

Commission on Elections

RESOLUTION NO. 031, SERIES OF 2023

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE VERIFICATION PROCESS DURING THE CANVASSING OF VOTES AND THE PROCESS OF CANVASSING OF VOTES

WHEREAS, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) stands as the highest policy making body of all election matters in the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) – Main Campus;

WHEREAS, 10 out of 15 Commissioners were present, thus the meeting was in quorum;

VERIFICATION PROCESS DURING THE CANVASSING OF VOTES

WHEREAS, the canvassing of votes for the 2023 Student Council Elections will commence on August 22, 2023 and shall end on August 24, 2023;

WHEREAS, Article XI Section 1 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) states the following:

Section 1. Election Day – Unless deemed necessary by the Commission to increase the days of election, there shall be at least five (5) consecutive days for casting of votes. As soon as the voting is finished, the canvassing of votes shall commence in designated canvassing areas. The canvassing committee shall compose of official representative of the Commission and the watchers of each political party and independent candidates.



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The Commission shall decide whether the canvassing of votes shall be broadcasted live only on its official social media platforms or shall be conducted in a private, online meeting, with the designated poll watchers of each political party or candidate only.

WHEREAS, Article XII Section 3 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) states the following:

Section 3. Determination of the validity of electronic ballots — The Board of Canvassers shall determine the validity of the electronic ballots through cross-matching the casted ballots with the information indicated in Article XI of these Implementing Rules and Regulations.

WHEREAS, in the final consultation of the Commission with the ICTO last May 30, 2023, the Directors and Chairperson of the Commission agreed that the ICTO will provide the Commission a database containing only the student numbers and colleges in which the student belongs to;

WHEREAS, there must be one (1) poll watcher from each candidate/slate/party per locality when the Commission starts to process the ballots for verification to promote transparency during the verification process;

WHEREAS, the verification will be one college at a time and shall finish all the colleges and institute intended for that day before proceeding to the actual canvassing of votes of locality scheduled for that day. However, if the Commission has the time and resources, then they shall verify a locality ahead of time even if they are not scheduled for that day;

WHEREAS, the verification process shall start at 9:00 AM and end on 4:30 PM;



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CANVASSING OF VOTES

WHEREAS, stated in Article IV Section 22.2.e of the Election Code that the Commission shall "enact and release clear resolutions stating the platform that they will use for the conduct of elections, the canvassing of votes…"

WHEREAS, stated in Article XII Section 1 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations that "as soon as the voting is finished, the canvassing of votes shall commence immediately through physical or virtual means. The Commission shall decide whether the canvassing of votes shall be broadcasted live only on its official social media platforms or shall be conducted in a private, online meeting, with the designated poll watchers of each political party or candidate only. (Article VII Section 46 of the Election Code)

WHEREAS, the canvassing period shall start from August 22, 2023 and shall end on August 24 2023;

WHEREAS, on the canvassing period, the Commission, together with the poll watchers shall count the votes from 9:00 AM onwards physically inside PUP and/or depending on the internet connection of the Commission, counting will also be done online through usage of platforms such as Zoom, Google Meet, etc;

WHEREAS, the Commission agreed to allow a maximum of three (3) representatives from each registered student publication to join the physical canvassing;



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WHEREAS, the canvassing will be done one locality at a time in accordance to the following schedule:

August 22, 2023

- CADBE
- CBA
- CAL
- COC
- CCIS

August 23, 2023

- CAF
- CTHTM
- CS
- CSSD
- COED

August 24, 2023

- CE
- ITECH
- OUS
- CHK
- CPSPA

WHEREAS, the medium to be used in the canvassing of votes is Microsoft Excel/Google Sheets containing the valid student numbers of voters and the number of votes for the college-wide and university-wide student council elections which will be generated from the Microsoft Forms;



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WHEREAS, the Commission shall include in the summary of returns the total number of eligible voters per college;

WHEREAS, the Commission shall count all raw ballots, regardless if it is valid or not, in the summary of returns;

WHEREAS. the Commission shall report the number of verified voters that cast their vote and the voter turnout in the summary of returns;

WHEREAS, the Commission shall also count the number of rejected ballots;

- a. Rejected ballots
 - i. There is a late duplicate of a vote.
 - ii. Student number used is not found in the database of the Commission.

WHEREAS, the following conditions will determine the validity of votes:

- a. The vote was cast.
- b. For the Local Student Council Councilors, the number of votes cast per voter did not exceed six (6) votes; and
- c. For the Central Student Council Councilors, the number of votes cast per voter did not exceed twelve (12) votes.

WHEREAS, upon the completion of the tally of the valid votes, the Commission shall determine the totality of valid votes, and identify the ratio between the vote for each specific candidate and the total number of valid votes;



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WHEREAS, the Commission will report the ranking of each candidate in the election'

WHEREAS, the Commission shall also count the following in each position:

- a. The number of abstain votes per position;
- b. For multiple seat elections, the number of undervotes;
- c. For multiple seat elections, the number of allocated votes. This is done by multiplying the number of valid ballots by the number of allocated votes per voter;
- d. The number of valid ballots casted per position;
 - i. For single-winner elections, the number of valid ballots is determined by the sum of valid votes case and the number of abstentions.
 - ii. For multiple-winner elections, the number of valid ballots is determined by the number of ballots cast not exceeding the number of allocated votes.
- e. The number of invalid ballots cast per position, which is all ballots that exceeded the number of allocated votes per voter. This only applies to multiple-winner election;
- f. The number of ballots cast, which is the sum of the valid and invalid ballots.

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the power vested in the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) being the highest electoral policy-making body hereby establishes the verification process during the canvassing of votes and the process of canvassing of votes, **BE IT RESOLVED AS IT HEREBY RESOLVES:**

THAT, this will continue being implemented until another contradicting resolution is created.

THAT, there shall be a furnished copy of this resolution, including any changes made hereto, to the official addresses of the Student Council Assembly, Sentral na Konseho ng Mag-aaral, Local



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Student Councils, Student Tribunal and Constitutional Commissions, and Student Publications residing in the Polytechnic University of the Philippines - Main Campus.

SO, ORDERED.

(SGD) GAD THOMAS DEUEL S. MENDIOLA

Chairperson
College of Arts and Letters Commissioner

(SGD) LORIELYN Y. BELMONTE

Vice Chairperson
College of Communication Commissioner

(SGD) MELWEL ARCEL C. GORUMBA

Secretary-General
College of Accountancy and Finance Commissioner

(SGD) ANNA KATRINA C. TENA

Treasurer
College of Political Science and Public Administration Commissioner

(SGD) PIOLO MIGUEL A. BARCELONA

College of Architecture, Design, and Built Environment Commissioner

(SGD) ADAM JESS C. DE GUZMAN

College of Business Administration Commissioner



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(SGD) LUKE MARK P. LEONA

College of Computer and Information Sciences Commissioner

(SGD) CARLOS JAIRO L. TIAGA

College of Engineering Commissioner

(SGD) KRISTAL ANDREA MARQUEZ

College of Human Kinetics Commissioner

(SGD) GENER AUGUST S. LINTAG

College of Education Commissioner

(SGD) MARY JOY B. DAGDAG

College of Science Commissioner

(SGD) PAUL JANRY D. ROLUSTA

College of Social Sciences and Development Commissioner

(SGD) JUAN MIGUEL G. MORADO

College of Tourism, Hospitality, and Transportation Management Commissioner

(SGD) KEREN CLAIRE L. CABUELLO

Institute of Technology Commissioner

(SGD) FRINCE CARL N. FORTUNADO

Open University System Commissioner