

Report of the Election of the Student Parliament 2021

Dates and Deadlines


- Publication of the notice of election: 4th May 2021
- Submission of electoral lists: By 25th May 2021, 12:00
- Publication of electoral lists: 1st June 2021
- Submission of postal vote requests: By 17th July 2021
- Election days: 22nd to 24th June 2021, each from 9:00 to 16:00
- Counting days:
 - 24th June 2021, rooms 3.06.S12/S13, 17:00 to 20:45
 - 25th June 2021, rooms 3.06.S15/S16, 12:00 to 14:15
- Publication of election result: 29th June 2021
- Publication of election report: 1st July 2021

Polling stations

- Campus Golm, House 18 (IKMZ), Foyer
 - Faculty of Human Sciences
 - Faculty of Science
- Campus Griebnitzsee, House 6, Foyer
 - Digital Engineering Faculty
 - Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences
 - Law Faculty
- Campus Neues Palais, House 8, Foyer below Auditorium Maximum
 - Faculty of Arts
 - Central postal voting station

Anomalies during the election

Liberale Hochschulgruppe not admitted to the Election

On 1st June 2021 at 16:42, a member of the Liberale Hochschulgruppe (LHG) contacted the Student Election Committee (StWA). They were surprised that the LHG had not been announced as a candidate for election, although the list and candidatures would have been deposited in the StWA letterbox by the deadline on 25th May 2021 between 10:45 and 11:00. The StWA examined the case. In fact, on re-examination, the submission was in the front of the letterbox at 18:05 on 1st June 2021. After the deadline, the submissions were removed from the StWA letterbox in the foyer of Building 1 on the Griebnitzsee campus by Student Election Committee members  at 12:00 on 25th May 2021.

According to other lists, at least three of them submitted before the LHG. This means that the list must have slipped back into the letterbox when the submissions were removed. However, the two StWA members independently verified that there were no more submissions in the letterbox after the removal. Furthermore, old advertising flyers were taken from the bottom of the letterbox after the process. It can thus be sufficiently ruled out that the submission was in the letterbox at the time. Further exchange with the LHG suggests that the list was submitted in the external letterbox of the Griebnitzsee campus in front of Building 1, from where it first had to be redistributed. Since the Framework Election Regulations of the Student Body stipulate in § 14 (3) that it must be received at the StWA letterbox by the deadline mentioned, the submission could no longer be taken into account and the LHG could not be included in the list of election proposals.

Incorrect Deadline for Postal Vote Applications

For a long time, the Student Election Committee communicated 16th June 2021 as the deadline for submitting postal ballot applications, including in the election notice. On 14th June 2021 at 20:00, the StWA was informed that the deadline according to § 18 (1) of the Student Body's Framework Election Regulations was not until 17th June 2021. The framework election regulations regulate the deadline in "working days before the election". When calculating the date, it was overlooked that Saturday counts as a working day. The deadline was immediately adjusted on the StWA website and in further communication. As the extension is not detrimental to students, this does not constitute grounds for objections to the election.

Interference in Election Campaign by AStA

From 10th June 2021, the StWA received two notices stating that the General Students' Committee (AStA) would interfere in the election campaign by making public statements on Twitter with reference to lists or list members standing for election and by participating in discussions about list (members). The following are excerpts for illustration (translated from German):

#Info for those interested in #history: The #RCDS began its #activities in the #SBZ, probably with support from #Operation #Gehlen.
#Nobody likes #fascists! *Tweet by @astaup, 10th June 2021, 20:48*

If that's the case, as you write, why are #Jasper and the #Micha, then liking comments from a #fuzzyguy* who clearly makes #sexistTweets? Or tweets that suggest the AStA is either close to #NS ideology or Stalin?
#Demarcation?
#DemocracyStrengths
#P2006 *Tweet by @astaup, 20th June 2021, 19:48*

Did you also show #attitude like #Jasper with loud #silence? 😊
How do you actually feel about #anti-fascism and #sexism?

#Voting
#It'sYourChoice
#StuPaElection
#P2206 #P2406

Tweet by @astaup, 18th June 2021, 11:01

The Student Election Committee has examined the incident and sees here an interference in the election campaign by an executive body of the student body, which is not only inappropriate with regard to the tasks of the AStA according to § 13 of the student body constitution, but also violates the electoral principle of free choice, as here a body of the student body is supposedly taking an official position. The StWA then contacted the AStA by email on 21st June 2021 and demanded an immediate stop to such activities and neutral behaviour. As some of the tweets were already part of public reporting, e.g. in speakUP, it released the deletion of the tweets instead of demanding it. By email, the AStA informed about the discussion of this issue in the upcoming AStA meeting. However, there was no further response to the StWA until the publication of the election report, nor have the minutes of the AStA meeting been published by then. Overall, however, the tweets appear to have had a very limited reach, making it unlikely that they had a significant impact on the election and that this was not a reason to make objections to the election.

Sorting of Postal Ballots by the Central Election Office

As usual, the Central Election Office of the University of Potsdam (WGS) takes over the opening and sorting of the postal ballots after the election. [REDACTED] represented the StWA on site on 24th June 2021.

On the morning of 25th June 2021, the StWA was represented on site by [REDACTED]. They counted the postal ballots sorted the day before and brought them to the StWA counting location at Griebnitzsee. Later in the day, 20 more postal ballots were found. These had missing information on the ballot papers, which is why it took longer to check who was voting. All ballots were recorded and brought to the Griebnitzsee campus in the afternoon by [REDACTED], where they were counted by members of the StWA.

Election result

In accordance with the Rahmenwahlordnung der Studierendenschaft in the version of the 6th February 2018 (AmBek UP No. 01/2019, pages 14-19), the student body of the University of Potsdam elected the 23rd student parliament from 22th June 2021 to 24th June 2021 in a free and fair election by secret ballots:

| List | Amount | Seats ¹ |
|---|----------------|--------------------|
| Ring Christlich Demokratischer Studenten (RCDS) | 6,60% | 2 |
| Autonome Linke Liste (ALL) | 7,21% | 2 |
| UP.rising | 16,76% | 4 |
| Cosmopolitan Youth | 6,33% | 2 |
| Grüne Hochschulgruppe Potsdam (GHG) | 16,18% | 4 |
| LEHRAMT | 9,07% | 2 |
| Bündnis Freundschaftlicher Fachschaften (BFF) | 6,50% | 2 |
| BIER (Bildung und Erziehung) | 2,37% | 1 |
| Juso Hochschulgruppe | 13,10% | 4 |
| DIE LINKE.SDS | 11,10% | 3 |
| Grüner Campus | 4,77% | 1 |
| Total | 100,00% | 27 |

¹ In accordance with § 8 (4) of the Rahmenwahlordnung der Studierendenschaft der Universität Potsdam, calculated according to the Sainte-Laguë/Schepers-Divisor method.

| | |
|--|--------|
| Number of eligible voters | 20.561 |
| Number of valid ballot papers | 1024 |
| Number of invalid ballot papers | 3 |

Electoral Participation

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Total | 4,99% |
| Digital Engineering Faculty | 21,64% |
| Faculty of Human Sciences | 3,09% |
| Law Faculty | 5,01% |
| Faculty of Science | 3,90% |
| Faculty of Arts | 4,79% |
| Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences | 4,77% |

The total number of votes for each individual candidacy, the members elected per electoral list, and the order of members and substitute members within the electoral lists are attached on the last pages of this report.

Names of the Persons involved in the Execution

Election Assistants

The election assistants of the polling stations and the central counting office can be obtained from the report of the University Election Committee of the University of Potsdam (“Allgemeiner Wahlausschuss der Universität Potsdam”).

Count Assistants

| Count Assistant | Thursday, 24th June 2021 | Friday, 25th June 2021 |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------|
|  | x | |
| | x | |
| | x | x |
| | x | x |
| | x | x |
| | x | x |
| | x | x |
| | x | x |
| | x | x |
| | x | |
| | x | x |
| | x | x |
| | x | x |
| | x | x |
| | x | x |
| | x | x |
| | x | x |
| | x | x |
| | x | x |

Potsdam, 1st July 2021

Student Election Committee 2021

 (Chair)

 (Deputy Chair)



