CODE OF ETHICS FOR CANDIDATES PARTICIPATING IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

1. A code of conduct
This code of ethics contains the basic principles and rules of conduct that every candidate must follow in the interest of himself, his fellow candidates, the student council and the VUB during the student council elections, from the nomination of candidates up to the announcement of the election results.

It is important that the student council elections are conducted in a fair and decent way, in accordance with the code of conduct as laid down in Article 2 of the Student Life Codex. In all circumstances, the candidates adopt an attitude that confirms and reinforces the trust of the VUB student community in the student council.

Candidates do not take any action towards each other during the student council elections with the intention to intimidate, discourage or deter.

Candidates campaign in a collegial manner. They do this with respect for each other and each other's point of view. Campaign statements and promotion should be truthful and respect the values of the VUB. They may not contain any incorrect, misleading, offensive or anti-campaign elements. Campaign and promotion material that does not comply with these guidelines will be removed (on request of the VUB).

2. Central contact persons
For all possible questions regarding the student council elections, from application to the announcement of the results, each candidate can contact the Student Info-Point, of which the contact details will be communicated to the candidates.
In the absence of the central contact person, candidates can contact the back-up contact person: the policy officer for student affairs. The concrete name of the policy officer will be communicated to the candidates annually.

If candidates encounter undesirable situations during the student council elections, they can contact the Student Council's confidential advisor. This confidant - a former member of the student council - listens, advises and mediates where necessary. The name of the confidant will be made known to all candidates each year.

The VUB organises an information session for all (potential) candidates during the first week of the candidacy. There, the (potential) candidates receive all information about the student council elections, the process, the rules and guidelines and the support they can count on at the VUB.

3. Promotional activities by (groups of) candidates themselves
Campaigning for the student council elections may not cost anything to candidates. Sponsored campaign activities are not allowed either.

Candidates may campaign on their own initiative via social media to bring their views to the attention of the student community and/or to appeal to students to bring out their vote.

Candidates campaign individually and/or in groups under a shared campaign name. We recommend to limit campaign groups to a maximum of 4 people, preferably composed as diverse and inclusive as possible.

Zoals goedgekeurd op de studentenraad en stuvoraad van 22 december 2021
All candidates or campaign groups may use all official VUB house-style elements and logos for their visual graphic campaigning, on the condition that they remain unchanged (no enlarging or reducing of logos, no changing of colours or adding of words).

During the election period, candidates are guided by the principle that the student council is a council that represents the entire student community at the VUB. This implies that candidates or campaign groups cannot be supported financially by a sui generis association, a recognised VUB student association or another organisation.

4. Support and facilities for campaigning by the VUB
The VUB facilitates a fair campaign with a level playing field for all candidates. The VUB supports and facilitates all candidates in presenting themselves in an equal manner to the student community.

The VUB will fully bear the costs for creating visibility and interest in the student council elections and the individual candidates: photographer, printing costs for flyers and posters, give-aways, organisation costs for a debate or esplanade activity, etc. Prior to the student council elections, the VUB will announce to all candidates which campaign resources (physical and digital) the VUB will use for the campaign. All candidates will be informed in time, without distinction and in the same way.

In case the VUB provides posters, it provides them for all candidates in equal numbers. The VUB is responsible for putting up the posters on all campuses.

In case the VUB provides flyers, it gives each candidate an equal number of flyers which he/she can use freely to promote his/her candidacy.

The VUB refrains from preferential actions in favour of one or more candidates, or from issuing voting recommendations.