



**VAAL UNIVERSITY
OF TECHNOLOGY**

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OFFICIAL NOTICE

STATUS UPDATE ON THE 2026 SRC AND SFC ELECTIONS

DATE: 31 AUGUST 2026

The University wishes to provide students, candidates and contesting organisations with an update on the 2026 Student Representative Council (SRC) and Student Faculty Council (SFC) elections.

As previously communicated, Vaal University of Technology (VUT) appointed KDBS Consulting as the official external electoral service provider responsible for administering the elections. For the purposes of the 2026 SRC and SFC elections, KDBS Consulting is serving as the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC).

The IEC is responsible for managing the nomination and secondment processes, administering candidate lists, considering objections, overseeing voting and facilitating the publication of election results. Appeals against its decisions are considered independently by the Election Appeals Tribunal. The entire election process is governed by the VUT SRC Constitution and the approved election timetable.

1. Candidate nomination and verification process

Registration and secondment were completed by the closing date of 24 August 2026, in accordance with the published election timetable. Of the 234 independent candidates who registered, seven received the required level of student support and proceeded to academic verification.

Four student organisations met the required secondment threshold: South African Students Congress (SASCO), Student Christian Organisation (SCO), Economic Freedom Fighters Youth Command (EFFYC) and African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL). SASCO and SCO fulfilled the applicable requirements and submitted their candidate lists within the prescribed nomination period. ANCYL qualified during the secondment stage but later withdrew from the elections. The position concerning EFFYC is explained in section 3 below.

2. Provisional candidate list and objections

The provisional candidate list was published on 27 August 2026, after which candidates and organisations were given the prescribed period to lodge objections.

The IEC has provided the following update:

- One objection relating to academic verification was upheld, and the affected candidate was reinstated.
- Two objections were declined.
- Three academic-verification matters were referred to the University for further verification and remain under consideration.
- One secondment-related query remains open, and the student concerned is awaiting a response.

The final candidate list will be published once all outstanding objections and any related appeals have been concluded.

3. Update on the EFFYC candidate list

EFFYC met the required secondment threshold but did not submit its candidate list before nominations closed at 23:45 on 24 August 2026.

On 27 August 2026, the IEC declined EFFYC's request to have the late submission accepted. The IEC found that clause 7.1(g) of Schedule A to the SRC Constitution does not allow candidate lists to be accepted after the agreed closing date.

The IEC subsequently determined that EFFYC's letter of 28 August 2026 had not been submitted through the prescribed appeals process. However, because the correspondence indicated that there may have been uncertainty about the correct process, the IEC granted EFFYC a once-off opportunity to submit a written appeal through the IEC Issues Form by 10:00 on 1 September 2026.

If an appeal is submitted within this period, it will be referred to the independent Election Appeals Tribunal for consideration. Until the Tribunal reaches a decision, the IEC ruling issued on 27 August 2026 remains in effect.

The University respects the independence of both the IEC and the Election Appeals Tribunal and will allow the established process to run its course without prejudging the outcome.

4. Election Appeals Tribunal

The Election Appeals Tribunal has been established to consider appeals arising from decisions or rulings made by the IEC.

Mr Herman van Wyk, an attorney of the High Court, has been appointed as Chairperson of the Tribunal. The Tribunal operates independently, and its decisions are final and binding on all parties in accordance with the SRC Constitution.

5. How to lodge an objection or appeal

All students, candidates and contesting organisations are reminded to follow the prescribed process and observe the applicable timelines:

- An objection must be submitted in writing to the Chief Electoral Officer within 24 hours of the incident or concern becoming known. An objection concerning the provisional candidate list must be lodged within 24 hours of its publication.
- An appeal against an IEC decision or ruling must ordinarily be submitted in writing within 24 hours of the decision being announced.
- Appeals submitted through the correct process will be referred by the IEC to the Election Appeals Tribunal. A response should be provided within 48 hours.
- General election enquiries, objections and appeals must be submitted through the official election portal or IEC Issues Form: <https://forms.kdbs.co.za/262382277945973>.

Students who require assistance or further information may contact the official Election Helpdesk:

Election Helpdesk: 0800 061 052

Email: vutvote@kdbs.co.za

WhatsApp: 061 452 4499 or 067 733 1353

6. Remaining election timetable

Activity	Date or status
Resolution of outstanding objections and appeals	In progress
Publication of the final candidate list	After all outstanding matters have been concluded
Voting period	8 to 10 September 2026
Inaugural SRC constituting meeting	15 September 2026

7. Our commitment to a credible election

The University calls upon all students, candidates and organisations to allow the electoral process to run its course and to use the established channels to raise concerns, lodge objections or submit appeals.

All participants are expected to conduct themselves responsibly and peacefully throughout the election period. Intimidation, disruption and interference have no place in a democratic student election.

The University remains committed to supporting an election process that is free, fair, transparent and credible.

ISSUED BY MANAGEMENT OF THE VAAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY