

Monash University Student Union Peninsula Inc.

Election By-law

Election Procedure – Student Union

1. INTERPRETATION

In this By-law unless inconsistent with the context:

“absolute majority of votes” in any count means a number of votes greater than one half the total number of valid votes (excluding ballot papers which are deemed to be exhausted) cast at the relevant election;

“Academic Day” shall mean a day during semester, not being a Saturday, Sunday or Public Holiday observed by the University. In calculating the period of Academic Days, neither the day on which notice is given nor the day on which a meeting is held shall be counted;

“continuing candidate” means a candidate not already elected or excluded from the count;

“member” means a member of the Monash University Student Union Peninsula Inc. as defined in the Rules of Association of MONSU Peninsula;

“University” means the Monash University;

“prescribed” means prescribed by this By-law;

“Personal Contact” means communication between persons who are physically in the same local area and excludes contact by telephone or other electronic means;

“Returning Officer” means the Union Officer or other person appointed by the MONSU Board and includes a Deputy Returning Officer appointed to assist the Returning Officer;

“MONSU Peninsula” means the Monash University Student Union Peninsula Inc.

Unless the context otherwise requires, words importing the singular include the plural.

2. ROLL OF ELECTORS

2.1 For the purpose of electing members to MONSU Peninsula or any other election, the Returning Officer shall keep a roll of electors in respect of each such election or series of elections conducted together.

2.2 Each roll shall show the names of the electors and the course in which the electors are enrolled.

2.3 Each roll shall be held by the Returning Officer and shall be made available for inspection on request.

2.4 A person has the right to apply to the Returning Officer for the inclusion of the person’s name on a roll or rolls.

2.5 A person has the right to object to the inclusion of a name on a roll or rolls and to have that objection dealt with by the Returning Officer.

2.6 In the event of an application or objection as provided for in section 2.4 and 2.5, the decision of the Returning Officer shall be final.

2.7 The electoral roll shall include all voters as defined in the MONSU Peninsula Constitution, including all students enrolled at Monash Peninsula and office bearers of MONSU Peninsula. To be eligible to stand for office and vote in a MONSU Peninsula election a person must be included on the MONSU Peninsula electoral roll, from the start of the semester in which the election is to be conducted.

3. NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES

3.1 Notification of an Election

3.1.1 Whenever an election under this regulation is to be held the Returning Officer shall cause to be exhibited on notice boards of MONSU Peninsula and in the various on campus media outlets a notice calling for nominations to be lodged with the Returning Officer before a day not less than five days¹ from the date of such notice. The Returning Officer deems appropriate, extend the period of time within which nominations must be lodged by amending the original notice.

3.1.2 A candidate may, no later than 24 hours after the close of nominations, withdraw his/her nomination by giving notice in writing, signed by the candidate, to the Returning Officer and this shall have the effect of cancelling the candidate’s nomination.

3.1.3 The Monash University Student Union Peninsula Inc. Student Council shall decide the dates and timelines for the election.

3.2 Qualification of Candidates and Nominators

3.2.1 In addition to any qualifications which are prescribed for the position for which a candidate has been nominated, each candidate shall be qualified as an elector at the election for which he/she presents himself/herself as a candidate.

3.2.2 Each nomination of a qualified person shall be made by two persons entitled to vote and shall contain the written consent of the candidate to the nomination.

3.2.3 No candidate in a contested election shall continue to be eligible for employment by MONSU Peninsula until the electoral contest has been resolved. “Employment” does not include a MONSU Peninsula office bearer receiving a salary or honorarium.

3.2.4² No candidate shall be eligible to contest an election while they are employed as either permanent, part-time or full-time employees by MONSU Peninsula, Monash University or MONSU Students Ltd.

3.2.5³ No person shall be eligible to hold any MONSU Peninsula, Monash University or MONSU Students Ltd. Staff position from the time they are declared elected until such time as their office expires. Students employed on short-term casual basis by Monash University are excluded from this clause.

3.2.6⁴ Nomination forms must contain the statement; “I affirm my right to campaign vigorously for election into office. I respect the rights of others to campaign just as vigorously. In opposing those whose viewpoint is different from mine, I may criticise their plans and policies, but I shall refrain from personal abuse and from questioning their honesty or their integrity. I acknowledge that the elections are conducted pursuant to the Election By Law. I also

² Amended to 28 September, 1994

³ Amended ADCO 13/97-7

⁴ Amended ADCO 19/97-2

¹ Amended ADCO 27/00

acknowledge that I must abide by the University's discrimination and harassment policy in the conduct of my campaign".

3.3 Closing Date for Nominations

3.3.1 To be valid a nomination must inter alia be received at the office of the Returning Officer not later than 12 noon on the day specified in the nomination notice referred to in section 3.1.1 above.

3.3.2 A nomination received by the Returning Officer which has been sent by facsimile transmission will be rejected unless the original is received by the Returning Officer no later than 24 hours after the close of nominations.

3.3.3⁵ From the close of nominations any employee of MONSU Peninsula Inc. that is running for office shall be stood down until the declaration of the poll.

3.4 Need for a Poll

3.4.1 If in any case the number of valid nominations does not exceed the number of vacancies to be filled, the candidates are successful in the election. The Returning Officer shall, after all votes in the series of elections have been counted and candidates who are successful in election to more than one position have been contacted by telephone or other means, declare the several candidates duly elected.

3.4.2 In all cases in which the number of valid nominations received exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled a poll shall be conducted.

3.5 Defective Nomination Form

Where the Returning Officer finds there appears to be grounds for rejecting a person's nomination, the Returning Officer shall notify the person by telephone or other means of the grounds and shall invite the person to:

- a) remedy a defect in the form of the nomination, or,
- b) provide evidence to refute information shown in the records.

The Returning Officer shall determine the time by which a defect must be remedied and shall reject the nomination if the defect has not been remedied by that time.

4. CONDUCT OF A POLL

4.1 Form of Poll

Every poll for election shall be by secret ballot, and the polling

place/s shall be located on the Peninsula Campus of Monash University.

4.2 Notification of Poll

Within five working days after the time for nomination has passed, the Returning Officer shall:

4.2.1 determine that a poll shall be held on a day not less than three⁶ and not more than twenty-one working days from the date of exhibiting on the notice boards of MONSU Peninsula Inc. the notice next referred to;

4.2.2 exhibit on notice boards at the Union Building on each campus a statement of names of the candidates who have been nominated and times and places of polling.

4.3 Statements in support of candidature

Each nominee may submit a statement in writing in support of candidature with the nomination form. The statement must not exceed 200 words and may include a photograph of the nominee.

A statement is defective if it exceeds 200 words or if, in the opinion of the Returning Officer, is defamatory or otherwise contrary to the provisions of this by-law or the law.

Where a statement is found to be defective the Returning Officer will notify the nominee by telephone or other means and will determine a period in which the nominee may remedy the defect. Should the defect not be remedied at the end of that period the Returning Officer shall delete the defective sentences.

The Returning Officer may distribute a copy of the statements with the ballot materials.

4.4 Ballot Papers

4.4.1 Every ballot paper shall set out the names of all duly nominated candidates arranged in order of surnames determined by lot and a rectangle shall be printed against and to the left of the name of each candidate. The ballot paper shall also specify the method by which voters shall signify their votes and the date and time for the closing of the poll.

After the determination of the contents of the ballot paper the Returning Officer will give each candidate the option to view the ballot paper prior to printing and circulating.

4.4.2 Before 8 pm on the next academic day after the publication

of the Returning Officer's acceptance of nomination, groups or individuals may submit to the Returning Officer in respect of contested elections.

- a request to register the name of their group which shall be no longer than three words and must not, in the opinion of the Returning Officer, be misleading, deceptive, offensive, libellous or slanderous and must not include the word independent or similar word,

- a 'ticket' showing the voting pattern approved by the group,

- the group leader's name, signature and contact particulars, and

- the signature of each candidate against whose name a number is placed on the ticket up to the number of candidates to be elected to a particular office.

- The Returning Officer shall publish in the MONSU Peninsula student publication (if active) the tickets together with the candidates' statements:

- the ticket for the group, and

- a policy statement of no more than 200 words submitted by the group leader on behalf of each group.

4.4.3 Each candidate may only register one group ticket, though may be preferenced on other group tickets not registered by them.

4.4.4 Without limiting Section 4.4.2 or 4.4.3, Partial group tickets that do not run candidates for all contested positions are permitted.

4.4.5 The ballot paper shall show:

- the names of groups above the horizontal line and the customary ballot paper layout below the line,

- an instruction that voters may choose to vote above or below the line,

- an instruction to the effect that a vote for a group above the line registers votes in accordance with the group's ticket or tickets as shown in the relevant documents published by the Returning Officer and voids any vote below the line.

Votes above the line shall be counted as if the voter had voted below the line in accordance with the ticket of the group voted for. If a group has more than one ticket approved, votes will be equally divided between the preferences shown on the tickets.

⁵ Amended ADCO 13/96-6

⁶ Amended ADCO 27/00

The Returning Officer may issue directions to implement the intent of these provisions including necessary additional instructions on the ballot papers.

4.4.6 There shall be nothing else printed on the ballot paper except instructions appropriate to these regulations, as determined by the Returning Officer.

4.5 Polling Procedure

4.5.1 The Returning Officer shall establish on the Peninsula campus of Monash University a polling booth each of which shall be in the charge of the Returning Officer or a poll clerk appointed by the Returning Officer.

4.5.2 The booths shall remain open for three⁷ consecutive days for periods of not less than 10:00am to 5:15pm daily, with at least a one hour break at a time deemed appropriate by The Returning Officer.

4.6 Proof of Enrolment

The poll clerk shall obtain from each voter a current Student Identification Card before issuing a ballot paper. If the voter is not carrying a current identification card, it is the voter's responsibility to obtain proof of enrolment from the University's Records Department.

4.7 Action by Poll Clerk

The poll clerk shall initial each ballot paper with his initials, and, as the voter votes, rule a line through the voter's name on the electoral roll.

4.8 Postal Vote

4.8.1 Where a voter requires a postal vote he or she may apply in writing to the Returning Officer giving particulars of course and year. The Returning Officer shall, if there is time to return a vote before the close of polling, issue the voter with a ballot paper marked "Postal Ballot Paper", a return envelope addressed to the Returning Officer's Post Office Box and directions that the voter's full name, course and year and the voter's signature shall be written on the outside of the return envelope.

4.8.2 Before admitting the envelope and its contents to the scrutiny, the Returning Officer will check the roll and, if the details on the envelope are insufficient to identify the voter or if the roll shows that the voter has already voted, then the Returning Officer shall reject the envelope and its contents.

4.8.3 Should a voter present a postal vote at a polling booth, it

may be deposited in the ballot box and the roll endorsed "Postal Vote in Envelope". Details of identification are still required on the envelope.

4.9 Accidental Omission Not To Invalidate an Election

The accidental omission to give notice of any vacancy for which an election is required or of an election to any elector or to forward a ballot paper to any elector or the failure of any elector to receive a ballot paper shall not invalidate the result of the election.

5. ELECTIONEERING BY CANDIDATES

5.1 Electioneering material shall be presented for approval to the Returning Officer who will allot an approval number to approved material.

5.2 Printed or photocopied electioneering material is to show the Returning Officer's approval number and the name of the authorising candidate and printed and photocopied material printed on paper must show a statement to encourage recycling of campaign material to the effect of "Please recycle this how to vote card".

5.3 In determining whether electioneering material should be approved the Returning Officer shall consider whether the material is defamatory, libellous, indecent, contrary to this by-law or the law. Before disallowing material the Returning Officer shall seek and be guided by the opinion of MONSU Peninsula's solicitor. No 'how to vote' material shall be approved which shows a method of voting which includes marks other than figures or which would, if followed, lead to an informal vote.

5.3.1 Statements by candidates must not claim to introduce actions, which are not within the authority of the MONSU Board or the Monash University Student Union Peninsula Inc.

5.4 The Returning Officer's approval is for the content of the electioneering material. Separate authorisation from the appropriate authorities must be obtained to use facilities such as controlled notice board space.

5.5 No electioneering material is to be placed in, near, or around any MONSU Peninsula Inc. office or any MONSU Students Ltd. Office or service outlet.

5.6 Candidates, clubs and individuals may not use MONSU Peninsula or MONSU Students

Ltd. owned property for electioneering purposes, except when contacting the Returning Office.

5.7 All persons wishing to distribute campaign material on the Peninsula campus of Monash University must:

- a) be approved by the returning officer;
- b) wear a registered campaigner sticker at all times;
- c) be entitled to vote and have their name appear on the MONSU Peninsula electoral roll.

6. METHOD OF VOTING

6.1 Marking the Ballot Paper

Every voter shall mark their vote on the ballot paper by placing:

6.1.1 WHERE THERE IS ONLY ONE CANDIDATE TO BE ELECTED, the figure 1 against the name of the candidate for whom they vote as their first preference and the figures 2, 3, 4 and so on against the respective names of such of the remaining candidates as they may desire so to indicate by numerical sequence the order of their preference for all or any of such candidates as are to be elected.

6.1.2 WHERE THERE IS MORE THAN ONE CANDIDATE TO BE ELECTED, the figure 1 against the name of the candidate for whom they vote as their first preference and the figures 2, 3, 4 and so on against the respective names of such of the remaining candidates as they may desire so to indicate by such numerical sequence the order of their preference for at least as many candidates as are to be elected.

6.2 Informal Votes

A ballot paper shall be rejected as informal by The Returning Officer if:

- a) it does not bear the initials of the Returning Officer or a poll clerk appointed for the purpose of the poll; or
- b) the voter has not placed the figure 1 against the name of any candidate; or
- c) the voter has placed the figure 1 against the name of more than one candidate.
- d) the voter has not voted for at least as many candidates as at to be elected in the one numerical sequence without duplication of a number.
- e) the ballot paper bears any mark by which the voter may be identified.

⁷ Amended ADCO 27/00

f) where the voter has placed a tick or cross beside the name of only one candidate in an election this may be counted as the figure 1.

6.3 Transfer of Ballot Paper Prohibited

No voter shall part with their ballot paper or permit it to be used by any other person.

No voter may permit their completed ballot paper to be seen before being placed in a ballot box or, in the case of a postal ballot paper, sealed in an envelope.

The above provisions do not prevent a person authorised by the Returning Officer from assisting a sight-impaired voter from recording his or her vote.

6.4 Action by Returning Officer

No ballot paper shall be taken into account at any election unless it is received by the Returning Officer or a poll clerk at the polling place before the hour fixed for the close of the ballot as stipulated in accordance with Section 4.2.2. The Returning Officer shall be responsible for the collection of ballot boxes at the end of each day.

7. PROCEDURE AT CLOSE OF POLL

7.1 As soon as practicable after the close of the poll, the Returning Officer shall open the locks ballot box and:

7.1.1 withdraw the ballot papers therefrom and arrange the ballot papers by placing in a separate parcel all those on which a first preference is indicated for the same candidate, omitting ballot papers which require to be rejected in accordance with Section 7.2 hereof and;

7.1.2 count all first preference votes given for each candidate.

7.2 The Returning Officer shall decide whether any ballot paper shall be accepted or rejected because of non-conformity with this regulation and the Returning Officer's decision shall be final.

8. ASCERTAINMENT OF RESULT OF POLL

8.1 Procedure where there are only two candidates

At an election where only one person is to be elected and there are two candidates the result of the poll shall be ascertained as follows:

8.1.1 The candidate who has received the greater number of first preference votes (including the casting vote of the Returning

Officer to be exercised if necessary by lot) shall be declared duly elected.

8.1.2 If two candidates have received an equal number of votes the Returning Officer shall in such case exercise the casting vote by lot.

8.2 Procedure where there are more than two candidates

8.2.1 PROCEDURE WHERE ONLY ONE PERSON IS TO BE ELECTED

At any election where only one person is to be elected and there are more than two candidates the result of the poll shall be ascertained as follows:

8.2.1.1 If no candidate has an absolute majority of first preference votes, the Returning Officer shall:-

declare the candidate who has received the fewest first preference votes to be a defeated candidate;

distribute each of the ballot papers counted to such defeated candidate amongst the continuing candidates next in order of preferences marked on the ballot paper;

after such distribution again ascertain the total number of votes given to each continuing candidate.

The candidate who after such distribution has received the greatest number of votes, if such number constitutes an absolute majority of votes (including the casting vote of the Returning Officer exercised if necessary by lot), shall be declared duly elected.

8.2.1.3 If no candidate then has an absolute majority of votes (including the casting vote of the Returning Officer exercised if necessary by lot) the process of declaring the candidate who then has the fewest votes to be a defeated candidate and distributing the ballot papers counted to such defeated candidate amongst the continuing candidates next in order of the voter's preference shall be repeated and the votes shall be recounted after every such redistribution until one candidate has received an absolute majority of votes (including the casting vote of the Returning Officer exercised if necessary by lot) and such candidate shall be declared duly elected.

8.2.1.4 If on any count two or more candidates have an equal number of votes and one of them

has to be declared a defeated candidate the Returning Officer shall decide by lot which is to be declared a defeated candidate and if on the final count two candidates have received an equal number of votes the Returning Officer shall exercise the casting vote by lot.

8.2.2 PROCEDURE WHERE MORE THAN ONE PERSON IS TO BE ELECTED:

At any election where two or more persons are to be elected, the result of the poll shall be ascertained as follows:

8.2.2.1 After opening the ballot box, the Returning Officer shall count all valid ballot papers in order to determine the quota. The quota is determined by dividing the total number of first preference votes in the count by one more than the number of candidates to be elected and by increasing the quotient so obtained (disregarding any remainder) by one;

8.2.2.2 The Returning Officer shall then arrange the ballot papers by placing in a separate parcel all those on which a first preference is indicated for the same candidate, omitting papers which require to be rejected in accordance with Section 7.2 hereof, and count all first preference votes given for each candidate;

8.2.2.3 Any candidate who has then received a number of first preference votes equal to or greater than the quota, shall be declared elected;

8.2.2.4 Where a candidate or candidates so elected have received a number of votes in excess of the quota, a number of votes equal to the surplus shall be transferred to other candidates remaining in the count in the manner described in the following section;

8.2.2.5 The Returning Officer shall then sort the ballot papers of the first elected candidate or candidates into parcels according to each voters preference indicated thereon to determine the proportion in which the surplus votes are to be transferred;

8.2.2.6 The surplus votes are then transferred in their correct proportion, to the continuing candidates.

8.2.2.7 After the surplus votes have been so distributed, any candidate who has reached the quota shall be declared elected and the candidate's surplus votes (i.e. that portion received from the previously elected candidate over

and above the number required to reach the quota) shall be distributed in the correct proportion to the continuing candidates in the order of the voter's preferences;

8.2.2.8 If, after the distribution of the surplus votes to all elected candidates, fewer candidates than the number of vacancies have been elected, the candidate with the least number of votes in the count shall be declared excluded and the candidate's ballot papers shall be transferred, in accordance with the next preference thereon, to the continuing candidates.

8.2.2.9 If no candidate is then elected, or if fewer than the required number of candidates have been elected, the process of excluding candidates is continued until a further candidate is elected, in which case (unless all vacancies have now been filled), the surplus votes of the elected candidate are then transferred, in the correct proportion, to continuing candidates;

8.2.2.10 If necessary, the process of excluding candidates one by one shall be continued until all vacancies are filled;

8.2.2.11 If on any count two or more candidates have an equal number of votes, the Returning Officer shall decide, by lot, which candidate shall be elected or the order of their election, as the case may be.

8.3 Exhausted Ballot Papers

In this regulation:

8.3.1 Where in any count the ballot papers counted to a candidate already elected or excluded have to be distributed amongst the continuing candidates and any such ballot paper does not indicate the voter's next succeeding preference for a continuing candidate such ballot papers shall be deemed to be exhausted.

8.3.2 Next succeeding preference in any count means the preference which is marked on the ballot paper and is next in numerical order of the voter's preference after any prior preference or preferences given by him to any already elected or excluded candidate. Provided that where there is any repetition of a figure or any break in the consecutive numbering of the preferences marked by a voter on their ballot paper only the preference or preferences preceding such repetition or break shall be taken into account.

9. APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS

Each candidate for election shall be entitled to appoint in writing a person (other than a candidate) to act as a scrutineer on their behalf. The appointment shall be advised to the Returning Officer in writing before the close of the ballot. Scrutineers may not handle ballot papers nor impede the conduct of the ballot. Scrutineers must obey directions of the Returning Officer. A scrutineer so appointed and whose appointment has been advised to the Returning Officer may attend the counting of votes to check the accuracy thereof and may inspect each ballot paper to verify that it has been validly included in or excluded from the count. Scrutineers must be members of the Monash University Student Union Peninsula Inc.

10. DECLARATION OF POLL

10.1 At the conclusion of every election the Returning Officer shall declare the poll and advise in writing the result to the MONSU Board and to the candidates. The result shall be declared as soon as practicable after the scrutiny has been completed and any re-counts required by the Returning Officer carded out.

10.2 Within 10 academic days of the declaration of results, the full rest, including total votes and preference distributions shall be posted on MONSU Peninsula notice boards.

11. RIGHT OF REFERRAL BY RETURNING OFFICER

11.1 It shall be the right but not the obligation of the Returning Officer to refer to the MONSU Board for its decision on any question touching the validity of an election.

12. APPEAL AGAINST DECLARATION

12.1 Within five academic days, after the publishing of full results as stipulated by Section 10.2, a candidate may appeal in writing to the Returning Officer against such declaration, setting out the grounds for such appeal.

12.2 A valid appeal must consist of the words "I am appealing the declaration of the following position(s):" and set out either a precedent or reason(s) for appeal.

12.3 The Returning Officer shall acknowledge the receipt of the appeal, by phone, within 24 hours or within 1 academic day.

12.4 If the appeal or grounds for the appeal are ambiguous, the Returning Officer shall seek clarification, even after the expiration of Section 12.1.

12.5 The Returning Officer shall investigate the matter and, within ten academic days from the date of receipt of the appeal, may either:

- a) dismiss the appeal;
- b) order a new election; or
- c) overturn a declaration and declare the losing candidate as having been elected.
- d) The actions in b) and c) are only available to the Returning Officer if they are of the opinion that an irregularity has occurred which may have affected the outcome of the election.

12.3 Notice of the Returning Officer's decision shall be exhibited on MONSU Peninsula notice boards and a copy forwarded in writing to the appellant as soon as possible after the decision is made.

13. APPEALS TO THE STUDENT UNION BOARD

13.1 A candidate may appeal to the MONSU Board against the decision of the Returning Officer within five academic days of the date of the notice provided for in Section 12.5. The appeal shall be in writing and shall set out the grounds of the appeal, as specified in Section 12.2.

13.2 The MONSU Board Chairperson will demonstrate the same duty of care as prescribed to the Returning Officer in Sections 12.3 and 12.4.

13.3 The MONSU Board shall, within twenty one academic days of receipt of the appeal, meet to determine the appeal. Notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be given to the appellant, the Returning Officer and the candidates affected by the appeal at least seven days before the date of the appeal.

13.4 All questions arising at the hearing of the appeal shall be decided by a majority of votes. In the event that there is an equality of votes on any question, the person presiding shall have a casting vote.

13.5 In the event of any dispute of any of these rules the MONSU Board is the final arbiter on the disputed matters.

13.6 Subject to this Section the Union Board has power to regulate its own proceedings.

14. PROHIBITED PRACTICES

No candidate, individual, club or society may in connection with any election, engage in any practice which would generally impede the conduct of the election and without limiting the generality of the foregoing:

- a) engage in any type of electioneering, except personal contact, without prior permission of the Returning Officer;
- b) interfere with the notice, ballot box, ballot papers, electoral roll, nominations or any other things related to the election;
- c) remove a ballot paper from the polling booth;
- d) offer food, drink, gifts, financial inducement of any kind, prizes or entertainment as an inducement to vote;
- e) engage in any electioneering within six metres of a polling booth;
- f) distribute any electioneering material which does not carry the Returning Officer's approval number and the name of the authorising candidate; or
- g) engage in any type of electioneering material unless instructed to do so by the Returning Officer or poll clerk.
- h) remove any properly authorised electioneering material unless instructed to do so by the Returning Officer or poll clerk.

15. STUDENT NEWSPAPER/ PUBLICATION

In the case of the student newspaper/publication, the Returning Officer shall ensure that each candidate receives fair and equal coverage. The Returning Officer may include in the student newspaper photographs and speeches of the candidates.

16. PERIOD OF RETENTION OF BALLOT PAPERS

After the declaration of the poll the Returning Officer shall enclose all the ballot papers in a sealed package and retain them for a period of three months after which the Returning Officer shall destroy them unless in the meantime any dispute has arisen in which case the Returning Officer shall retain them until the dispute has been finally decided and for a period of three months thereafter.

17. PREVENTION OF IRREGULARITIES

The Returning Officer or someone authorised by the Returning Officer may take such action and give such directions as she or he considers necessary to ensure the secrecy of the ballot and that no irregularities occur in or in connection with the election or to remedy any inconsistency or inadequacy that arises in the application of this by law.

18. (expired).

19. USE OF INTERNET

MONSU will publish general information about upcoming elections on the MONSU website. Information published will include the election process timeline, the offices to be elected, the method of nominating for office, and the time and place of polling. This information will be placed on the website by an authorised MONSU staff member.

MONSU will also publish on its website statements by individual candidates and tickets running in the election. Candidates' statements will need to be approved by the Returning Officer prior to publication, and will be placed on the website by an authorised MONSU officer.

Links to websites of either individual candidates or tickets standing in an election will not be provided on the MONSU website.

Candidates will be allowed to develop their own websites for purposes of electioneering. However, normal requirements for approval by the Returning Officer of electioneering material and display of the approval number will apply to candidates' websites.

Development of links from candidates' websites to the MONSU website will be permitted.⁸

⁸ Amended ADCO 28/00