VOTER EDUCATION

COMMISSION’S VISION AND MISSION

VISION: A credible electoral management for enhancement of democratic representation

Mission: To conduct free, fair, peaceful and credible EUSA elections in order to contribute to Egerton University Students’ democratic representation

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Unity
- Fairness;
- Integrity,
- Transparency
- Accountability;
- Professionalism;
- Team work;

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1.0 PREAMBLE

Free, fair and peaceful elections is not hinged on just one person or elected leaders working to ensure peace, but on a group of individuals and all the stakeholders with one goal of working to ensure a peaceful process before, during and after the elections.

It will take the collective effort and activity of an evil minority group or individual to mess up the fine process because of ulterior and selfish motives they may have.

Post-election conflicts at all levels are often more prevalent and deadly than pre-election violence; globally, nationally and even within institutional set up like Egerton University.

Polls, as we all know from times of old, should be about credibility, integrity and trust in the candidates, political ideology and the team with the requisite competences to manage the resources and assets efficiently for the benefit of majority of the university and the nation at large.

In ensuring a peaceful and successful election, the behaviour of all contestants and their supporters is crucial. For instance, candidates announcing themselves winners before the official announcement by the Electoral Commission can be a dangerous path to take and a recipe for serious chaos. In order to avoid such scenarios, there is need to provide election process information and make it accessible to all stakeholders.

Opposing groups who may lose, must for instance accept the results for the sake of the university and the nation at large, while winning candidates and their supporters must not over jubilate and tease the losing side, as this sometimes degenerates into open confrontation and the end result is always fatal.

Everything should be done in moderation and the required peace will be attained. This is where true leadership, maturity and respect for the rule of law comes in. This is why voter information is very important for all. The EUSA Electoral commission is therefore committed to delivering Free, Fair, Credible and Peaceful elections

1.1 HIGHLIGHTS OF NEW KENYAN LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The 2019 Egerton University Students Association (EUSA) Elections will be carried out under a new legal framework

Universities Act 2012 Amendment No. 48, of 2016
Section 41 of the principal Act is amended –

In subsection (1) by inserting the words of 2012. "comprising all students of the university" immediately after the word" association";
(b) by inserting the following new subsections immediately after subsection (1)-

(1 A) A students' association shall be governed by a students' council comprising of—

- a Chairperson;
- a Vice Chairperson who shall be of opposite gender with the Chairperson;
- a Treasurer;
- a Secretary-General who shall be the secretary to the Council; and
- three other members to represent special interests of students.

(1B) Every students' council shall be elected in accordance with this Act and its membership shall—

reflect national diversity; and have not more than two-thirds of its members being of the same gender.

(1C) For purposes of conducting the election of the members of the student council referred to in
subsection (1A), the students' association shall constitute itself into electoral colleges based on
either academic departments, schools or faculties, as may be appropriate.

M) The students of each electoral college constituted under subsection (1 C) shall elect three
representatives - from amongst persons who are not candidates under subsection (1A); and of
whom not more than two-thirds shall be of the same gender.

(1E) The representatives of each electoral college shall elect the members of the student council
within thirty days of the election under subsection

(1 D). (IF) A member of the student council shall hold office for a term of one year and may be
eligible for re-election for one final term.

(1G) A person who has held office as a member of the student council of a University for two terms
is disqualified from election as a member of the student council of any other University or
constituent college in Kenya.

(1H) Every students' association shall, in consultation with the University, formulate and enact
rules to govern the conduct of elections including regulation of campaigns, election financing,
offences and penalties.

(1I) An election conducted pursuant to this section shall comply with the general principles of the
Kenyan electoral system under Article 81 of the Constitution and the rules governing the election
of members of the student council.

(c) by deleting subsection (3).

1.3 EUSA GENERAL VOTER INFORMATION
There are various general issues that the electorate needs to pay attention to. These are
highlighted in the following subsections

1.3.1 Introduction

The 2018/19 Academic year Egerton University Students’ Association (EUSA) election will be held on **15th day and 23rd Day of April 2019** across all the Egerton University campuses. For the purpose of EUSA elections, the word “student” shall mean a bona-fide student eligible to vote during the 2018/2019 elections.

1.3.2 Who Is Eligible To Vote In The April 2019 Elections?

- Only bona-fide registered student voter will be allowed to vote. A student must fulfil the following:
  - Possess and present original identification documents he/she used to register as a student at Egerton University (original national identity card, students Identity card, Letter of Offer, Birth certificate or a valid passport)
  - Physically present himself or herself at his/her polling station

1.3.3 Where Will Voting Take Place?

Voting on **15th and 23rd April 2019** will take place in the following locations:

- Njoro Main Campus
- Nakuru Town Campus college
- Nairobi City campus

1.3.4 When Does Voting Start and End?

Voting in all polling stations for both 15th and 23rd April 2019 all Egerton University campuses will start at **7 am** and end at **4 pm**. In case a polling station opens late for one reason or another, polling will be extended in that polling station to recover for the lost time. All voters who will be on the queue by 4 pm will be allowed to vote.
2.0 ELECTIVE POSTS

EUSA 2019 elections will have the following elective posts

2.1 Students Governing Council
These will serve **ALL** Egerton University campuses (by Electoral College mode except for Campus representative)

- One Chairperson
- One Vice Chairperson
- One Secretary General
- One Treasurer
- One Director Academics
- One Director Student Welfare
- One Director Gender and Co-Curricular Activities
- One Campus Representative (by simple majority for the Campus which will not have secured Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson)

2.2 Faculty Congress Persons

Faculty Congress persons will be elected as follows:

2.2.1 Main campus, Njoro

- Faculty of Agriculture
- Faculty of Education and Community Studies
- Faculty of Engineering and Technology
- Faculty Arts and Social Sciences
- Faculty of Environment and Resources Development
- Faculty of Science
- Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery
- Institute of Gender, Women and Development Studies.

2.2.2 Halls Congress Person(S)

These shall be elected by registered members of that entity of representation at that time of election). The area(s) of representation shall be:
• Buru Buru and Hollywood constituency
• Riverview and Mama Ngina constituency
• Taifa, Uganda, Barret, and Old Hall constituency
• Thornton and Riverside constituency
• Ruwenzori and Maringo constituency
• Tatton (Mombasa, Argentina, Eldoret and Nairobi) Constituency
• CBD constituency
• Makuti and ACK Constituency- Nakuru Town Campus College
• Tree Top Constituency

2.3 Other Elective Posts

• Post-graduate Congress Person.
• International Congress Person.
• Congress Persons with Disability (PWD)
• Sports Congress Person
• Two Diaspora Congress Person (s)

2.4 Nakuru Town Campus College

• Faculty of Law
• Faculty of Commerce
• Faculty Health Science

2.5 Nairobi City Campus College

Shall be treated as a Faculty until such a time as may be determined and approved by University Senate.
3.0 Important Pre-Election Activities
The following are the pre-election activities:

- Voter registration
- Voter education
- Training of election officials
- Vetting of candidates
- Election campaign

3.1 Election Campaign
An Election campaign is the process through which candidates popularize themselves after they have been cleared by EUSA Electoral Commission to contest in an election. They undertake but not limited to the following activities:

- Hold meetings and rallies (kamukunji’s) the following
- Organize meet-the-voter tours
- Conduct road shows
- Distribute campaign materials
- Use the media to reach out to potential voters

3.1.1 What Is The Importance Of Election Campaigns?
The importance of election campaigns:

- Promote voter education
- Enhance voter turnout
- Evaluate leadership qualities of the candidates
• Provide adequate information to help voters to make the right choice (Assist voters in knowing and identifying the candidates)

4.0 At the Polling Station
There are various things that a voter should pay attention to at the polling station

4.1 What Is Expected Of An Egerton University Student Voter?
1). Should physically present himself or herself at his/her polling station

2). Once in the polling station, a student voter will be guided by designated polling clerks.

A student voter is required to:

(i) Present the original student identification card or a valid letter from Security department in case of loss of student ID card OR original letter of offer for first year student (voter) (2017 cohort), National ID or birth certificate or a valid passport.

In case of interfaculty transfer, then both original admission and the new letter of offer from Registrar admissions, will be presented to the polling clerk

(ii) Receive stamped ballot paper(s) from polling clerk

(iii) Proceed to the polling booth

(iv) Correctly mark the ballot paper(s) in secret

(v) Cast each ballot paper into the corresponding ballot box

(vi) Have his/her small finger marked with indelible ink

(vii) Leave the polling station after voting.

(ix) Stay at least 100 metres away from any polling station until Final results are announced.

4.2 What Should A Student Voter Do If He /She Has Visual Impairment?

A Student under this category shall:

(i) Be accompanied by a person of his/her choice.

(ii) The assisting person should be a bona-fide student of Egerton University.

(iii) The assisting person should take and sign oath of secrecy of the ballot.

(iv) Where the assisted student is unaccompanied, the presiding officer in the presence of agents shall assist.
4.3 What Should A Student Do If He/She Is Missing In The Student Voter Register?

A registered student who is missing from the register is required to inform the Presiding officer and fill a statutory form: FORM X

4.4 Who Is Allowed In The Polling Stations?

The following people are allowed in the polling stations

• Egerton University Student voter (only at the time of voting)

• EUSA Electoral Commission Officials

• Security officers

• Presiding Officer

• Polling/Counting Clerks

• Candidates

• Accredited Candidate Agents

• Accredited Observers
4.6 Lay Out of the Polling Station

- The polling room should be arranged as follows:
- The seating arrangement should allow clear view of the entire voting process
- Have a clear view of the ballot boxes at all times
- Position of tables should enable voters to move in a logical order from one table to the next
- Position of the polling booth/voting screen(s) should ensure secrecy of the vote
- Position the ballot box should enable the clerk to ensure that voters have placed the marked ballot papers in the box
- Voting room should allow movement for voters with disabilities
- Fix directional signs in the room where necessary

4.7 Polling station Layout

5.0 HOW TO VOTE

A voter will be required to follow the following procedure to avoid spoiling your vote
5.1. Use a single mark on the ballot paper

- To ensure that your vote is valid, ensure that you place a single mark in the blank space provided alongside your preferred candidate in a manner that is clearly visible.

- This mark can be a tick (√), an (X) or a dot (·)

- Failure to put a mark on a ballot paper means that your vote, though cast, will be rejected because it does not indicate your preferred choice.

5.2 Only place a mark alongside one candidate

- Ensure that you put a mark alongside one candidate only.

- This makes it clear who your candidate of choice is.

- Avoid putting a mark alongside two or more candidates.

- Doing so will result to your vote being rejected because during tallying, it would be difficult to tell which candidate you intended to vote for.

5.3 Keep your mark within the box

- When putting a mark on a ballot paper, ensure that it does not go outside the blank box of the candidate you intend to vote for.

- Your mark should remain within the frame of the blank box/space so that it is clear who your choice candidate is.

- Putting a long mark that crosses over to another candidate’s marking space spoils your vote.

5.4 Do not write on the ballot paper

- The law only requires student voter to indicate their decision using a single mark that is either a tick, an X, a dot.

- To guarantee validity of your vote, avoid writing the candidate’s name or your name, or signing on the ballot paper.

- Doing this will render your vote invalid.
• Only use an acceptable mark to indicate who you wish to vote for.

5.5 Fold the ballot paper and put it in the ballot box

• After placing a mark against your candidate of choice, fold the ballot paper through the centre from left to right and put it into the ballot box.

• By doing this, you ensure your vote remains a secret and no one else gets to see who you have voted for.

• The process of putting the ballot paper in the ballot box is known as casting the vote.

*Of importance is to ensure that you put your ballot papers in the correct/appropriate ballot box.*

• Putting the ballot paper in the wrong box makes it invalid because during tallying, it will be rejected.

6.0 Vote Counting/Tallying
At the close of voting, counting/tallying of votes cast will commence

6.1 Who Is Allowed In The Tallying Centres?

(i) EUSA Electoral commission officials  
(iii) Security officers  
(iv) Presiding Officers (PO)  
(vi) Polling/Counting Clerks  
(vii) Candidates  
(viii) a maximum of 1 (one) Accredited Candidate Agents per candidate  
(ix) Accredited Media Personnel  
(x) Accredited Observers  
(xi) Any other person authorized in writing by the EUSA commission.

6.2 Election Results Management Process

There will be 3 tallying centres for election results

6.3 Polling station Tallying Centre:
The officer in charge of the polling station is a Presiding Officer. Declaration of the result at the polling station will be done immediately after counting process ends in the polling station.
6.3.1 Campus Tallying Centre:
The officer in charge of the campus tallying centre is a Campus Returning Officer. Declaration of the results from all the campus polling stations will be done at the Campus tallying Centre by the officer of the tallying centre.

6.3.2 University Tallying Centre. The officer in charge of the University Tallying Centre is the Chairperson of EUSA Electoral Commission. He/she will tally and announce results.

7.0 Election Period Activities

The following are the election activities undertaken during the election period:
- Polling
- Counting of votes
- Verification of results
- Declaration of winners

8.0 Activities after (Post) Election

The following are the post-election activities (activities conducted after the elections):
- (a) Petitions and appeals
- (b) Audit and evaluation of elections
- (c) By Elections

8.1 Election Appeals/Petitions

- There shall be an Election Appeals Committee created and established simultaneously with the Electoral Commission using a similar procedure
- The Election Appeals Committee shall have such duties and powers as may be provided in the EUSA constitution Article 61(b) and 61 (c)

8.2 By-Elections

As provided in the EUSA Constitution

- A by-election shall normally take place within sixty (60) days if the office or seat falls vacant by reasons of:
- A successful petition;
- Cessation of studentship through expulsion from, or discontinuation by the UNIVERSITY;
• Imprisonment;
• Death, or mental infirmity;
• Contravention of the provisions of the Kenya Constitution, 2010, the Anti-Corruption and
• Economic Crime Act, 2003 or any other law of the land.
• No by-election shall be held thirty (30) days prior to the next General Election.

9.0 Election Offences

• Put in a ballot box anything else other than a ballot paper
• Take out of a polling station ballot papers or be found with a ballot paper without official authority.
• Sell, or offer for sale, or buy a voter’s identity.
• Bribe a voter with money or anything else of value in order to influence his/her decision on how to vote.
• Solicit for or receive a bribe so as to vote one way or another.
• Prevent or obstruct, or bar a person from going to vote.

• Threaten, or cause fear, trick a voter so as to influence the way he /she votes or to deter that person from voting.
• Cheat in order to obtain a ballot paper to vote.
• Vote more than once in the same election.
• Carry out campaign propaganda at a polling station on the polling day.
10.0 Important Dates and Time

10.1 Election campaign

- Campaigns kick off on 1st April 2019 and end on 12th April 2019, at midnight.

- Campaigns will run from 5.00 pm -8.00 pm on weekdays and the whole day up to 8.00 pm during weekends.

Election Day and time

- Elections will be held on 15th and 23rd April 2019 from 7.00 am. to 4.00 pm.

10.2 Voting Time

- Voting in all polling stations will start at 7am and end at 4pm.

- In case a polling station opens late for one reason or another polling will be extended in that polling station to recover the lost time. All student voters who will be on the queue by 4 pm will be allowed to vote.

11.0 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ((FAQS)