**Election Regulations for the Student Organization of Agder (STA)**

**§ 1 Field of action**

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These election regulations concern elections in the Student Organization of Agder (STA). Attachment 1-6 contains positions, mandate and period of function.

**§ 2 The Election Committee § 4**

**§ 2.1 Composition**

The election committee consist of 4 members, and the leader is elected on its

own.

**§ 2.2 Mandate**

a) The election committee shall, together with the rest of STA, recruit candidates to the positions in these regulations.

b) The election committee shall interview the candidates and by other means get to know the candidates in a best possible way. This to be able to make a nomination.

c) When representatives elected by SP withdraw from their position before the period is over, the election committee shall recruit new candidates. The election committee will then nominate the new candidates and put this forward to the Student Parliament who elects the new representatives.

d) The election committee shall work towards a goal of all faculties being represented in boards and committees, and to endeavour a gender equality in all boards and committees, also the ones where this is not statutory.

**§ 3 Election for the Student Parliament**

**||§ 3.1 Preparations**

Election for the Student Parliament is determined by the STA-board in accordance with UiA`s election board. The election is to be held in the spring as voting by ballot.

The model for the election is regulated by STA`s Regulations.

Election to the Student Parliament is to be held at the same time as election for the faculty boards and the board for the teacher education unit.

**§ 4 Election assembly in the Student Organization of Agder**

**||§ 4.1 Composition**

The Student Parliament functions as an election assembly for the Student Organization of Agder and shall elect student representatives to the boards and committees as described in the attachments according to § 1.

The regular representatives in the Student Parliament has the right to vote in an election. When an absence occurs, the vice-representatives are being summoned, and they will have full meeting rights.

The summons for the election assembly must be sent out to the representatives and their vice-representatives two (2) weeks before the election is being held. The summons must make clear who is standing for election.

**§ 4.2 Announcement**

All positions must be announced at least four (4) weeks before the election assembly is being held. The announcement must consist of the rules concerning how to put a candidate forward, deadlines and information about the different positions.

**§4.3 The nomination**

The election committee must present their nomination orally to candidates 48 hours at the latest before the election assembly is being held, and always before the nomination is made public. Candidates who has had their nomination being known is obligated to keeps this to one`s self before it is made public by the election committee.

The candidate list, the nomination by the election committee and a short presentation of the candidates shall be made available for the Student Parliament and the candidates 24 hours at the latest before the election assembly is being held.

**§ 4.4 The election assembly**

**§ 4.4.1 Presentation**

All candidates shall be given the opportunity to prepare a short presentation and a picture of themselves, this so that election assembly will be able to know who the candidates are. The presentation cannot be more than 60 words. The deadline for sending this to STA is four (4) days prior to the election. STA shall send the descriptions and pictures to the candidates and the election assembly two (2) days at the latest before the election is being held.

**§ 4.4.2 Election speeches**

Before the election speeches starts, the election committee will present their nomination orally for the election assembly, also including eventual split nominations. After every nomination, there will be a possibility to ask the election committee questions about their work.

At the election assembly, candidates standing for election to the STA-board and the UiA-board can hold an election speech. This must not overgo five minutes. The election speeches will be held without the other candidates present. The nominated candidate will always start. The other candidates hold their speeches alphabetically by their last name. After each speech, there will be a possibility to ask questions to each candidate for up to five minutes.

When it comes to electing the other boards and committees, the election committee will present their nomination before the voting starts. If the election assembly believe it is expedient, it can be made possible for other candidates to

present themselves. The Election Committee shall ask this question right after the nomination has been presented.

It is possible to suggest an unlimited number of candidates all the way up to the election. No candidates shall be rejected, unless they do not meet the demands set to the position they stand for election to.

**§ 4.4.3 Majority requirement**

All positions that are regulated by these election regulations or its attachments are being elected by an absolute majority vote unless something else it specified.

The Control Committee shall, in cooperation with the Election Committee, oversee and implement the elections during the election assembly.

**§ 4.4.4 Gender balance**

In election where a gender balance is required by law, elections in the Student Parliament must reflect this. In election of several representatives to boards and committees where just one gender is elected, the candidate with most votes of the opposite gender will be prioritized over the elected candidate with the least votes.

In elections where there is no law regulating gender balance, the Student Parliament must strive for this.

**§ 4.5 The carrying out of an election**

**§ 4.5.1 Voting**

All representatives with the right to vote are obligated to vote when it comes to election of a person. A blank vote is regarded as a given vote.

All casted votes, that are unreadable or contains the wrong name cf. the candidate list, is regarded as invalid and will be rejected.

Voting on the election for the STA-board and UiA-board shall always be done in writing.

Elections to all other positions must be done in writing when there are more candidates than positions. Election by acclamation can be considered if there are as many candidates as positions, unless one or several representatives asks for voting in writing.

**§ 4.5.2 Election of a single position**

This rule applies for elections for representatives to a single position.

If a candidate does not receive an absolute majority vote by the first voting, a new voting round will be held where the candidate with the fewest votes is stricken off the rest of the voting rounds for the position in question. If several candidates do not receive 50 % of the votes together, they can all the stricken of the list. This is calculated by adding the votes for the candidate with the fewest votes together with the votes of the candidate with the second fewest votes and so on.

This process will go on until one candidate has received an absolute majority vote.

If the situation arises that there are two candidates remaining and none of them receives an absolute majority vote, the candidate with the fewest votes is being stricken of the list. Then a new voting round will be held to control that the remaining candidate can receive an absolute majority vote.

If the situation arises that there are two candidates left and there is an equality of votes, an extra voting round must take place. If there is still an equality of votes, the nomination will be passed. If none of the two lasts candidates are nominated, the decision will be made by drawing lots at the election assembly.

If a situation arises that there are vice-representatives to be elected, the Student Parliament can if the candidate(s) accept it and there are not candidates who only stands for election as a vice-representative, choose the candidate who got the second most votes as a first vice-representative and so on.

If the election of a vice-representative is being held separate, election is being held as if the election were for a single position. If election of several vice- representatives is being held separate, the election is being held as if the election were for a group.

**§ 4.5.3 Election of a group**

This rule applies for elections of groups of two (2) or more candidates.

**§ 4.5.3.1**

Besides the name of the candidates, the selector shall write down the number 1,2,3 and so on, as a statement of the preference the selector has for the candidates. The selector decides how many candidates he/she wants to prioritize.

**§ 4.5.3.2**

Before the first voting round, an election number (*valgtall*) will be calculated in this way: The number of ballots is counted. The sum is divided with the number of representatives who are to be elected plus one (1). 0,01 will be added to the answer, and this is called the election number (*valgtall*)

**§.4.5.3.3**

If a candidate has more votes than the election number, the difference is called the candidate`s surplus.

**§ 4.5.3.4**

In the first election round all ballots are given the weight of 1,00. For each ballot, the candidate who are preferred first by the selector is counted. All candidates with a number of votes that are higher or the same as the election number is declared elected.

If no candidate is declared elected after the first voting round, all candidates with zero as a number of votes can be excluded.

**§ 4.5.3.5**

In every voting round, one shall either exclude candidates and transfer affiliated voting ballots or transfer a candidate`s surplus.

The number of votes of the candidates with the lowest voting numbers are being summed up. If this sum plus the sum of all surpluses that have not been transferred in earlier rounds, is lesser than the voting number of each of the other remaining candidates, all candidates in the group with the lowest voting numbers can be excluded.

Still, one must not exclude so many candidates that the number of the remaining candidates are lesser than the number of candidates that remains to elect.

If none of the candidates can be excluded the following will be done: If one or several candidates elected in earlier rounds has a surplus that has not been transferred earlier, the largest of the surpluses are being transferred to the remaining candidates.

**§ 4.5.3.6**

If one or several candidates is excluded according to § 4.5.3.5, their ballot will be transferred to the remaining candidates. All ballots that are affiliated to the excluded candidates will be sorted into piles according to the ballots weight. The pile that contains the ballots with largest weight will be handled first, and so on. While sorting in piles according to weight, no consideration will be taken in accordance with which of the excluded candidates the ballot comes from.

The ballots from the same pile will be transferred at the same time. Each ballot will be transferred to the remaining candidate who are prioritized highest on the ballot. If none of the remaining candidates are prioritized, the ballot will be put aside. The transfer does not change the ballots weight.

After all the piles have been treated, a new round according to § 4.5.3.5 starts.

**§ 4.5.3.7**

According to the rules stated in § 4.5.3.5, a surplus from a candidate elected in an earlier round shall be transferred. A surplus from a candidate can only be transferred once.

If the sum of the weight of the ballots included in the transfer exceeds the candidate’s surplus, the surplus will be divided by the number of ballots included in the transfer. The quotient is estimated with two decimals without elevation and is every transferred ballot`s weight after five transfers. If the sum of the ballot`s weight does not exceed the surplus, every ballot is transferred with an unchanged weight.

The ballots will be transferred at the same time. Every ballot will be transferred to the remaining candidate who is prioritized highest on the ballot.

**§ 4.5.3.8**

If, at any point, the number of remaining candidates is less or the same as available positions, all remaining candidates will be declared elected and the election ends.

In the moment the number of candidates who are declared elected is equal to the number of representatives that shall be elected, the election ends.

**§ 4.5.3.9**

The vice representatives are elected one by one. For each representative that shall be elected, a full election will be carried out, as described in § 4.5.3.1 –

§ 4.5.3.7, with the changes mentioned above.

With election of the first representative the election number (look at § 4.5.3.2) is calculated as if a there is one more candidate than by election of the regular representatives.

With election of the second vice representatives it is calculated as if there is two more candidates and so on up till the number of candidates that shall be elected.

Earlier elected representatives will be excluded from the election rounds.

If more than one candidate is declared elected at the same time, the candidate with the highest number of votes will be designated to the relevant position of vice representative.

**§ 4.6 Supplement election**

If a student representative elected by the Student Parliament withdraw form their position, a new representatives mist be supplemented. If there is a vice-representative it will move up and a new vice-representative will be supplemented. It is the election committee that nominates representatives for the position in question. If representation demands that the decision cannot wait, the STA-board together with the election committee has the authorization to supplement new student representatives. The Student Parliament approves this supplement at the next meeting.

**§ 5 Eligibility**

**§ 5.1 Demands concerning the candidates**

All representatives who stands for election must be registered as a student at the University of Agder in the semester of election. A person in a STA-position who no longer is a student can finish the period of function but cannot stand for re-election.

A person who holds a position in the STA-board must be a student the whole period of function, the only exception being the president and the vice-president.

**§ 5.2 Registration of one`s candidacy**

To be a part of the nomination work of the election committee, the candidacy

must be announced in writing by the candidate to STA`s organizational

consultant, two weeks at the latest before the election. If the candidacy is

announced after the deadline, the candidate does not have the right to be

considered by the election committee.

A candidate is not dependant on this consideration to stand for election, and

it is possible to announce one`s candidacy up to the election is being held.

**§ 5.3 Positions that are inconsistent**

1. Administrative staff cannot stand for election while being employed in STA.
2. Students of paid positions in STA cannot be representatives at the following positions; the UiA-board, SiA-board, the Student Parliament, the Control Committee or the Election Committee.
3. Students of paid positions in STA should not be representatives in the following positions; positions in boards and committees connected to UiA, cf. attachment 2.
4. Students that are representatives in the UiA-board should not be representatives in the following bodies; the Student Parliament, the Control Committee, the Election Committee, the SiA-board and positions in boards and committees connected to UiA, cf. attachment 2.
5. Students cannot be a representative in both the Student Parliament and the Control Committee.

**§ 5.4 Impartiality**

1. Members of the election committee can stand for election but will be declared incompetent in the nomination work of the position in question. Members of the election committee, who stands for election for paid positions in STA or the UiA-board cannot interview their opposing candidates. This also concerns if the opposing candidate stands for election to other positions.
2. If a member of the election committee stands for election to a paid position in STA, he/she must retire from the position in the Election Committee.

**§ 5.5 Withdrawal from a position**

If a representative wants to withdraw from its position this must be done in writing to the STA-board, through the organizational consultant.

If a member of the STA-board wants to withdraw from his or hers position this must be done in writing to the president of STA. If the president of STA wants to withdraw this must be done in writing to the STA-board and the Student Parliament.

**§ 5.6 Re-election**

One is only allowed to sit in the same position in the STA-board in two (2)

years total. One is only allowed to sit as a representative in the UiA-board in

two (2) years total.

**§ 6 Put into effective 6**

These regulations are being put into effective from 27.10.2004, and applies until

something else is passed by the Student Parliament.

**Revised 20th March 2019.**

*The following regulations applies when it comes to election of student representatives in STA:*

*Lov om universiteter og høyskoler*

*Election regulations of the University of Agder*

*The regulations and election regulations of NSO*

**Attachment 1 – posts in STA**

This attachment is regulated by the Student Parliament.

The Student Parliament:

Election for the Student Parliament is carried out during the spring in

accordance with the agreement with UiA`s Election Board. The election

is carried out by ballot.

The period of function is 01th of July to 3oth of June.

Election assembly:

STA`s election assembly is carried out in May. The following posts

are up for election internally in STA:

The Election Committee with one (1) leader and three (3) members

The Control Committee with one (1) leader and two (2) members

The Unikum Board with one (1) regular representatives and one (1) vice

representatives

Political Committees, in accordance with attachment 4

The STA-board, in accordance with STA`s Regulations and

Job descriptions

The period of function is 01th of July to 30th of June.

Student representatives, elected to positions on STA, is obligated to meet,

and to follow up policies passed by the Student Parliament.

The retiring student representatives, elected to positions in STA, is obligated

to overlap with the newly elected student representatives in the same

position. This does not apply to the Student Parliament. The STA-board shall

facilitate for an overlap to take place.

The period of function is 01th of July to 30th of June.

**Attachment 2 - Boards and committees at the University of Agder**

This attachment is regulated by the University of Agder`s regulations and

*Lov om universiteter og høyskoler.*

Election for positions in UiA`s different bodies is regulated by UiA`s election regulations and *Lov om universiteter og høyskoler.* See UiA`s election regulations § 3, *Universitetets sentrale valgstyre og valgstyrets ansvar*, especially § 3.8-3.11.

Election assembly:

The University board (2 regular representatives, 1.and 2. vice representatives)

UiA`s Appeals Committee (2 regular representatives, 1.and 2. vice repr.)

UiA`s Election board (2 regular representatives, 1.and 2. vice repr.)

UiA`s Employment committee (2 regular representatives, 1.and 2. vice repr)

UiA`s Award Committee[[1]](#footnote-1) (2 regular representatives, 1.and 2. vice repr)

UiA`s Leaning environment committee (3 regular representatives and 1., 2.

and 3. vice representatives)

UiA`s Academic affairs committee (2 regular representatives, 1.and 2. vice

representatives)

UiA`s Suitability committee (2 regular representatives, they must be students

from the profession educations)

The Equality and inclusion committee (1 regular representative, 1.and

2. vice representatives)

Student representatives, elected to positions at UiA, is obligated to

follow up policies passed by the Student Parliament.

The retiring student representatives, elected to boards and committees at UiA,

is obligated to overlap with the newly elected student representatives in the

same position. The STA-board shall facilitate for an overlap to take place.

The period of function is 01th of July to 30th of June.

**Attachment 3 - Mandate for the Control Committee**

This attachment is regulated by the Student Parliament.

1. The Control Committee shall make sure that the regulations, policy documents and decisions made by the Student Parliament is followed up.
2. The Control Committee shall make sure that the policy passed by the Student Parliament is not in conflict with the superior policy documents. They shall also make sure that the policies that are being followed up is in accordance with passed policies.
3. The Control Committee shall make sure that the economical prioritizations made by the Student Parliament is followed up by the STA-board. The Control Committee shall comment on the annual accounts.
4. The Control Committee has the possibility to give a statement to the Student Parliament in cases concerning lack of confidence. The Control Committee shall assist in such cases when asked to but cannot take part in them.
5. The Control Committee shall, in co-operation with the Election Committee, oversee and carry out elections in the Student Parliament. The Control Committee shall also assist the STA-board and the Election Committee with questions concerning the election of a new Student Parliament.
6. The Control Committee has an obligation to disclosure all breachments of the current regulations and policy documents to the STA-board and the Student Parliament.
7. The Control Committee function as an advisory body for the STA-board and the Student Parliament.
8. On the last meeting in their period, the Control Committee shall deliver a written report to the Student Parliament on their work. This report shall be handed inn to the STA-board before being treated by the Student Parliament.

**Attachment 4 - Mandate for the Control Committee**

This attachment is regulated by the Student Parliament.

**Common for all political committees**

The academic affairs committee, welfare political committee, sustainability and environmental committee and international committee shall participate in designing the policies of STA and shall contribute with their knowledge and work within their field of expertise.

The political committees shall, together with the STA-board, lift cases in STA and be active contributors in designing the politics of their field. Further on, the committees shall contribute to set STA`s politics on UiA`s agenda.

The political committees shall contribute to the revising of STA`s political documents within their fields. The deadlines are regulated by STA`s regulations.

**Composition**

The political committees are being led by the STA-board, unless other decided by the STA-board.

The Student Parliament elects the regular representatives to each of the committees.

The president of STA meets as an observer in the political committees.

**The academic affairs committee**

The academic affairs committee shall be led by STA`s officer of academic affairs, unless other decided by the STA-board.

Four (4) representatives shall be elected for the committee.

The committee shall follow up and revise the political document for educational quality.

**The learning environment committee**

The learning environment committee shall be led by STA`s officer for the learning environment, unless other decided by the STA-board.

Four (4) representatives shall be elected for the committee.

The committee shall follow up and revise the political document for the learning environment and the political document for diversity and equality.

**The international committee**

The international committee shall be led by STA`s vice-president, unless other decided by the STA-board.

Four (4) representatives shall be elected for the committee.

The committee shall follow up and revise the political document for internationalization.

**The sustainability and environmental committee**

The sustainability and environmental committee shall be led by STA`s vice-president, unless other decided by the STA-board.

Four (4) representatives shall be elected for the committee.

The committee shall follow up and revise the political document for sustainability and environment.

**Attachment 5 - The Welfare Council of Agder (VT)**

The attachment is regulated by the regulations of The Welfare Council of

Agder.

As an owner for the welfare council of Agder, STA is represented at their meetings. The Student Parliament appoints its representatives during the election assembly in May.   
  
Representatives elected by the Student Parliament is committed to promote STA`s passed policies.

The time of function and number of representatives is regulated by the Welfare Council of Agder.

One representative from the STA-board meets at the VT-meetings, as an observer with the right to speak and make suggestions.

**Attachment 6 - The National Union of students in Norway (NSO)**

This attachment is regulated by NSO`s policy documents.

The Student Organization of Agder (STA) shall be represented at NSO`s national meeting. Election of delegates to the national meeting of NSO is regulated by NSO`s policy documents, in addition to STA`s own election regulations.

The Student Parliament passes a mandate for the delegation. This shall take place at Student Parliament meeting prior to the election of the delegation.

The delegation to the national meeting shall be elected when it is expedient in accordance with deadlines given by NSO.

Representatives to the delegation is regulated by NSO.

The period of functioning is the same as the period of the national meeting.

1. Education award at UiA [↑](#footnote-ref-1)