commission (ISEC) is established to oversee a free and fair election of the SCCs and the SRC Distance Students' Officer (SRC DSO), and to ensure the validity, integrity and transparency of the electoral process.

5.2 Functions

5.2.1 The ISEC performs the following functions -

- 5.2.1.1 Overseeing the electoral processes as contemplated in these rules;
- 5.2.1.2 verifying the eligibility of nominated students in accordance with these rules;
- 5.2.1.3 engaging with the students of the North-West University on matters pertaining to the electoral processes;
- 5.2.1.4 issuing recommendations, advice, and reports to the University on matters related to the electoral processes;
- 5.2.1.5 ensuring the integrity of the voting mechanisms and platforms used for election voting;
- 5.2.1.6 considering, investigating and reviewing objections or complaints related to the electoral processes, and
- 5.2.1.7 referring matters that fall beyond the scope of the ISEC to the relevant University line function.

5.3 Composition and term of office

5.3.1 The ISEC is comprised of the following eight (08) members:

Membership of the Independent Students' Electoral Commission	
	Membership
1.	A chairperson appointed by the University Management Committee (UMC).
2.	Two (02) permanent employees of the NWU appointed by the University Management Committee on account of their relevant expertise pertaining to elections and their independence.
3.	One (01) person appointed by the Council of the University.
4.	Four (04) student representatives appointed as follows:
4.1	One (01) registered student appointed by the SCC of the Mahikeng Campus.
4.2	One (01) registered student appointed by the SCC of the Potchefstroom Campus.
4.3	One (01) registered student appointed by the SCC of the Vanderbijlpark Campus.
4.4	One (01) registered student representative of the Distance Learning Environment appointed by the SRC.

5.3.2 With regards to the appointment of the four (04) student representatives, such a student:

- 5.3.2.1 If appointed by an SCC, must be a full-time contact student registered for a programme leading to a qualification, registered at the campus of the SCC concerned;
- 5.3.2.2 If appointed by the SRC, must be a student registered for a programme offered in the Distance Learning environment.

- 5.3.2.2 may not be a current serving member of an SCC or SRC, and
- 5.3.2.3 may not be nominated for election as a member of an SCC or as the SRC DSO.
- 5.3.3 All members of the ISEC must, as far as reasonably possible, be able to participate in the functions, activities, and engagement of the ISEC conducted either in-person or online.
- 5.3.4 In the event that a member of the ISEC is absent from three consecutive ordinary meetings of the ISEC without issuing an apology prior to the meetings concerned, the membership of the member is terminated.
- 5.3.5 The members of ISEC serve for a one-year term to perform the functions contemplated in these rules.
- 5.3.6 Members of the ISEC may be re-appointed to serve for another term.
- 5.3.7 In the event that a member of the ISEC resigns in writing to the chairperson of the ISEC, or if their membership terminates, the structure that appointed the member is required to appoint a suitably qualified member to fill the vacancy.
- 5.3.8 The registrar, after consultation with the DVC SLTPC, must identify and assign sufficient administrative secretarial support staff to assist the ISEC to function effectively.
- 5.3.9 Following the appointment of the members of the ISEC by the Council, UMC, SRC and SCC, the UMC must confirm the members appointed which may occur by means of a round robin process.
- 5.3.10 The engagements, deliberations and decisions of the ISEC are regarded as confidential, with the exception of the decisions and outcomes published by the ISEC as required by these rules.

5.4 Campus election coordinating teams (CECTs)

- 5.4.1 A Campus Election Coordinating Team (CECT) is established as a sub-committee of the ISEC for each of the campuses where an SCC is elected.
- 5.4.2 Each CECT comprises the following five (05) members:

Membership of a Campus Election Coordinating Team		
	Membership	Role
1.	Campus Director Student Life.	Chairperson
2.	Two (02) representatives of the outgoing SCC not currently nominated for election to the SCC. In the event of a by-election, the incumbent SCC must designate two of its serving members who are not involved in the by-election.	Student representatives
3.	One (01) administrative assistant who is a permanent employee of the NWU appointed by the Campus Director: Student Life.	General administration and record keeping
4.	One (01) coordinating assistant who is a permanent employee of the NWU, appointed by the Campus Director: Student Life.	Logistical arrangements and communication

- 5.4.3 In support of the ISEC, a CECT must –
 - i. perform its functions within the confines of the campus for which it is established;
 - ii. in addition to its tasks in terms of these rules, perform any additional task entrusted to it by the ISEC;
 - iii. monitor adherence to these rules and related electoral processes by students, nominees, and candidates;
 - iv. promptly report all non-compliance or transgressions that come to its attention to the ISEC;
 - v. ensure the effective and continuous dissemination of information related to the electoral processes to students, nominees, and candidates; and
 - vi. develop, coordinate, and monitor the campus campaign plans and related processes provided for in these rules.

6 Election period and schedule

- 6.1 A period for the election of student leadership structures is annually published in the university calendar by the registrar.
- 6.2 The registrar and DVC SLTPC must annually, after consultation with the SRC, develop and publish the election schedule that gives effect to the processes contemplated in these rules.
- 6.3 The timing and duration of the election must, after consultation with the DVC SLTPC and the SRC, be published by the registrar at least fifteen (15) working days prior to the commencement of the voting period.
- 6.4 In terms of the election schedule, the election of each SCC and the SRC DSO must commence simultaneously, however subject to paragraphs 12.5 of these rules need not conclude simultaneously.

7 Eligibility of nominees

7.1 General eligibility criteria for election as a member of an SCC

A student may be nominated and elected to an SCC of the campus at which such student is registered for a programme leading to a qualification, if the nominee –

- 7.1.1 Is a registered student of the NWU enrolled for a programme leading to a qualification as defined by the Statute of the NWU;
- 7.1.2 complies with the academic conditions set out in paragraph 7.6;
- 7.1.3 has not exceeded, or will not in the following year exceed the maximum duration allowed for completion of the programme concerned provided for in the academic rules of the University, and
- 7.1.4 has served, or is currently serving, as part of a student leadership position of the NWU based at the campus of the relevant SCC, subject to paragraph 7.2 below.

7.2 Determining the validity of a student leadership position

For a student leadership position to be considered valid in terms of paragraph 7.1.4 of these rules, the following criteria must be satisfied;

- 7.2.1 The duration of the student leadership term:
 - i. the nominee must have served for a full term as prescribed in the SRC Constitution or relevant rules approved by the SRC, with such a full term being at least six months in duration, *or*
 - ii. if the nominee is currently serving, the duration of the current term of office must at least have been six (06) months on the date of the commencement of the nomination period contemplated in paragraph 6.
- 7.2.2 The following student leadership structures are recognised as part of these rules:
 - i. Students' Campus Councils, and
 - ii. subordinate student leadership structures established in the Constitution of the Students' Representative Council.
- 7.2.3 The student leadership structure in which the student has served or is currently serving must be located on the campus where the student is nominated for election to the SCC.

7.3 Specific eligibility criteria for election to the position of chairperson of an SCC

To qualify for nomination and election to the position of chairperson of the SCC, the nominee must have served a full term, or be currently serving in a term as a member of the SCC concerned.

7.4 Eligibility criteria for election to the position of the SRC Distance Students' Officer

In addition to the eligibility criteria provided for in paragraphs 7.1.1 to 7.1.3 and disqualification criteria provided for in paragraphs 7.5.1, 7.5.2, 7.5.4, 7.5.5, 7.5.6 and 7.5.7, a student may be nominated for the position of SRC Distance Students' Officer (SRC DSO) if the nominee –

- 7.4.1 is registered as a student of the NWU enrolled for a programme through the distance learning offering of the University; and
- 7.4.2 is available to fulfil all responsibilities associated with the position and to participate in all the meetings and activities of the SRC.

7.5 Disqualification of nominees

A student is disqualified from being nominated as a candidate for election to an SCC or Distance Students' Officer if –

- 7.5.1 such a person is a first-time entrant to the North-West University;
- 7.5.2 such a person has already served three terms as a member of an SCC, or as the SRC Distance Students' Officer, regardless of the duration or whether the second term followed immediately after the first, or the third immediately after the second;
- 7.5.3 such a person is not a registered student at the campus where the SCC is elected;
- 7.5.4 an unmanageable conflict of interest may arise if elected;
- 7.5.5 a University Disciplinary Hearing Committee established in terms of paragraph 5.2.1 of the NWU Policy for Student Discipline has found a student guilty of misconduct;
- 7.5.6 such person has a criminal record,
- 7.5.7 such a person is a permanent or temporary employee of the University, excluding persons employed as temporary student assistants.

7.6 Academic conditions

A student may only be nominated and elected to an SCC if such a nominee complies with the following minimum academic conditions:

7.6.1 Undergraduate programme contact students

- 7.6.1.1 An undergraduate student must meet the following minimum academic criteria whereby:
 - i. The nominee must at least have passed 60% of all modules registered for in the preceding academic year that forms part of a programme leading to a qualification, regardless of programme changes and transfers; and
 - ii. The nominee must, at least, have passed 60% of all semester modules registered for in the first semester of the year of election that forms part of a programme leading to a qualification, regardless of programme changes and transfers.
- 7.6.1.2 Semester modules that were discontinued or deregistered after the permissible period as contemplated in the general academic rules of the University will be regarded as failed modules and will be taken into consideration under paragraph 7.6.1.1 ii above.
- 7.6.1.3 In the event that a nominee is registered for both semester- and year modules in the year of the election, the year modules are disregarded.
- 7.6.1.4 In the event that a nominee is registered for only year modules in the year of the election, the nominee must have achieved a minimum half-year mark of at least 50% for 60% of the year modules registered for.
- 7.6.1.5 The official student record system maintained by the University serves as exclusive evidence of the academic status of a nominee.
- 7.6.1.6 Records related to occasional studies, additional modules not forming part of a programme leading to a qualification, and academic records of other institutions that are not acknowledged by the NWU, are not considered in the determination of the academic status of a nominee.
- 7.6.1.7 A student registered for part-time and occasional studies in the year of the election is not eligible for election to an SCC.

7.6.2 Postgraduate programme contact students

A postgraduate student must have met the following minimum academic criteria:

- 7.6.2.1 If the nominee is registered for a postgraduate programme comprising semester- and year modules, the nominee must have passed at least 60% of all semester modules registered for in the first semester of the year of the election, registered year modules being disregarded.
- 7.6.2.2 If a nominee is registered for a postgraduate programme comprising semester- and year modules and is in their second or third year of the postgraduate programme as permitted by the academic rules of the University, subject to paragraph 7.1.3 of these rules, and has passed all semester modules and is only registered for year modules in the year of the election, the nominee must –
- i. have obtained a minimum half-year mark of at least 50% for 60% of the year modules registered for in the current year; or
 - ii. where no half-year mark is available, provide a written letter confirming that the progress made in their studies is regarded as satisfactory by the Faculty.
- 7.6.2.3 If a nominee is registered for a postgraduate programme comprising solely a dissertation or thesis as part of a master's or doctoral degree, the nominee must provide a formal progress report from the relevant faculty stating that the progress made is satisfactory.
- 7.6.2.4 For the purposes of these rules, postgraduate programmes include any postgraduate diplomas, honours, master's and doctoral degrees provided for in terms of the academic rules of the University.
- 7.6.2.5 A student who has completed an undergraduate programme and is registered for another undergraduate programme with the University in the year of the election is regarded as an undergraduate student and must be considered as such for the purposes of paragraph 7.6.1.

7.6.3 Students registered in the distance learning environment

The conditions set out in 7.6.1 and 7.6.2 apply equally to nominees registered in the distance learning environment for purposes of election to the position of SRC DSO.

8 List of students qualified to participate in the nomination and voting process

8.1 List of students who qualify to participate in the nomination process

- 8.1.1 To be nominated for election, or nominate another student to election, the student must:
- i. Satisfy the definition of a student as indicated in the university Statute; and
 - ii. Be registered as a full-time contact student at the campus where the SCC is to be elected; or
 - iii. Be a registered for a programme offered in the distance mode of delivery for the election of the SRC: Distance Students' Officer
- 8.1.2 A list of students eligible to participate in the nomination process must be drawn from the official student data base maintained by the university on a date at least five (05) working days prior to the commencement of the nomination process.
- 8.1.3 Students who only register after the date indicated paragraph 8.1.2 of the rules are excluded from the nomination process and may not participate therein.
- 8.1.4 The list of students who qualify to participate in the nomination process must be published electronically three (03) working days prior to the commencement of the nomination process.

8.2 List of students who qualify to participate in the voting process

- 8.2.1 To qualify as a voter in the election of an SCC a person must:
- i. Satisfy the definition of a student as indicated in the university Statute; and
 - ii. Be registered as full-time contact student at the campus where the SCC is to be elected.
- 8.2.2 To qualify as a voter in the election of the SRC Distance Students' Officer, a person must be a registered student for a programme leading to a qualification offered by the University in the distance mode of delivery.
- 8.2.3 The list of registered full-time contact students qualified to vote in the election of the SCCs and the SRC Distance Students' Officer must be drawn from the official student database maintained by the management information systems department five (05) working days prior to the commencement of the voting period.
- 8.2.4 Students who only register after the date indicated paragraph 8.2.3 of the rules are excluded from the voting process and may not participate therein.

- 8.2.5 The list of students who qualify to participate in the voting process must be published electronically three (03) working days prior to the commencement of the voting period.

9 Procedures for nomination

9.1 Format and procedure

- 9.1.1 The university administers the nomination process, providing the ISEC with the nomination data.
- 9.1.2 The format and procedure for the electronic nomination of nominees is determined by the DVC SLTPC and the registrar, after consultation with the SRC.
- 9.1.3 Nominations must be submitted in the format of the electronic nomination mechanisms and platform provided for in paragraphs 9.1.1 and 9.1.2, and in accordance with the schedule published in terms of paragraph 6.
- 9.1.4 Students may only nominate a nominee or be nominated for election to an SCC of the campus where they are registered for a programme leading to a qualification.
- 9.1.5 A nominee may be nominated for more than one portfolio, but may only accept a nomination to one (01) portfolio of the SCC concerned, with the acceptance of said nomination required prior to the nominations being presented to the ISEC.
- 9.1.6 No late nomination may be received or processed by the CECT or the ISEC, however, the ISEC must be provided with a full list of complete nominations that were submitted late.

9.2 Requirements for a valid nomination

- 9.2.1 A nomination will be regarded as valid by the ISEC if –
- i. the nomination form is submitted within the published nomination period;
 - ii. the format and procedure prescribed in accordance paragraph 9.1 is complied with;
 - iii. the nominee is clearly identified by their name, surname, student number, and relevant SCC portfolio they are nominated for;
 - iv. the nomination is made by a student who qualifies to participate nomination process as indicated in paragraph 8.1; and
 - v. the nomination is further supported by two (02) students who qualify to participate in the nomination process as indicated in paragraph 8.1.
- 9.2.2 Students who qualify to participate in the nomination process may nominate themselves, provided that the requirements of paragraph 9.2.1 are complied with.
- 9.2.3 In the event that a student is nominated for more than one portfolio, the CECT concerned must request the student to confirm in writing within the 72-hours after conclusion of the nomination period which one of the portfolios for which the student is nominated they accept.
- 9.2.4 Should a nominee fail to comply with paragraph 9.2.3, the last valid nomination received must be deemed to have been accepted.
- 9.2.5 A student may not nominate more than three (3) nominees.
- 9.2.6 A student may not support a nomination of more than three (3) nominees.
- 9.2.7 Subject to paragraphs 9.2.1-9.2.6, the ISEC only considers the last valid nomination received for a nominee.
- 9.2.8 Electronic nominations that were still pending or in the process of being submitted by the close of nomination period will be regarded as late nominations.
- 9.2.9 By virtue of the submission of a complete nomination, nominees are assumed by the ISEC to have accepted the nomination, but may withdraw from the process should they wish to reject the nomination.
- 9.2.10 The requirements for a valid nomination apply with the necessary changes for the election of the SRC Distance Students' Officer.

9.3 Processing of nominations received

- 9.3.1 Following the close of nominations, the CECTs must inspect all nominations duly submitted for compliance with paragraphs 9.1 and 9.2 of the rules.
- 9.3.2 The CECTs must allow for the correction of administrative shortcomings and omissions related to the correctness of information captured on the nomination form within 72-hours after the close of the nomination period, after which all nominations received are submitted to ISEC.
- 9.3.3 A nominated student who has submitted a valid nomination in accordance with paragraph 9.2 is referred to as a “nominee”.
- 9.3.4 Upon receipt of the nominations from the CECTs, the ISEC must confirm the validity of each nomination and determine the eligibility for election to an SCC of each nominee done in accordance with paragraphs 7, 9.1 and 9.2 of the rules.
- 9.3.5 Following the confirmation of the eligibility of the nominees, the ISEC must publish
- i. a preliminary list of nominees deemed eligible for election to an SCC;
 - ii. a preliminary list of nominees deemed not eligible for election to an SCC.
- 9.3.6 Once a nomination has been declared as valid by the ISEC through the publication of the preliminary list of nominees, a nominator or seconder may not withdraw their support from the nomination.
- 9.3.7 As part of the publication of the preliminary list of nominees deemed eligible for election, the ISEC must publish the list of students who nominated and seconded the nominations, however this is not required for the list of candidates deemed not eligible or invalid nominations.
- 9.3.8 In the event that after the processing of nominations by the ISEC, no nominations are eligible for election to specific portfolio, the ISEC may, in consultation with the registrar and DVC SLTPC, resolve to reopen the nomination process for the affected portfolio(s) for a period not exceeding 24 hours.
- 9.3.9 If after completion of the process contemplated in paragraph 9.3.8 above no nominations are declared eligible for election, the ISEC must declare the portfolio vacant and proceed with the remaining portfolios.

9.4 Objection and enquiry process relating to preliminary list of nominees deemed eligible and not eligible for election

- 9.4.1 Following the publication of the preliminary lists contemplated in paragraph 9.3.5 above, the ISEC must allow for a 48-hour period during which students may submit objections and enquiries pertaining to the preliminary list of nominees as contemplating in paragraphs 9.4.4 and 9.4.5 below.
- 9.4.2 The ISEC must provide the outcome of objections or enquiries received within 72 hours after the close of the objection and enquiry period.
- 9.4.3 The findings of the ISEC in relation to an objection pertaining to the nomination process are final and binding.
- 9.4.4 Objections relating to preliminary list of nominees:
- i. Students who qualify to participate in the nomination process may electronically submit objections to the ISEC limited to the eligibility of a nominee in accordance with paragraph 7, done in a manner prescribed by the ISEC.
 - ii. A student submitting an objection against a nominee based on the eligibility criteria must provide the relevant information and evidence supporting the objection, with said information and evidence limited to documentation, statements, and audiovisual material.
 - iii. Based on the objection and related information received, the ISEC must promptly review and consider all objections submitted against a nominee, and may resolve to uphold or overturn the initial decision reached in terms of paragraphs 9.3.4 and 9.3.5 above.
- 9.4.5 Enquiries relating preliminary list of nominees deemed not eligible:
- i. Students who have been indicated as not eligible for election may submit an enquiry to the ISEC to review the specific reasons for their non-eligibility status.
 - ii. A student submitting an enquiry may provide additional information that may substantiate their eligibility.
 - iii. Upon receipt of the enquiry, the ISEC must review the information provided, as well as the information considered as part of the initial consideration of the nomination, and may resolve to uphold or overturn the initial decision reached in terms of paragraphs 9.3.4 and 9.3.5 above.

9.5 Publication of the final list of eligible candidates

- 9.5.1 Following the completion of the objection and enquiry process contemplated in paragraph 9.4 above, the ISEC must publish the final list of nominees deemed eligible for election to an SCC and as the SRC Distance Students' Officer, after which the approved election campaigning processes may commence.
- 9.5.2 Nominees whose names appear on the final lists contemplated in paragraph 9.5.1 are referred to as "candidates".

9.6 Withdrawal of nominees or candidates

A nominee or candidate may at any stage withdraw from the election by written notice to the chairperson of the ISEC and CECT concerned. Should a nominee or candidate become deceased during any stage of the process, they will be regarded as having automatically withdrawn from the process.

9.7 Nomination process for the SRC: Distance Students' Officer

For the election of the SRC DSO the registrar must perform the administrative functions required of the CECTs for the SCC Election with the necessary changes determined by the nature of the distance learning environment.

10 Election campaigning

10.1 Principles for election campaigning

- 10.1.1 Campaigning for the election of eligible candidates to an SCC or the SRC DSO is conducted in the context of electing student leaders of the North-West University.
- 10.1.2 Campaigning activities do not assume the nature and scope of national electoral processes and remains limited to registered students of the NWU.
- 10.1.3 The campaigning activities and conduct must align with the values of the university.

10.2 General rules on election campaigning

- 10.2.1 Election campaigning for the election of candidates is coordinated and conducted by CECTs, eligible candidates and the registered student support groups provided for in paragraph 10.
- 10.2.2 Only students of the North-West University registered for a programme leading to a qualification in the year during which the elections are conducted may participate in election campaigning and related activities.
- 10.2.3 The University must make reasonable provisions in terms of facilities where approved election campaigning activities may be conducted in accordance with the approved election campaigning plans of the CECTs, eligible candidates and registered student support groups.
- 10.2.4 Employees of the University may not participate, directly or indirectly, in election campaigning or related activities in a bid to support either one or more candidates during the election period.
- 10.2.5 Election campaigning activities, conduct, engagements, including physical or in-person or online activities (including social media activities) remains subject to these rules regardless of whether the campaigning is conducted on premises owned or controlled by the university or not.
- 10.2.6 Candidates are required to participate fully in the campus campaign plans developed by the CECTs and approved by the ISEC with said plans regarded as the minimum campaigning activities required from each candidate.
- 10.2.7 No candidate or registered student support group may make use of a body, structure, person, forum, or group external to the NWU as part of their election campaigning activities.
- 10.2.8 Subject to these rules, the conduct of student voters and candidates remains subject to the electoral code of conduct contained in annexure A of these rules.
- 10.2.9 All campaigning activities conducted by candidates, student support groups, student voters or the CECTs remain subject to the relevant policies, rules and processes of the University, including matters related to university facilities, resources and relevant health and safety requirements.
- 10.2.10 From the commencement of the nomination period until the ratification of the election outcome by the ISEC, it is prohibited for any student to use a student leadership related event, programme, activity or initiative to solicit support for the nomination or the election of a nominee or candidate, excluding such

events that have been declared and approved by the ISEC in the campaign plan of the student support group or CECT.

- 10.2.11 Students who collectively or individually conduct activities or engagements in an attempt to solicit support for the nomination or eventual election of a student or group of students prior to the commencement of the nomination or campaign period, do so at their own risk with such activities and engagements remaining subject these rules.
- 10.2.12 Students, nominees and candidates must take reasonable steps to ensure they adhere to these rules.
- 10.2.13 Student support groups and candidates who choose to develop their own or unique campaign materials and programmes are responsible for the funding and execution of said campaign plans, materials and programmes.

10.3 **Period of election campaigning**

- 10.3.1 In-person election campaigning activities contemplated in paragraphs 10.7.1.1, 10.7.1.3, 10.7.1.4 and 10.7.1.5 conducted by the CECTs, candidates and student support groups may only take place during the period published for election campaigning in accordance with paragraph 6 of these rules.
- 10.3.2 Election campaigning activities contemplated in paragraph 10.7.1.2 conducted by the CECTs, candidates and student support groups may only take place during the period published for election campaigning and voting in accordance with paragraph 6 of these rules.
- 10.3.3 No in-person election campaigning activities may take place prior to the commencement of the election campaigning period as provided for in paragraph 6.
- 10.3.4 Campaigning activities conducted via social media may take place during the campaigning and voting period.

10.4 **Campus election campaign plans**

- 10.4.1 The purpose of the campus election campaign plans is to provide an opportunity to all eligible candidates to gain access to student voters of the campus concerned in a structured and coordinated manner.
- 10.4.2 The relevant CECT must draft and submit a campus election campaign plan to the ISEC at least fifteen (15) days prior to the commencement of the election campaigning period.
- 10.4.3 The campus election campaign plan contemplated above must –
 - 10.4.3.1 include a schedule of engagements during which all eligible candidates can engage student voters using the engagements identified in paragraph 10.7.1, and
 - 10.4.3.2 provide a standardised guide of questions that may be posed to eligible candidates during a question-and-answer session, accounting for the following topics:
 - i. the functions, roles and duties of the relevant portfolio contested for as outlined in the Constitution of the Students' Representative Council, and
 - ii. vision, mission, and objectives as an elected student leader.
- 10.4.4 The ISEC must ensure that the campus campaign plans maintain a reasonable balance allowing candidates to participate in the campus campaign plans, whilst still being able to participate in campaigning activities of their own or that of the student support group campaigning in their favour.
- 10.4.5 The ISEC must review the campus election campaign plans, may make recommendations for improvement, and approve such plans once satisfied at least ten (10) days prior to the commencement of the campaigning period.
- 10.4.6 The approved campus election campaign plans must be made available to all candidates and student voters by the relevant CECT at least two (02) days prior to the commencement of the campaign period.
- 10.4.7 The relevant CECT must compile, print, and distribute, using relevant social media, generic posters of the candidates eligible for election to the relevant portfolios, such posters not containing any references related to the registered student support groups, including words, symbols or slogans of the student support groups.
- 10.4.8 A generic poster referred to in paragraph 10.4.7 must indicate the following:
 - i. a head and shoulder photo of each candidate;
 - ii. name, surname, and where relevant the nickname, of the eligible candidate;
 - iii. the portfolio for which the candidate has been nominated;

- iv. corporate identity elements (including colours and logos) of the University, as provided for by the department of Corporate Relations and Marketing; and
 - v. where more than one candidate is nominated for a particular portfolio, the candidates must be listed in alphabetical order using the surnames of the candidates.
- 10.4.9 The generic posters contemplated in paragraphs 10.4.7 and 10.4.8 must be made available in digital format to eligible candidates to use as part of their election campaigning.
- 10.4.10 Should a candidate refuse to participate in any of the approved campus election campaigning plans contemplated above, said candidate must:
- 10.4.10.1 At least 24 hours prior to the affected nomination activity submit written reasons to the ISEC outlining their reasons, providing supporting documentation substantiating their reasons which may include sick notes, exam assessment schedules, or similar documentation.
- 10.4.10.2 based on the reasons provided, the ISEC must determine whether the candidate's refusal to participate in the approved campus campaign plans undermines the electoral process seen from the perspective of eligible student voters.
- 10.4.10.3 the ISEC must resolve to either:
- i. accept the recusal of the candidate from the campus campaign plan thereafter informing other eligible candidates of said candidate's recusal from campaigning; or
 - ii. instruct the candidate to participate in the campus campaign plans whereafter further refusal to cooperate with the relevant plan would enable the ISEC to disqualify said candidate from the election.
- 10.4.11 Candidates who are recused from the activities of the campus campaign plans but who continue to conduct campaigning activities that overlap with the allocated times and periods approved in the campus campaign plans may be disqualified from the election by the ISEC.

10.5 Student support groups

- 10.5.1 Students may form student support groups that advocate for the election of a candidate or group of candidates, through approved campaign plans subject to the plans contemplated in paragraph 10.4.
- 10.5.2 Student support groups may only comprise of registered students of the university and may include subordinate student leadership structures of the university established in accordance with the Constitution of the Students' Representative Council of the North-West University.
- 10.5.3 Student support groups must officially register with the ISEC at least ten (10) days prior to the commencement of the election campaigning period, and must provide the following information in order to be registered:
- i. the identifying name, symbol, and slogan of the student support group;
 - ii. a complete list of candidates that will be supported by the student support group (which may be amended in accordance with paragraph 10.5.9);
 - iii. a list, including the relevant links, of social media pages and communication platforms that will be used by the support group;
 - iv. the name, surname, student number and contact information of at least two (02) convenors of the student support group who are not candidates and with whom the University, the ISEC and the CECT may engage on matters relating to the group's involvement in the election process and election campaigning; and
 - v. the specific election campaign plan of the student support group accounting for all activities relating to the campaign, engagements, and promotional materials whether in hard-copy or digital format, that will be used in the campaign.
- 10.5.4 The ISEC has an obligation to monitor the activities and engagements of a student support group and may at any time request information, feedback, or attendance to campaigning related engagements, whether physical, digital, or online, to realize its oversight function.

- 10.5.5 The campaigning activities of student support groups may not undermine the execution of the campus campaign plans or make it impossible for candidates to participate in the campus campaign plans.
- 10.5.6 The specific election campaign plan of student support groups is subject to the relevant policies, rules and processes of the University, including matters related to university facilities, resources and relevant health and safety requirements.
- 10.5.7 The ISEC must review the specific election campaign plans of candidates and student support groups, make necessary recommendations, and approve such plans once satisfied at least two (02) days prior to the commencement of the campaign period.
- 10.5.8 The relevant election campaign plans of candidates and student support groups must be made available to the relevant CECT prior to the commencement of the campaigning period.
- 10.5.9 Once approved, any amendments to the relevant election campaign plans of candidates and student support groups must be submitted to the ISEC for consideration and approval, however such amendments must be submitted to the ISEC 48-hours prior to its planned implementation.
- 10.5.10 No new registration applications for student support groups may be considered by the ISEC once the campaigning period has commenced.
- 10.5.11 Convenors of student support groups are accountable for the conduct and actions of student supporters participating in the group's campaigning engagements and activities.
- 10.5.12 Convenors of student support groups must attend the orientation and information-sharing sessions relating to election campaigning coordinated by the ISEC and the relevant CECT.
- 10.5.13 Convenors of student support groups must report any non-compliance of the Institutional Rules on Student Governance to the relevant the CECT and the ISEC as soon as reasonably possible but must do so within 24-hours after becoming aware of the occurrence of the alleged non-compliance.
- 10.5.14 In the event that a candidate is supported by a student support group with which the candidate does not wish to be associated, the candidate must within 24-hours of becoming aware of the matter in writing inform the group concerned, the relevant CECT and the ISEC that they distance themselves from the activities of the group.

10.6 The use of social media as part of election campaigning

- 10.6.1 The following official social media pages of the University, may not be utilised as part of the election campaigning activities:
 - i. social media pages of a campus or the NWU;
 - ii. social media pages of employees of the University;
 - iii. social media pages of the Students' Representative Council;
 - iv. social media pages of faculties and support departments, and
- 10.6.2 Candidates and student support groups must register the unique social media pages and accounts created for the purposes of election campaigning that will be used as part of campaigning with the ISEC.
- 10.6.3 The personal social media pages of individual students may be used for campaigning activities, with student voters and candidates permitted to share, publish, repost, and engage with social-media posts of student support groups, including their own social media materials and content.
- 10.6.4 The official social media pages of the SCC may only be used to communicate the information of candidates and the campus election campaigning activities contemplated in paragraphs 5.4.3 and 10.4.
- 10.6.5 The information published in accordance with paragraph 10.6.4 may not make any reference to specific student support groups with such references including slogans, symbols, logos, or colours.
- 10.6.6 Campaigning conducted via social media may occur during the campaigning period and the voting period.
- 10.6.6 The social media pages and instant messaging platforms of the subordinate student leadership structures may be used for election campaigning at the discretion of the platform or account

administrator, with the ISEC only required to ensure that content shared on such groups is not contradictory to the electoral code of conduct.

- 10.6.7 The usage of social media pages and instant messaging platforms not owned or controlled by the university or created by candidates and student support groups are only monitored by the ISEC to ensure that the content published there adheres to the provisions contained in these rules.

10.7 Election campaigning engagements

10.7.1 Election campaigning engagements include the following engagements:

10.7.1.1 public gatherings, meetings, and rallies;

10.7.1.2 word of mouth campaigning and canvassing;

10.7.1.3 door-to-door campaigning activities;

10.7.1.4 stalls and stands erected on designated areas identified by the CECT for the purposes of engaging with eligible student voters, and

10.7.1.5 facilitated question and answer sessions.

10.7.2 Student voters and candidates who participate in election campaigning engagements done on premises not owned or controlled by the university do so at their own risk, with the university not required to provide support or resources to said student voters or candidates conducting campaigning activities at such facilities.

10.7.3 Door-to-door campaigning activities are prohibited in university residences owned or controlled by the University.

10.8 Prohibited conduct

10.8.1 The following conduct is prohibited:

- i. the usage of language, statements, and messages that promote violence, intolerance, or discrimination;
- ii. the usage of songs, slogans, chants, or materials that contain references or insinuations to weapons, violence, drug abuse, discrimination, or intolerance;
- iii. intimidation of nominees, candidates, students, or employees of the NWU;
- iv. creation, publication or distribution of false information regarding nominees, candidates or student support groups;
- v. unauthorised use of names, symbols, and slogans of other candidates or student support groups;
- vi. the offering of any type of incentive, benefit, privilege or bribe to a student to participate or withhold their participation in any electoral process;
- vii. the destruction, defamation, removal or altering of campaign materials of other candidates or student support groups by a candidate or student support group;
- viii. the use of alcohol or illegal substances as part of an election campaign;
- ix. carrying or displaying weapons and firearms whilst participating in any electoral process, which includes items created to resemble weapons or firearms.

10.9 Limitations on election campaigning

10.9.1 Campaigning activities may not be conducted within the following radiuses of the gates or access points of a campus or premises owned or controlled by the University, which includes access gates for vehicles and turnstiles for pedestrians:

- i. a 30 meter radius inside the campus or premises perimeter; and
- ii. a 100 meter radius outside the campus or premises perimeter.

10.9.2 Each CECT, guided by the approved campus campaign plan, must provide designated areas compliant with paragraph 10.9.1 above where candidates and student support groups may erect stalls and stands for the purposes of election campaigning, which must be located at a space accessible to the general student community.

10.9.3 Hardcopy campaigning materials such as posters, flyers and any other print materials:

- i. may only be erected or placed on designated areas and notice boards identified by the relevant CECT; and
- ii. may not be erected or placed at other campus or premises entry points (including the motor vehicle gates, and pedestrian turnstiles) or on the walls and fences surrounding a campus or premises owned or controlled by the University,

- 10.9.4 CECTs are required to remove said materials that infringe on paragraphs 10.9.3.
- 10.9.5 In-person campaigning activities may not be conducted during lectures or other teaching-learning and research sessions scheduled in the academic timetable of the University.
- 10.9.6 No student may purchase, sponsor, or receive as a gift advertising space, marketing airtime, commercials, or other similar promotional mechanisms to broadcast, publish or campaign for the election of an eligible candidate, regardless of whether this is done through traditional, digital or social media platforms.
- 10.9.7 Student voters may not participate in the campaigning activities or engagements of another campus, or the SRC Distance Students' Officer, where said voter is not eligible to vote.

10.10 Disqualification related to election campaigning

- 10.10.1 Non-compliance or transgression of the provisions of paragraphs 10.1 to 10.9 of these rules by a member of a CECT, candidates or student supporters must be promptly reported to the ISEC.
- 10.10.2 A student submitting a complaint in accordance with paragraph 10.10.1 must provide the relevant information or documentation that substantiates the claim.
- 10.10.3 Upon receipt of a report of alleged non-compliance or transgression of the provisions of paragraphs 10.1 to 10.9, the ISEC–
- i. must conduct a preliminary investigation into the alleged non-compliance or transgression by gathering information from the complainant(s), accused parties, relevant CECT, and university records;
 - ii. may, as part of the gathering of information, engage the affected students and employees, and
 - iii. must determine, based on the information gathered, whether the alleged non-compliance or transgression was substantial and material and could prevent the campaigning process from being free, fair, and transparent.
- 10.10.4 Based on the outcome of the process contemplated in paragraph 10.10.3, the ISEC must –
- i. determine whether the affected candidates or student support group(s) should be disqualified from the election;
 - ii. decide whether the matter must be referred to the office of the registrar for further processing in accordance with the relevant disciplinary processes of the University, and
 - iii. inform the relevant candidates, parties and CECT of the outcome of the investigation.
- 10.10.5 A candidate, student, or student support group found by ISEC to have contravened any of the provisions of paragraphs 10.1 to 10.9 may:
- i. be disqualified by ISEC from participating in the election; or
 - ii. be disqualified from campaigning for the election of a candidate or group of candidates.
- 10.10.6 In the event of a candidate being disqualified and where there are no other candidates available deemed eligible for election by ISEC –
- i. the position is declared vacant;
 - ii. the election proceeds with respect to the remaining candidates that are eligible for election, and
 - iii. the candidates elected in accordance with these rules proceed to constitute the SCC concerned provided that a quorum can be reached as required by the SRC constitution, whereafter the vacancy must be filled in accordance with the rules applicable to the filling of vacancies.
- 10.10.7 Subject to paragraph 10.10.8, where an elected member of an SCC is found by ISEC to have contravened the provisions of paragraphs 10.1 to 10.9, the membership of the SCC member is terminated, and the vacancy is filled after the inaugural meeting of the SCC in accordance with the rules applicable to the filling of vacancies.
- 10.10.8 Upon the conclusion of the objection period contemplated in paragraph 12 below,
- i. no new complaints concerning suspected contravention of paragraphs 10.1 to 10.9 may be considered by the ISEC, and
 - ii. matters referred in terms of paragraph 10.10.4 for further investigation by the University in accordance with the relevant disciplinary processes proceed regardless of the outcome of the election.

- 10.11 The election campaigning for the portfolio of SRC Distance Students' Officer is done electronically and managed by the registrar in accordance with paragraphs 10.1 to 10.10 of these rules with the necessary changes.

11 Voting procedures and conduct

11.1 Prohibited voting conduct

- 11.1.1 During the voting period, no candidate, student support group or student may influence or attempt to influence student voter conduct or decisions through the issuing of gifts, incentive, privileges, promotional materials, access rights, or similar benefits.
- 11.1.2 No candidate or student support group may erect, setup or make available a voter centre or space or make available equipment for eligible student voters to cast their votes, regardless of whether this is done on university owned or controlled premises, or not.
- 11.1.3 Each student voter is required to safeguard their credentials granting them access to the voting site (including their student number and unique password) and may not share this with other student voters or candidates.
- 11.1.4 No student voter, candidate or student support group may vote on behalf of another student.

11.2 Electronic voting ballot and the voting process

- 11.2.1 The election is conducted electronically via an online platform as determined by the registrar in consultation with the DVC SLTPC.
- 11.2.2 The election, including the casting of votes by student voters, may be conducted remotely and not necessarily on premises of the university.
- 11.2.3 The voting period must at least be a minimum of 48 hours in duration, and may take place over a weekend, public holiday, or workday.
- 11.2.4 To cast a vote, every voter must be verified electronically by means of a secure login process requiring the student's university number combined with a unique password.
- 11.2.5 The platform used for the election must ensure the secrecy and security of all votes cast.
- 11.2.6 Each candidate is identified by means of their name, surname, preferred nickname (if relevant), portfolio for which they are eligible, and the generic head and shoulder image obtained by the CECT as part of the campus election campaign plan (refer paragraph 10.4.8.i).
- 11.2.7 The electronic ballot card must provide for an "abstain" option, also referred to as abstained votes, which student voters must select in the event that they wish to not cast a vote for an eligible candidate in a particular portfolio.
- 11.2.8 ISEC must be given full access to all aspects of the voting and related processes.

11.3 Voting for eligible candidates

- 11.3.1 In instances where more than one candidate is eligible for election to a portfolio, eligible student voters must cast their vote for their desired candidate using the voting process outlined in paragraph 11.2 above.
- 11.3.2 If only one candidate is declared eligible for election to a portfolio, the candidate must be declared elected to the portfolio by the ISEC without the casting of votes for the affected portfolio.
- 11.3.3 A student voter is required to cast a vote for each of the portfolios that are being elected in accordance with paragraph 11.3.1, with said vote cast being either for a preferred candidate or an abstained vote option.
- 11.3.4 In the event that a candidate withdraws or is disqualified during the voting period, the voting process continues with the votes cast for the affected candidate discarded, however, such discarded votes must be published as part of the electoral outcome.
- 11.3.5 Each CECT, with the approval of the ISEC, must conduct a general awareness campaign during the voting period reminding eligible student voters to participate in the voting process, however, such a campaign may not single out or place specific emphasis on a particular candidate or portfolio.

11.4 Counting of votes and determining the elected candidate

- 11.4.1 Votes are counted electronically by the online platform referred to in paragraph 11.2, with the internal audit department of the university auditing the results to verify the accuracy of the vote count, overseen by ISEC.
- 11.4.2 The candidate who receives the majority of votes for the SCC portfolio concerned excluding the abstained votes, or the SRC Distance Students' Officer, is declared elected.
- 11.4.3 In the event of an equal number of votes being cast for candidates competing for the same portfolio, the internal audit department of the university must identify the last vote cast for each candidate with the candidate who first received the majority vote based on the last vote cast deemed elected.
- 11.4.4 In the event that a candidate who has received the majority votes withdraws or is disqualified after the voting period has concluded but before the outcome has been ratified by the ISEC, the ISEC must resolve to declare the runner-up as the duly elected candidate.
- 11.4.5 The number of abstained votes cast by student voters does not subtract from the votes obtained by candidates eligible for a specific portfolio, but the number of abstained votes must be published as part of the voting outcome.
- 11.4.6 Following the outcome of the counting of votes, ISEC must publish a preliminary list of elected candidates.

12 Objections

- 12.1 Within 48 hours after the publication of the preliminary list of elected candidates, student voters may submit objections to ISEC regarding the outcome of the election, using the mechanisms prescribed by ISEC, with permitted objections being limited to -
 - 12.1.1 non-compliance or transgression of the election campaign procedures provided for in paragraph 10, and
 - 12.1.2 non-compliance or transgression of the voting procedures provided for in paragraph 11.
- 12.2 The ISEC must consider valid objections that comply with the following:
 - 12.2.1 The objection is submitted within the period stipulated for the relevant category of objections;
 - 12.2.2 The candidate(s) against who the objection is submitted are clearly identified by means of the name, surname and student number(s);
 - 12.2.3 The relevant evidence, which may include documents, correspondence, audiovisual materials, etc., substantiating the objection is submitted to the ISEC; and
 - 12.2.4 The student submitting the objection is eligible to vote in the election of the SCC concerned, or the SRC Distance Students' Officer.
- 12.3 Upon receipt of an objection in accordance with paragraphs 12.1 and 12.2, the ISEC may engage the affected students and other relevant parties, and may –
 - 12.3.1 conduct a preliminary investigation on the objection by gathering additional information from the complainant(s), accused parties, the relevant CECT, and university records, and
 - 12.3.2 determine, based on the information gathered, whether the objection is substantial and material and could have prevented the election from being free, fair, and transparent.
- 12.4 Based on the outcome of the process undertaken in terms of paragraph 12.3, the ISEC must –
 - 12.4.1 determine whether the affected candidate(s) should be disqualified from being elected;
 - 12.4.2 decide whether the matter must be referred to the office of the registrar for further processing in accordance with the relevant disciplinary processes of the University, and
 - 12.4.3 inform the relevant objector, candidates, parties and CECT of the outcome of the investigation.
- 12.5 In the event that an objection is adjudged by the ISEC as being substantial and materially impacted on the free, fair and transparent election, the ISEC may –
 - 12.5.1 resolve to proceed with the ratification of the election results of the SCC portfolios not impacted by the objection(s), thereby allowing such the SCCs to constitute in accordance with these rules, provided that the SCC concerned can reach a quorum, or

12.5.2 defer the ratification of the affected SCC until such time that the investigation and outcome of the process contemplated in paragraph 12.3 are concluded.

12.6 The findings of ISEC regarding an objection are final and binding.

13 Auditing and Ratification

13.1 External Auditors

13.1.1 An external auditor appointed by the University audits the electoral process relating to the:

13.1.1.1 compliance of the university to the electoral processes contained in Chapter 2 of these rules;

13.1.1.2 accuracy and completeness of the nominators' roll and voters' roll issued by the university; and

13.1.1.3 counting of votes cast for eligible candidates.

13.2 Ratification of election results

13.2.1 The ISEC must ratify the results of the election and may, subject to the occurrence of circumstances contemplated in paragraph 12.5, declare the election to have been free and fair, provided that:

i. the outcome of the objections received by the ISEC have in accordance with paragraph 12 been finalised.

ii. the ISEC has received an audit report from the external auditor confirming the compliance of the electoral processes to Chapter 2 of these rules and the accuracy of the outcome of the voting process.

13.2.2 Following the ratification of the results of the election, the ISEC and CECTs must promptly publish –

i. the outcome of the voting process including the names, surnames and student numbers of candidates;

ii. the number of votes obtained by each candidate indicating the majority votes obtained per SCC portfolio;

iii. the voter turnout as a percentage; and

iv. the students declared elected in accordance with paragraph 11.3.2.

13.2.3 The outcome of the election must be published electronically.

COMPOSITION OF THE SCCs AND THE SRC, DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS OF THE SCCs TO THE SRC, TERM OF OFFICE AND THE FILLING OF VACANCIES

14 Composition of the SCCs and the SRC

14.1 Composition of the SCCs

14.1.1 Each SCC comprises 15 members to which students are elected.

14.1.2 Among the 15 members comprising each SCC, at least the following portfolios must be designated:

	SCC Portfolio
1.	SCC: Chairperson
2.	SCC: Deputy Chairperson
3.	SCC: Secretary
4.	SCC: Transformation and Diversity Officer

14.1.3 The remaining portfolios that comprise each SCC are determined in the constitution of the SRC.

14.1.4 Students are elected to the 15 portfolios that comprise an SCC in terms of these rules.

14.1.5 The portfolios in respect of which SCC members take responsibility must be aligned across the three campuses in accordance with the provisions of the constitution of the SRC.

14.2 Composition of the SRC

14.2.1 In terms of the statute, the SRC comprises 15 members designated proportionally based on the number of qualified student voters, done in terms of these rules.

14.2.2 Among the 15 members comprising the SRC, at least the following portfolios must be designated and provided for:

	SCC Portfolio
1.	SRC: President
2.	SRC: Deputy President
3.	SRC: Secretary-General
4.	SRC: Transformation and Diversity Officer
5.	SRC: Distance Students' Officer

14.2.3 The constitution of the SRC must provide for portfolios in respect of which each of its members take responsibility.

14.2.4 Excluding the SRC Distance Students' Officer, the 14 remaining members that comprise the SRC are designated from the elected SCCs in accordance with paragraph 15 of these rules.

14.3 Diversity targets and transformation

The council must inform the SRC and SCCs of the skills and diversity targets set by it to promote do sensitivity to race, gender and disability and request each of these bodies to demonstrate how the achievement of those targets was pursued pro-actively, transparently and inclusively within the student governance environment.

15 Rules for the designation of SCC members to the SRC

15.1 General principles applicable to the designation of SCC members to the SRC

- 15.1.1 Each SCC receives a minimum of three positions on the SRC.
- 15.1.2 The chairperson, deputy-chairperson and secretary of each SCC serve in the SRC.
- 15.1.3 The chairpersons of the three SCCs form the executive committee of the SRC.
- 15.1.4 The allocation of the positions of president, deputy-president, and secretary-general of the SRC is rotated between the SCCs on an annual basis.
- 15.1.5 Each SCC must determine which of its members are designated to the SRC in accordance with the number of positions to which it is entitled in terms of the formula provided for by paragraph 15.2.
- 15.1.6 In the event of a vacancy occurring in the SRC, each SCC must maintain the number of SRC positions it is allocated in accordance with paragraph 15.2 by duly filling vacancies without delay.

15.2 Formula for the determination of the number of members of each SCC to be designated to the SRC

- 15.2.1 The quota for the allocation of SCC members to the SRC (with 14 positions available) is calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$\frac{a}{b} = c$$

Where –

- a* represents the total number of qualified voters on all three campuses;
- b* represents the total number of positions on the SRC to be filled by designation by the SCCs (14); and
- c* represents a number referred to as “the quota”.

- 15.2.2 the calculation of the number of positions on the SRC to be allocated to each SCC is calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$\frac{d}{e} = f$$

Where –

- d* represents the total number of qualified voters on the campus concerned;
- e* represents the quota; and
- f* represents the number of positions (fractions to be disregarded, subject to paragraphs 15.2.3 to 15.2.5) allocated to the SCC concerned.

- 15.2.3 If the formula provided for in paragraph 15.2.2 does not lead to the allocation of all positions on the SRC, the remaining positions are allocated in sequence of the highest fractions obtained in the calculations in terms of paragraph 15.2.2, provided that at least three positions must be designated to each SCC in accordance with para. 15.1.1.
- 15.2.4 If *f* contemplated in paragraph- 15.2.2 is less than 3, and an additional position(s) on the SRC are allocated to the SCC concerned. The calculation contemplated in 15.2.3 is made only regarding the other SCCs.
- 15.2.5 If the fractions referred to in paragraphs 15.2.2 and 15.2.3 for two or more SCCs is equal, and a position remains to be allocated, it is allocated to the SCC of the campus where *d* in the formula provided for in paragraph 15.2.2 is the largest.
- 15.2.6 The calculations for the allocation of the positions on the SRC must be made by the internal auditors of the university and must be ratified by ISEC.

16 Term of office of the SCCs and the SRC

- 16.1 The **term of office of an SCC** is one year and commences (or concludes as the case might be) upon the ratification of the election outcome done in accordance with paragraph 13, whereafter each SCC must within five working days conduct its inaugural meeting between the incoming and outgoing SCCs.
- 16.2 The **term of office on the SRC** is one year and commences (or concludes as the case might be) upon ratification of the designation of SCC members to the SRC done in accordance with paragraph 15, after which the SRC must within ten working days meet to conduct its inaugural meeting between the incoming and outgoing SRCs.
- 16.3 In the instance where the inaugural meeting of an SCC is unreasonably and justifiably delayed for a period of more than five working days after the ratification of the results by the ISEC, the campus director: student life may convene the inaugural meeting for the SCC concerned with members present constituting a quorum.
- 16.4 In the instance where the handover meeting of the SRC is unreasonably or and justifiably delayed for a period of more than 10 working days after the ratification of the designation of SCC members to the SRC by the ISEC, the vice chancellor may convene the handover meeting for the SRC with members present constituting a quorum.
- 16.5 Under compelling circumstances, the vice chancellor may, on the advice of the registrar, the DVC SLTPC and the UMC, and after consultation with the SRC, extend or shorten the term of the SCCs or the SRC for a reasonable period.
- 16.6 In the event of the election of an SCC in accordance with paragraph 28.7, the provisions of paragraphs 16.1 and 16.3 apply, and the newly elected SCC must designate the relevant members to the SRC, which is then not required to conduct a handover meeting afresh.
- 16.7 The term of office for SCCs members elected and SRC members designated in accordance with paragraph 28.7 is regarded as a full term for the remainder of the current term, irrespective of its duration.

17 Termination of membership

17.1 Termination of membership of an SCC or SRC member

17.1.1 Membership to an SCC terminates when –

- i. a member resigns in writing to the chairperson of the SCC concerned, or the exco of the SCC concerned in the event of the resignation of the chairperson;
- ii. a member ceases to be a registered student of the campus from which the member was elected;
- iii. a member registers as a student in the distance learning environment;
- iv. a member ceases to be a registered student of the University registered for a programme leading to a qualification;
- v. a member is found guilty of misconduct by a University Disciplinary Hearing Committee as established in terms of paragraph 5.2.1 of the NWU Policy on Student Discipline;
- vi. the SCC concerned, following disciplinary proceedings conducted by the SCC in accordance with the Policy and Manual on Student Discipline, resolves to terminate the membership of a member;
- vii. a motion of no confidence is passed against a member of the SCC concerned in accordance with the procedure provided for in paragraph 17.4;
- viii. a member is convicted of a crime;
- ix. a conflict of interest or of commitment arises, which cannot reasonably be managed as determined by the DVC SLTPC in consultation with the registrar and vice-chancellor;
- x. a member is declared insolvent by a court of law;
- xi. a member becomes employed with the university either as a permanent or temporary employee, excluding student assistants;
- xii. upon receipt of a resolution of the SRC taken on the advice of the SCC concerned, and after consultation with the DVC SLTPC and the registrar, the vice-chancellor declares a member incapable of performing the official duties entrusted to the member, or
- xiii. a member fails to attend three (3) consecutive ordinary meetings of the SCC concerned without submitting the requisite apologies prior to the meetings in accordance with the meeting procedures set out in the Constitution of the Students' Representative Council of the North-West University.

- 17.1.2 Membership of the SRC is terminated when –
- i. a member ceases to be a member of the SCC to which the member was elected;
 - ii. the SRC, following disciplinary proceedings conducted by the SRC in accordance with the Policy and Manual on Student Discipline, resolves to terminate the membership of a member;
 - iii. a motion of no confidence is passed against a member of the SRC in accordance with the procedure provided for in paragraph 17.4;
 - iv. a conflict of interest or of commitment arises, which cannot reasonably be managed as determined by the DVC SLTPC in consultation with the registrar and vice-chancellor, or
 - v. a member fails to attend three consecutive ordinary meetings of the SRC without submitting the requisite apologies prior to the meetings in accordance with the meeting procedures as set out in the Constitution of the Students' Representative Council of the North-West University.
- 17.1.3 A student whose members terminated in accordance with paragraph 17.1.1 or 17.1.2 of these rules:
- i. is not regarded as having served a full term as contemplated in these rules;
 - ii. forfeits any recognition from the university confirming the time served as a student leader in the relevant position; and
 - iii. is disqualified from contesting a similar position of leadership for a period of two years measured from the date of their termination of membership.
- 17.1.4 No student leader, with the exception of the designation of SCC members to the SRC and the temporary allocation of roles and responsibilities in the event of a vacancies in the SCC or SRC, may be elected or appointed to serve in more than one student leadership structure of the university simultaneously.

17.2 Temporary suspension of SRC and SCC members

The following provisions apply in the event that a member of the SRC or SCC is found guilty of misconduct by a university disciplinary hearing established in accordance with paragraph 5.2.1 of the policy on student discipline and where the student has submitted an appeal or request for review in accordance with the policy:

- 17.2.1 The student's membership to the SRC or SCC is temporarily suspended until such time that the appeal or request for review has concluded.
- 17.2.2 The student temporarily relinquishes all responsibilities, functions, rights and duties associated with the SRC or SCC position, including access rights to relevant university resources and platforms issued to the SRC or SCC.
- 17.2.3 The SRC or SCC must in the interim assign the roles, responsibilities and duties of the affected portfolio to other member(s) of the SRC or SCC, by means of a two-thirds majority resolution, excluding the affected position.
- 17.2.4 In the event that the guilty finding is upheld after conclusion of the appeal or review process, the student's membership terminates from the date of the outcome of the appeal or review process.
- 17.2.5 In the event that the guilty finding is overturned and the student declared not guilty, the student returns to their SRC or SCC position continuing with their duties, roles and responsibilities.
- 17.2.6 Should the circumstances contemplated in paragraphs 17.2.1-17.2.3 overlap with the end of the term of office of a the SRC or SCC, the term of the affected student will be regarded as having ended on the date when they were found guilty of misconduct by the university disciplinary panel established in accordance with paragraph 5.2.1 of the policy on student discipline.

17.3 Termination of membership as the SRC DSO

In addition to the termination grounds listed in paragraph 17.1.2, the membership of the SRC DSO terminates when such member ceases to be a registered full-time student of the university registered for a programme in the distance learning environment.

17.4 Procedures for a motion of no confidence

- 17.4.1 A motion of no confidence may be brought against a member of an SCC by members of the SCC concerned.
- 17.4.2 The following requirements must be complied with to table a valid motion of no confidence:
- 17.4.2.1 A member of the SCC concerned must table the motion of no confidence in writing with the Chairperson of the SCC concerned.
- 17.4.2.2 The tabling of the motion must be supported in writing by at least five (05) members of the SCC concerned.
- 17.4.2.3 A motion of no confidence tabled against the chairperson of the SCC must be submitted to the SCC: Deputy Chairperson, who must chair the meeting when the motion is heard.
- 17.4.2.4 Upon receipt of the motion, the SCC: Chairperson, or SCC: Deputy Chairperson as the case may be, must schedule a special meeting for the purposes of considering the motion of no confidence, providing written notice of the meeting at least eight (08) working days prior to the commencement of the meeting.
- 17.4.2.5 The SCC member against whom the motion of no confidence is tabled, must be informed in writing of the content of the motion and the reasons associated with the tabling of the motion at least seven (07) working days prior to the commencement of the meeting.
- 17.4.2.6 Upon receipt of a motion of no confidence, the SCC concerned is required to inform the DVC SLTPC and the registrar of the motion, providing a copy of the tabled motion as well as the planned date and time of the meeting during which the motion will be heard.
- 17.4.3 To hear a motion of no confidence, at least 12 members of the SCC, excepting the member against whom the motion is tabled, must be present and participate in the voting process.
- 17.4.4 During the meeting when the motion of no confidence is tabled:
- 17.4.4.1 The SCC member tabling the motion must be afforded an opportunity to present and substantiate the motion.
- 17.4.4.2 The SCC member against whom the motion is tabled must be afforded an opportunity to respond to the motion.
- 17.4.5 Following completion of the process provided for in paragraph 17.4.4, the SCC must vote on the motion of no confidence by a secret ballot, administered by an employee designated by the registrar and DVC SLTPC.
- 17.4.6 The support of at least 12 members of the SCC concerned is required to pass a motion of no confidence.
- 17.4.7 During a term of office motions of no confidence may not be passed against more than three members of the SCC concerned.
- 17.4.8 A motion of no confidence in a member of the SRC is conducted in accordance with paragraph 17.4.1-17.4.7, with the necessary changes.

18 Vacancies in the SRC and SCC

18.1 Filling of vacancies in the SRC and SCC

- 18.1.1 A vacancy occurring in an SCC within four (04) months of the commencement of its term must be filled in the following manner:
- i. If a more than one candidate contested for the effected portfolio during the electoral process, the ISEC must resolve to request the runner-up to accept the now vacant position. Should the candidate accept the request, the ISEC must declare said candidate as duly elected.
 - ii. If only one candidate had contested the affected portfolio, or if no other candidate is available to fill the vacancy, the position is declared vacant and the SCC must resolve by a two-thirds majority of the remaining members to add the functions of the vacated portfolio(s) to the responsibilities of other members of the SCC, which may be revised from time to time to ensure effective workload distribution.

- 18.1.2 A vacancy occurring in an SCC after four (04) months since the commencement of the current term has elapsed, is left vacant and the SCC must resolve by a two-thirds majority of the remaining members to add the functions of the vacated portfolio(s) to the responsibilities of other members of the SCC, which may be revised from time to time to ensure effective workload distribution.
- 18.1.3 In the event of a vacancy occurring in a position of the SRC to which the member was designated by an SCC, the SCC concerned must resolve by a two-thirds majority to fill the vacancy from among its remaining members to serve in the SRC for the remainder of the term, ensuring that the number of positions allocated to each SCC are filled.
- 18.1.4 In the event that the positions of chairperson, deputy chairperson and secretary of an SCC become vacant, the SCC concerned must ensure that the member designated via these position to the SRC do not result in one SCC member occupying two or more SRC positions.
- 18.1.5 A vacancy occurring in the position of the SRC distance students' officer within four months of the commencement of the term, must be filled in the following manner:
- i. If a more than one candidate contested the portfolio of SRC distance students' officer, the ISEC must resolve to request the runner-up to accept the now vacant position. Should the candidate accept the request, the ISEC must declare said candidate as duly elected.
 - ii. If only one candidate had contested the portfolio of SRC distance students' officer, or if no other candidate is available to fill the vacancy, the position is declared vacant and the SRC must resolve by a two-thirds majority of the remaining members to add the functions of the vacated portfolio(s) to the responsibilities of other members of the SRC, which may be revised from time to time to ensure effective workload distribution.
- 18.1.6 A vacancy occurring in the position of the SRC distance students' officer after four months since the commencement of the current term has elapsed, is left vacant and the SRC must resolve by a two-thirds majority of the remaining members to add the functions of the vacated portfolio to the responsibilities of another member of the SRC which may be revised from time to time to ensure effective workload distribution.
- 18.1.7 A member who filled a vacancy in accordance with paragraphs 18.1.1 or 18.1.5 is deemed to have served in the SRC or the SCC concerned for a full term.
- 18.1.8 A member who performs additional tasks following the process described in paragraphs 18.1.2, 18.1.3 and 18.1.6 is deemed to be an acting member for the vacant position, however maintaining only one vote.
- 18.1.9 A member who fills a vacancy in the SRC in accordance with paragraph 18.1.3 is regarded as a full member of the SRC.

DESIGNATION OF SRC AND SCC MEMBERS TO UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES

19 Notification

- 19.1 The registrar must following the commencement of the term of office of the SRC and SCCs, notify the president of the SRC and the SCC Chairpersons in writing that the SRC and SCCs are required to designate members to serve in various governance structures of the university for the duration of their term of office.
- 19.2 The membership to the various university governance structures are determined in the terms of reference of the relevant structures, further guided by the relevant statutory provisions.

20 Designation

- 20.1 The president of the SRC and SCC Chairpersons must forthwith cause, in accordance with the procedural requirements of the SRC Constitution, the designation of members referred to in the notice of the registrar and provide the registrar with the names of the delegated SRC or SCC members.
- 20.2 Designated members of the SRC and SCCs serve as members of the structures concerned for the duration of their term of office, but if such a member ceases to be a member of the SRC or SCC prior to the completion of the term, another member must forthwith be designated by the SRC, or the SCC as the case may be, to serve in the structure concerned for the remainder of the term.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK ON THE FUNCTIONS, DUTIES, PRIVILEGES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

21 Framework on the functions of the SRC

Within this framework, the SRC is required to regulate their functioning in performing the following:

- 21.1 coordinating organised student life activities in the student community;
- 21.2 ensuring compliance by student leadership structures with the rules, procedures and mechanisms of the university;
- 21.3 actively participating and contributing to the activities of the structures and committees to which it designates members; and
- 21.4 establishing subordinate student leadership structures other than the SRC and SCCs.

22 Framework on the duties of the SRC

Within this framework, the SRC as a statutory body of the university is required to regulate its functioning in performing the following duties:

- 22.1 To annually adopt a strategic plan, subject to the annual performance plan of the university, within which it outlines the projects, initiatives and programmes the SRC will conduct, further incorporating the strategic directives of the university concerned with the coordination of student activities, including –
 - 22.1.1 the creation of a comparable student experience;
 - 22.1.2 the implementation of social justice, multilingualism and an ethic of care; and
 - 22.1.3 the creation of an inclusive and diverse student community.
- 22.2 To promote and maintain discipline within the student community.
- 22.3 To conduct itself in a manner that is consistent with the values, principles and codes of conduct of the NWU.
- 22.4 To act in the best interest of the university and the student community.
- 22.5 To refrain from acting in a manner that is detrimental to the business of the SRC or that of the university.
- 22.6 To comply in all respects with the university policies, rules and guidelines.

23 Framework on the procedures and operations of the SRC

- 23.1 Within the framework of these rules, the SRC must establish rules and procedures that inform the operational working of the SRC itself, the SCCs, and the sub-ordinate student leadership structures.
- 23.2 Such rules and procedures must provide for the day-to-day working and continued performance of the SRC, the SCCs, and the sub-ordinate student leadership structures including rules and procedures on:
 - 23.2.1 requesting and motivating that the university to enter into contracts on its behalf, or on behalf of its sub-ordinate student leadership structures;
 - 23.2.2 drafting and distribution of publications and notices on matters pertaining to the SRC, SCCs, and sub-ordinate student leadership structures;
 - 23.2.3 coordination of meetings with students and student leaders for the purposes of discussing the business of the SRC, its sub-ordinate leadership structure and the student community;
 - 23.2.4 liaising with SRCs from other universities and higher education institutions;
 - 23.2.5 establishing task teams and subcommittees which assist in the furtherance of the functioning and operations of the SRC, consisting of members internal to the university; and
 - 23.2.6 requesting legal advice on matters pertaining to the business of the SRC, the SCCs and its sub-ordinate student leadership structures, through the office of the registrar.
- 23.3 the procedures must also provide for internal dispute resolution mechanism for the SRC, the SCC and the sub-ordinate student leadership structures.

24 Privileges of the SRC, SCCs and subordinate student leadership structures

- 24.1 The UMC must on the advice of the DVC SLTPC determine the privileges of the members of the SRC, SCCs and subordinate student leadership structures.
- 24.2 Such privileges may support and reward the functioning of the SRC and other student leadership structures and may include:
 - 24.2.1 allowances or honorariums;
 - 24.2.2 uniforms or NWU branded clothing;
 - 24.2.3 infrastructure and budgetary allocation;
 - 24.2.4 representation to specific committees and structures; or
 - 24.2.5 recognition of the SRC and other student leadership structures by the NWU; and
 - 24.2.6 similar resources support the functions of the student leadership structure.
- 24.3 These privileges must be aligned with that which is permissible in terms of other council policies and financial rules regarding, amongst others, subsistence, travel allowances and reimbursements.
- 24.4 The allocation of the above-mentioned privileges must be subject to a process of performance assessment taking into consideration the student leaders' performance of their duties, academic performance, achievement of year plans and project plans, and similar measurements relevant to the structure.

25 Accountability of the SRC, SCC and subordinate student leadership structures

- 25.1 The SRC is accountable to the NWU student body, the vice chancellor (or their delegate) and the council of the university.
- 25.2 The SCCs are each accountable to the student body of the respective campus, the SRC, the vice chancellor (or their delegate) and the council.
- 25.3 The subordinate student leadership structures of each SCC are accountable to the student body of the relevant campus, their SCC, and the SRC.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE ADOPTION AND REVIEW OF AND AMENDMENTS TO THE SRC CONSTITUTION

26 Adoption and status of the constitution of the SRC

- 26.1 The SRC is responsible for the drafting and triennial revision of the constitution of the SRC (the SRC constitution).
- 26.2 The SRC constitution, duly adopted and approved in accordance with paragraph 29 of the Statute, forms an integral part of the institutional rules of the NWU contemplated in section 32(1)(b) of the Act.
- 26.3 The constitution must, within the provided frameworks, regulate the functions and duties of the office-bearers of the SRC and the SCCs and provide for the procedures, accountability and operation of the SRC and the SCCs, and sub-ordinate student leadership structures.
- 26.4 The provisions of the constitution are binding on the SRC, the SCCs and all other student leadership structures of the NWU.

27 Review and amendment of the constitution

- 27.1 The registrar must notify the SRC when a revision of the constitution is due.
- 27.2 The SRC may call on the DVC SLTPC and the registrar for advice and assistance regarding the drafting and review of the constitution.
- 27.3 A proposal for the amendment of the constitution may be made by an SCC with the support of 12 members, or may be proposed by 12 members of the SRC.
- 27.4 A proposal for an amendment to the constitution must be submitted electronically to the SRC Exco, SRC Legal Officer, the registrar and DVC SLTPC before it is tabled at a meeting of the SRC.
- 27.5 The SRC must consult with the DVC SLTPC and the registrar before adopting an amendment of the constitution.
- 27.6 The SRC must inform the student body of proposed amendments and must allow a reasonable period of time for the submission of comments.
- 27.7 The constitution and any amendment thereof must be adopted by at least 12 members of the SRC before it is submitted to Senate and Council for approval.

ENSURING THE CONTINUED PERFORMANCE OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE SRC, SCCS AND SUBORDINATE STUDENT LEADERSHIP STRUCTURES

28 Ensuring continued performance

28.1 Student leadership performance assessments

- 28.1.1 Student Life must provide for a process whereby the performance of student leadership structures is monitored, evaluated, and where relevant rewarded.
- 28.1.2 The evaluation of student leadership performance must be based on the student leaders' performance related to portfolio work, attendance and participation in student leadership initiatives, academic performance, and similar performance indicators relevant to the structure.
- 28.1.3 The UMC, on the advice of the DVC SLTPC must approve a programme that ensure the achievement of the student leadership performance assessment outlined above.
- 28.1.4 The process of performance assessment must include staff stakeholders identified by Student Life to administer the process with student leadership structures.
- 28.1.5 The DVC SLTPC provides for a process of regular reporting, analysis, evaluation, mentoring and improvement of the functioning of the SRC and its subordinate student leadership structures with reference to the strategic plan adopted by the SRC in terms of paragraph 22.1, and reports accordingly to the UMC and, twice per annum, to the Student Life Oversight Committee.
- 28.1.6 The Annual Performance Plan for Student Life as approved by the Council must be articulated in the performance plan and framework adopted by the SRC and its substructures.

28.2 Remedial steps by the DVC SLTPC

- 28.2.1 Where the performance of the SRC, SCC or a subordinate student leadership structure deviates from the agreed-upon performance frameworks, objectives and plans, an internal remediation process must be followed and overseen by the:
 - i. DVC SLTPC for instances involving the SRC; or
 - ii. campus director: student life of the campus concerned for instances involving an SCC or subordinate student leadership structure.
- 28.2.2 When an internal remediation process proves not to meet the requisite standards of improvement, a formal process of improvement must be devised and implemented by the DVC SLTPC in collaboration with the relevant student leadership structures.

28.3 Dispute resolution

- 28.3.1 In the event that the dispute resolution mechanisms of the SRC fail to resolve a dispute within the SRC, an SCC, or any of its subordinate student leadership structures, the affected structure may by means of a two-thirds majority vote request the assistance of the following stakeholders to to resolve the dispute:
 - i. DVC SLTPC for instances involving the SRC; or
 - ii. campus director: student life of the campus concerned for instances involving an SCC or subordinate student leadership structure.
- 28.3.2 Upon receipt of such a request, the DVC SLTPC, or campus director: student life as the case may be, must in collaboration with the relevant student leadership structures, initiate a suitable process of dispute resolution.

28.4 Monitoring of continued performance and remedial steps by the UMC

In the event that the desired functioning and performance is not achieved following the processes contemplated in paragraphs 28.2 and 28.3, the vice chancellor may, upon the advice of the DVC SLTPC request the UMC to –

- 28.4.1 take additional measures deemed fit for the purpose of ensuring the desired functioning and performance of the relevant student leadership structures and to report the measures taken to the council; or
- 28.4.2 refer the matter to council for its intervention.

28.5 Remedial steps on dispute resolution by the UMC

In the event that a dispute is not resolved by means of the process contemplated in paragraphs 28.2-28.3, or where a dispute arises between the SRC or an SCC and the management of the university, the vice chancellor may request the UMC to –

- 28.5.1 initiate measures deemed suitable to resolve the dispute; or
- 28.5.2 refer the matter to council for its intervention.

28.6 Intervention

- 28.6.1 Where the failure of the SRC or any of its components to perform its functions satisfactorily is referred to council for intervention according to paragraphs 28.4 and 28.5, intervention may take the forms of:
 - i. mediation;
 - ii. training or coaching;
 - iii. suspension of functions;
 - iv. suspension of members; or
 - v. dissolution of the SRC, the SCC, or the leadership structure concerned.
- 28.6.2 The council must review an intervention taken in terms of paragraph 28.6.1 at least during every subsequent ordinary meeting of the UMC with a view to the restoration as soon as possible of effective student governance.

28.7 Dissolution of the SRC or an SCC and the establishment of an interim SRC or SCC

- 28.7.1 In accordance with the council's governance authority to ensure the existence of an effective and functional student leadership and governance environment at the NWU, the council may after consultation with the UMC resolve to dissolve the SRC, or an SCC, if any of the following circumstance occur:
 - 28.7.1.1 The number of vacancies occurring within the SRC, or SCC, reasonably impacts the continued performance of the SRC, or the SCC, or
 - 28.7.1.2 The number of vacancies occurring in the SRC, or SCC, results in the structure being unable to reach a quorum of 9 members; or
 - 28.7.1.3 The positions of president, deputy president and secretary-general of the SRC, or chairperson, deputy chairperson and secretary of an SCC are simultaneously vacant.
- 28.7.2 In the event that Council has resolved to dissolve the SRC, or an SCC, in accordance with paragraph 28.7.1 above, Council must establish an interim SRC, or SCC, as follows:
 - i. Request the registrar and DVC SLTPC to appoint the runner-up candidates who had contested the election, provided that for at least 9 of the portfolios a runner-up candidate is available to serve on the SCC; or
 - ii. In the event that an insufficient number of candidates are available to satisfy the above provision, request the registrar and DVC SLTPC to commence with a by-election process conducted in accordance with these rules with the necessary changes to relevant timeline requirements approved by council; or
 - iii. Appoint an interim SCC from the ranks of the remaining subordinate student leadership structures which must at least have 5 representatives from both the students' academic chapter and house committee environment resulting in an SCC comprising at least 10 members.

28.7.3 If none of the processes contemplated in paragraph 28.7.2 above results in the establishment of a functional SCC, the council may at its discretion after consultation with the UMC put in place mechanisms to ensure the continuation of organised student life activities until the next cycle of election.

28.7.3.1 In the event of only one SCC being dissolved in accordance with paragraphs 28.7.1 –

28.7.3.1.1 the SRC continues to function until such time that the SCC concerned can again designate the relevant members; and

28.7.3.1.2 the SRC must, by means of a two-thirds majority of the remaining members, temporarily distribute the roles and responsibilities of the vacant SRC positions amongst the remaining SRC members.

ELECTORAL CODE OF CONDUCT

- 1 The electoral code of conduct (ECoC) is applicable and binding to all university students and staff, including members of the ISEC, CECTs and other identified staff role-players provided in the institutional rules on student governance.
- 2 For the purposes of the ECoC, “participation” in the electoral process includes any type of activity, engagement or conduct that falls within the scope of the institutional rules on student governance.
- 3 Students and staff who participate in electoral processes -
 - i. must uphold the values, policies, rules and process of the university and subject themselves to such at all times;
 - ii. must take reasonable steps to ensure their adherence and compliance to the institutional rules on student governance;
 - iii. may not undermine the processes of a free and fair election process, nor to request, incite, insinuate that any other student(s) to undermine such a process;
 - iv. must adhere to the practical arrangements made by the ISEC and CECT as required in the institutional rules on student governance in ensuring free, fair and orderly execution of the electoral process; and
 - v. may not use language, statements, slogans, songs or chants that promote violence (including references to weapons and warfare), intimidation, intolerance, or discrimination, regardless of the historic context.
- 4 Candidates who participate in electoral processes -
 - i. must take reasonable steps to ensure that any student supporter(s) acting in their favour adhere to the rules, processes and procedures as set out in the institutional rules on student governance;
 - ii. must take reasonable steps to report within 24-hour hours any non-compliance of student supporters acting in their favour; and
 - iii. must avail themselves to participate in the campus campaign plans and related activities approved by the ISEC and not seek to undermine such.
- 5 The following conduct is prohibited -
 - i. Usage of languages, statements or songs that provokes violence;
 - ii. Intimidation of candidates and student voters;
 - iii. Publication of false information related to other candidates or student support groups;
 - iv. The impersonation of other candidates or student support groups;
 - v. Offering bribe, reward or any form of incentive to a student voter during the voting period;
 - vi. Damaging, removing, defacing or covering up of campaign materials of other candidates or student support groups;
 - vii. Carrying or displaying weapons and firearms whilst participating in any electoral process, which includes items created to resemble weapons or firearms.

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