



OFFICE OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

Email: ugsrc.ec23@gmail.com Website: <http://ugsrc-electoral-commission,business.site>

Our Ref:

2nd August, 2024.

Your Ref:

The Dean of Student's Affairs

University of Ghana

Legon.

Dear Prof,

CONCERNS FROM THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION: INTERFREENCE IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

I wish to formally record my concerns regarding the recent yet to be formally communicated decision to constitute a vetting committee comprised of members of management for the upcoming UGSRC election. The circumstances leading to this decision do not support such a directive administratively. Below, I outline my reasons in detail:

1. The vetting of aspirants for the SRC elections was initially scheduled for 30th July 2024. However, due to supposed security concerns raised by the Vice Dean of Students, Dr. Charles Wiafe Akenten, represented as coming from the Ghana Police Service and University Security, a postponement to 11th August 2024, was requested. We complied and communicated this to the University Community.
2. In a rather bizarre turn of events, on 1st August, during a meeting convened by your office within the hour of 2:31pm, you decided that the vetting should occur within 24 hours, contradicting the security advice already communicated to the vetting committee.

TRANSPARENCY AND PARITY

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Despite my insistence on consulting the entire vetting committee to find a workable solution, you dismissed this suggestion and mandated the vetting within 24hours. I complied with this directive, albeit with reservations communicated to you.

3. Members of the vetting committee had already planned for the 11th August date, leading to scheduling conflicts and preventing some of them from attending the vetting within the newly specified 24-hour window. Consequently, the vetting could not be conducted as planned.

4. Following this, you convened a meeting with the aspirants in the office of the Dean of Student Affairs, where you accepted their suggestion to conduct vetting in 10-minute slots each either on the evening of 2nd August or the next day, disregarding input from the Electoral Commission.

5. In the 2nd August meeting, you consistently ignored the Electoral Commission's suggestions, prioritizing particular aspirants' views instead.

6. There is a growing concern within the Electoral Commission that your actions suggest a vested interest in certain candidates, thus seeking to compromise the integrity of the vetting process to favor them. Indeed the meeting in which you resolved to have a management committee vet the aspirants, was portrayed as a stakeholder meeting with the EC and aspirants in the election. It is shocking however, that no official missive was sent by you to them, but somehow, particular aspirants in the election showed up with their assigns.

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7. In our meeting on 24th July 2024, you suggested disregarding certain articles of the SRC Constitution during the vetting, to which I responded that all legal processes must be adhered to. Your subsequent actions appear aimed at controlling the vetting process to achieve a predetermined outcome.

8. The initial postponement of the vetting on 30th July was supposedly due to security concerns communicated by your office. However, your recent decision disregards these same security directives, raising questions about the true motives behind your actions which disrupted an otherwise seamless process.

9. Your haste in dismissing student officials' views and your office's attempt to use non-existent problems to take control over the vetting process suggests an attempt to manipulate outcomes. Such interference cannot be condoned, and the use of administrative discretion in this manner undermines the duties of fairness and reasonableness imposed on you by law. The office of the Dean of Student Affairs should remain impartial and avoid descending into student politics. This attempt to deliberately create a problem which does not exist so as to undermine lawful processes under the guise of solving a problem is a betrayal of the mandate of your office and I do not intend to acquiesce to it.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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Sincerely,

Mudassir Ibn Ibrahim

UGSRC Electoral Commissioner

Cc:

Po-Vice Chancellor (ASA)

EXECOM

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