

# MAKERERE



# UNIVERSITY

## **MAKERERE UNIVERSITY GUIDELINES FOR CONDUCTING A BLEND OF ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL GUILD AND SENIOR COMMON ROOM (SCR) ELECTIONS DURING THE PERIOD OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**

WHEREAS Section 40 of the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act 2001 (as amended) provides for the functions of the University Council to inter-alia include the formulation of the general policy of the Public University;

AND WHEREAS the University is operating under partial lockdown by order of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic;

AND WHEREAS the Makerere University Council (hereinafter referred to as the University Council), at its 152<sup>nd</sup> meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> June 2021 received and considered the Report from the Students' Affairs Committee on the blended electronic and physical voting system for Guild and Senior Common Room (SCR) elections during the COVID-19 Pandemic;

AND WHEREAS the University Council agreed to adopt blended voting for the students' leadership;

AND WHEREAS the University Council further agreed that the Guidelines for the blended Electronic and Physical Guild and SCR elections during the COVID-19 Pandemic that expired on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be reviewed and later presented to Council for approval;

AND WHEREAS, these Guidelines are adopted to guide a blend of Guild and SCR elections that will be conducted by both physical and electronic-voting for the Makerere University 87<sup>th</sup> Guild and SCR Elections;

NOW WHEREFORE the University Council hereby suspends Regulations 7(5), 7(7), 7(8) and 8(1) of the Makerere University Students Guild Constitution (Elections) Regulations No. 1 of 2018 as amended, and Articles 73(2), 73 (6), 74(1), 74(4) of the Makerere University Students' Guild Constitution as amended in 2016 and in their place issues the following Guidelines;

1. The electoral process of nominations shall be conducted electronically, except for students with disabilities who shall be allowed to have their nominations conducted physically at a place and time designated by the Guild Electoral Commission or the Speakers of Halls of Residence. Any student with disabilities who wishes to

*yle*

undertake physical nomination shall appear with a maximum of two students who shall nominate him or her.

2. Eligibility to contest for all leadership positions shall be for only duly registered continuing students for Academic Year 2020/2021 in accordance with the Makerere University Students' Guild Constitution as amended in 2016, the Makerere University Students Guild Constitution (Elections) Regulations No. 1 of 2018 and these Guidelines.
3. All students of Makerere University registered for Academic Year 2020/2021 shall be eligible to participate in the election process in accordance with the relevant election laws of the University.
4. The Makerere University Students Guild Electoral Commission that shall conduct these elections shall be constituted in compliance with the provisions of the Makerere University Students' Guild Constitution as amended in 2016. This Electoral Commission shall be in-charge of conducting Guild Presidential and GRC elections; and Speakers of Halls of Residence shall be in charge of SCR elections.
5. The Makerere University Students Guild Electoral Commission (referred to as the Guild Electoral Commission) and Speakers of Halls of Residence shall conduct sensitisation of the students' community using print and electronic media for the duration of the entire electoral process.
6. Except as otherwise provided in these Guidelines, aspiring candidates shall submit their nomination forms electronically and within the time frame as shall be provided by the Guild Electoral Commission.
7. Aspiring candidates shall be verified in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Makerere University Students Guild Constitution (Elections) Regulations No. 1 of 2018 (as amended). The provisions of Regulation 5(a)(iv) &(v) of the Makerere University Students Guild Constitution (Elections) Regulations No. 1 of 2018 (as amended) shall not apply to first year aspiring candidates (Academic Year 2020/2021). The rest of the aspiring candidates shall be verified based on their results as of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester of Academic Year 2019/2020.
8. After closure of nominations and verification of applicants, the Guild Electoral Commission and the Speakers of Halls of Residence shall issue certificates of eligibility to the duly nominated candidates within their jurisdiction. These certificates may, upon a fair hearing, be withdrawn from the candidates by the Guild Electoral Commission or the Speakers of Halls of Residence as the case may be, for non-compliance with the election regulations and guidelines. Such withdrawal shall lead to automatic cancellation of candidature.

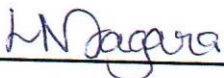


9. The Guild Electoral Commission and the Speakers of Halls of Residence shall publish all duly nominated candidates on the University website(s), in print and other media platforms.
10. The Guild Electoral Commission may organize a maximum of two moderated debates for the Guild Presidential Candidates with a maximum of 50 attendees (including the guild presidential candidates and electoral officials), strictly on invitation. The debates may be aired live on television, radios and other media platforms for the rest of the student community.
11. The Guild Electoral Commission and the Speakers of Halls of Residence shall display the voters' registers both physically at the polling stations and electronically through the University website(s), at least 7 days before the polling day.
12. The Guild Presidential and GRC elections shall be held on the same day.
13. The voting shall open at 8:00am and close at 6:00pm on the polling day.
14. The voting process shall be conducted both physically and electronically, in accordance with the following provisions:
  - a) Students with disability may vote either physically or electronically. The choice of their preference shall be communicated to the Guild Electoral Commission at least seven (10) days before the polling day.
  - b) All registered students for Academic Year 2020/2021 who are legally at Makerere University Main Campus on the day of and at the time of voting, shall vote physically.
  - c) All registered students for Academic Year 2020/2021 who are legally off Makerere University Main Campus on the day of and at the time of voting, shall vote electronically.
  - d) The SCR elections shall be held two (2) days after the Guild Presidential and GRC elections.
  - e) Each candidate shall be allowed a maximum of one polling agent at each polling station and at the tally centre.
  - f) The Guild Electoral Commission and the Speakers of Halls of Residence shall tally and announce electoral results both electronically through the University website(s) and physically at each polling station and at the tally centre.
  - g) All campaigns shall be conducted virtually using Television, Radio and any other media platforms.



- h) The Guild Electoral Commission and the Speakers of the Halls of Residence as the case may be shall prepare and publish separate voters' registers for the categories of students within their jurisdiction, mentioned above in 14(b) and 14(c) above.
15. In case of a break-down of the e-voting system, those eligible to vote through this system shall be accorded the same amount of time to vote on the following day, once the system is restored. However, the Guild Electoral Commission and the Speakers of Halls of Residence as the case may be, shall tally the completed results at the end of the polling day. Announcement of the final results shall be done once the whole process, including the extension, is complete.
  16. On the polling day, a member(s) of the technical team that developed the electronic-voting system may be present with the Electoral Commission or Speakers of Halls of Residence to address any technical challenge that may arise regarding the use of the electronic voting system.
  17. The final tally of the Guild presidential, GRC and SCR election results shall include both results of the physical and electronic voting.
  18. The term of office for the duly elected student leaders shall be in accordance with the Makerere University Students' Guild Constitution (as amended).
  19. In case of a conflict between these Guidelines on one hand and the Makerere University Students' Guild Constitution (Elections) Regulations No. 1 of 2018 and / or the Makerere University Students' Guild Constitution as amended in 2016 on the other hand, these Guidelines shall prevail.

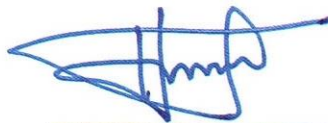
Approved by the University Council this 20<sup>TH</sup> day of OCTOBER 2021



Lorna Magara (Mrs)

CHAIRPERSON,

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL



Yusuf Kiranda (Mr)

UNIVERSITY SECRETARY