

# Translation of the Final Report of the Election of the Student Parliament 2022

## Dates and Deadlines

- Publication of the notice of the Student Parliament election: May 2, 2022
- Deadline for objections to the electoral register: until May 17, 2022
- Deadline for submitting candidacies: May 24, 2022, 12:00 p.m.
- Publication of the contesting electoral lists: June 4, 2022
- Application deadline for postal ballots: June 15, 2022
- Election days: June 21, 2022 to June 23, 2022, from 9 AM to 4 PM each day
- Counting day: June 24, 2022
- Publication of election results: June 27, 2022
- Publication of the Final Report of the Election: June 30, 2022
- Deadline for raising appeals: July 4, 2022

## Incidents during the Election

### Rejection of a Candidacy

A candidature of the Juso-Hochschulgruppe was not signed by hand. However, this is mandatory according to § 14 par. 2 no. 6 of the Rahmenwahlordnung der Studierendenschaft (RWO). As a result, on May 26, 2022, the Student Election Committee requested the candidate to rectify the candidature and granted a grace period until May 30, 2022. Since no valid candidacy was subsequently submitted within this grace period, the candidacy was rejected by the Student Election Committee. This did not affect the validity of the remaining candidatures on the electoral list of the Juso-Hochschulgruppe. The following candidates on the list have thus moved up one place on the list.

### Unresolved Shipping of Postal Ballots from Abroad

The mailing of the postal ballots was done by the Election Office of the University of Potsdam. Usually, the University of Potsdam covers the shipping costs for both outgoing and return postal ballots, regardless of where the documents are sent. For this purpose, the postal note "Entgelt zahlt Empfänger" is noted on the return envelopes.

On June 15, 2022, the Student Election Committee was informed by a person voting by postal ballot from another European country that such an endorsement might only be recognized within Germany. The person was also informed at a local post office that franking by them was necessary.

The Student Election Committee takes the possibility into consideration that postal ballots from other postal voters from abroad have not arrived or have not arrived in time due to insufficient franking of the return envelope. Since the RWO does not generally stipulate that the University of Potsdam must cover the shipping costs, the person voting

must generally ensure that postal ballots are franked properly. The Student Election Committee thus rules out appeals due to insufficiently franked ballots.

The Student Election Committee is also considering explicitly advising postal voters in future elections that they should pay the shipping costs for return mail from abroad to counteract loss of votes due to insufficient franking.

### **Typing Error on Ballots**

During the digitization of the candidatures, a typing error occurred due to a misinterpretation of the handwritten candidature form. In order to prevent such errors, the Student Election Committee has all candidacies checked by the Dezernat II of the University of Potsdam. However, the error was not noticed there either. As a result, the affected name "Benedict Hinz" of the list "Gruppe Gesundheit und Spaß" was erroneously noted on the ballot paper as "Benedict Minz". The Student Election Committee became aware of the error on June 7, 2022. By that time, some postal ballots had already been sent out with the erroneous ballots.

Since there is no person with the name "Minz" at the University of Potsdam, the Student Election Committee considers a confusion with a person other than Benedict Hinz impossible. As a result, the ballots were not declared invalid.

The Student Election Committee then contacted all persons who had already received postal ballots on June 9, 2022, and pointed out the typographical error and the fact that the ballots would remain valid and that votes cast for "Benedict Minz" would be counted in favor of Benedict Hinz. All postal ballots mailed at a later date were accompanied by a notice explaining those circumstances as well. Likewise, a corresponding notice was posted in the polling stations by the Election Office.

In order to avoid such an error in the future, the Student Election Committee is examining to what extent it is possible to have candidacies for subsequent elections filled out entirely digitally, with the exception of the signature.

### **Violation of the Advertising Ban Area During the Election**

On June 21, 2022, the Student Election Committee received a hint that during the election period, two members of the Juso-Hochschulgruppe were presumably promoting participation in the election in Lecture Hall 05, House 6 on Griebnitzsee Campus. In addition, the list members have allegedly mentioned some key topics of their own election program and referred to flyers that were previously distributed in the room.

At that time, the area was within an advertising ban area, which was set by the Student Election Committee according to § 16 par. 4 RWO and communicated to all lists on June 14, 2022. Within this area, election advertising was not permitted during the election period.

Since the lecture taking place in the lecture hall could be identified as a law lecture, the Student Election Committee then launched calls for persons who could testify to the event. The calls were addressed to the Student Representative Group of Law as well as to the lecturer, who held the lecture taking place in the period in question. Both calls remained unanswered.

The Juso-Hochschulgruppe, when asked for a statement by the Student Election Committee, confirmed that the election had been advertised by two list members and that

both had also introduced themselves as members of the Juso-Hochschulgruppe. There were no comments made regarding the accusations of them referring to topics of their election program and distributing flyers during the campaign. On top of that, it was emphasized that the call for participation in the election was in the foreground and that their membership in the Juso-Hochschulgruppe had played a subordinate role only. It was also assured that the scope of the advertising ban areas would be better communicated within the list in the future so that such an incident would not occur again.

The Student Election Committee thus considers a violation of the advertising ban areas to be proven. Furthermore, the Student Election Committee has decided to only issue a warning to the Juso-Hochschulgruppe with the following justification: Although the RWO stipulates a advertising ban area, it does not specify in what way a violation of this should be sanctioned. Likewise, no sanction was communicated to the electoral lists in advance. On top of that, the Student Election Committee lacks persons who can testify to the facts, so that the extent of the situation cannot be adequately assessed. Thus, the Student Election Committee decides against a subsequent exclusion of the advertising list members or the entire list. Such an approach would have the consequence that certain votes would have had to be subsequently declared invalid. This would mean an interference with the right to vote and would thus have a more negative impact on the legitimacy of the election than the violation of the advertising ban area itself.

At the same time, the Student Elections Committee emphasizes that violations of the advertising ban area will not be tolerated. Therefore, the Student Elections Committee will suggest communicating a sanction for violation of the advertising ban area in advance for future elections and enforce it for any violation.

### **Students Systematically not Listed in the Electoral Register**

Since the elections for the Student Parliament took place at the same time as the elections for the governing bodies of the University of Potsdam, a joint electoral register was used for this purpose. In this register, the members of the University of Potsdam are listed according to status groups. Among others, there is the status group of students as well as the status group of scientific employees. Scientific employees who are also enrolled at the University of Potsdam and are therefore also students were assigned by default to the status group of scientific employees and not to students in the register of eligible voters in accordance with § 4 par. 4 of the election regulations of the University of Potsdam. However, according to § 13 par. 1 of the RWO, ballots for the election to the Student Parliament can only be issued to those who are listed as students in the register of eligible voters. Thus, the situation arose that members from the aforementioned groups of persons were not handed a ballot paper for the Student Parliament on election day, even though they would have been entitled to vote according to § 5 par. 1 RWO.

The list of eligible voters was publicly available for a period of 3 weeks, so that an entry in the wrong status group could have been noticed by the person voting. Objections against the list could have been declared informally to the Student Election Committee until May 17, 2022, according to § 13 par. 3 of the RWO. However, the Student Election Committee has not received any such objections, which is why the validity of the election is not affected.

In order to avoid the occurrence of such a situation in the future, the Student Election Committee will encourage the Election Office to introduce a category for enrolled scientific

employees in the future, who will vote in the status group of scientific employees, but who will also receive the ballot for the election to the Student Parliament. In addition, the Student Election Committee will examine to what extent in the future better reference can be made to the possibility of inspecting the electoral register by the voters in the notice of election.

### **Wrong Location of a Polling Station**

For the elections to the Student Parliament, the polling stations are traditionally operated by the Election Office, since elections to other bodies of the University take place during the same period. Accordingly, the Student Election Committee has transferred the locations of the polling places from the notice of election for the university bodies to the notice of election for the election of the Student Parliament. Upon verbal inquiry with the Election Office on June 14, 2022, it was explicitly confirmed that the notice of election of the university bodies is pivotal.

During the election days, the Student Election Committee noticed that the polling station at Golm Campus, which was supposed to be stationed in the Southeast Foyer of Building 18, was actually set up in the Northwest Foyer of the same building. As a result, the polling station was also outside the advertising ban area, which was set by the Student Election Committee around the Southeast Foyer and communicated to the lists.

Since in previous years the polling station was also located in the Northwest Foyer and there were signs with arrows indicating the way to the polling station, the Student Election Committee considers it impossible that voters could not find the polling station on election day. Furthermore, despite the absence of the advertising ban area, no incidents of advertising in the immediate vicinity of the polling station were reported that could have an influence on the electoral freedom.

### **Ballots not separated by faculty**

After the end of the voting period, the Student Election Committee became aware that in the polling stations at the Griebnitzsee Campus and Golm Campus, no ballot boxes were set up separated by faculty. Instead, all ballots were put into one ballot box per polling station. This was explicitly not in accordance with the instructions communicated to the polling stations by the Student Election Committee and the Election Office. The organizers of the polling stations justified the procedure with the fact that the setup was hectic due to the tremendous lack of election workers, and that it only became apparent after the first ballots had been cast that a separation by faculty should have been made.

The RWO does not require the use of ballot boxes separated by faculty. However, it is necessary to determine voter turnout statistics by faculty. Due to the commingling of ballots this year, the voter turnout was calculated based on the electoral registers rather than on the ballots in the individual ballot boxes.

### **Rejected Ballots**

A total of 25 postal ballots were rejected. In 11 cases, the ballot was not properly enclosed. In 12 cases, the ballot was not inserted in the appropriate envelope, but was stored together with the paper that features the name and signature of the voter. Furthermore, two ballot papers were sent in by the same person, whereupon both ballot papers were rejected.

The rejected ballots were not included in the statistics of the election result or voter turnout.

### **Discrepancy Between Electoral Register, Voter Turnout and Votes Counted**

A total of 1257 actual voters were recorded in the electoral register. Of these, 988 were for ballots at polling stations and 269 were for postal ballots.

Since postal ballots were already added to the electoral register on June 23, 2022, the turnout statistics are calculated based on all postal votes registered up to that date. On June 24, 2022, it became known that an additional 14 postal ballots were approved, which could not be recognized on the day before due to an incorrect indication of faculty by the postal voter. Since the actual faculty affiliation of these 14 postal ballots was not documented, they were not subsequently included in the calculation of voter turnout.

A total of 1263 ballots were counted by the Student Elections Committee, which is 6 more than were recorded in the voter register.

## Election Result

List	Votes	Amount	Seats <sup>1</sup>
migrantisch grüne Liste (mgl)	76	2,12%	1
Grüne Hochschulgruppe Potsdam (GHG)	859	23,92%	6
DIE LINKE.SDS	679	18,91%	5
Ring Christlich Demokratischer Studenten (RCDS)	299	8,33%	2
Gruppe Gesundheit und Spaß (GGuS)	100	2,78%	1
UP.rising	802	22,33%	6
Bündnis für Fachschaften (BFF)	340	9,47%	3
Juso Hochschulgruppe (Juso-HSG)	436	12,14%	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3591</b>	<b>100,00%</b>	<b>27</b>

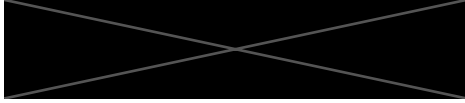
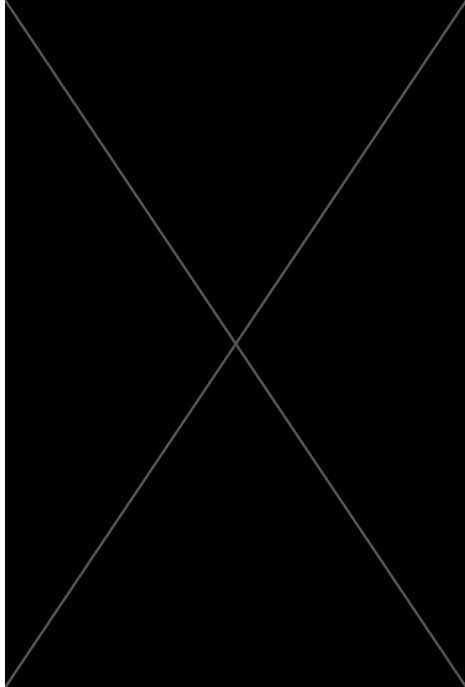
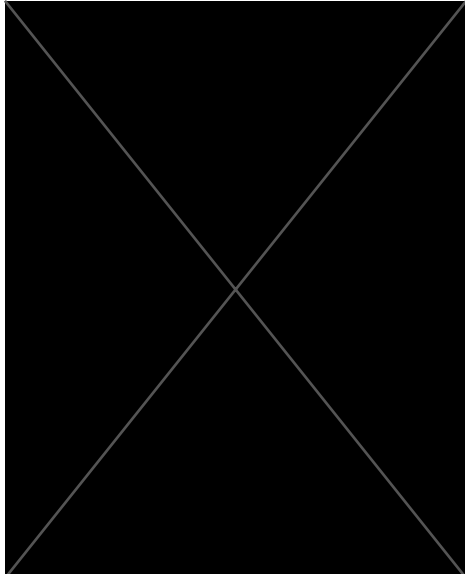
<sup>1</sup> In accordance with § 8 (4) of the Rahmenwahlordnung der Studierendenschaft der Universität Potsdam, calculated according to the Sainte-Laguë/Schepers-Divisor method.

<b>Number of people eligible to vote</b>	20.147
<b>Number of valid ballot papers</b>	1251
<b>Number of invalid ballot papers</b>	12

### Electoral Participation

<b>Total</b>	<b>6,17%</b>
Digital Engineering Faculty	25,96%
Faculty of Human Sciences	3,33%
Law Faculty	6,61%
Faculty of Science	5,37%
Faculty of Arts	4,32%
Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences	7,60%
Faculty of Health Sciences	0,00%
Without Faculty	0,00%

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 following pages of this report.

List Position	Name	Votes	Seats
	<b>List 1: mgL</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>1</b>
1		44	<i>Elected</i>
2		32	
	<b>List 2: GHG</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>6</b>
1		166	<i>Elected</i>
2		107	<i>Elected</i>
3		89	<i>Elected</i>
4		66	<i>Elected</i>
13		66	<i>Elected</i>
11		63	<i>Elected</i>
9		60	
7		43	
12		42	
6		40	
10		40	
8		39	
5		38	
	<b>List 3: DIE LINKE.SDS</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>5</b>
1		85	<i>Elected</i>
19		65	<i>Elected</i>
10		58	<i>Elected</i>
17		57	<i>Elected</i>
3		51	<i>Elected</i>
2		50	
8		43	
11		42	
7		35	
18		26	
6		25	

14	
5	
15	
9	
4	
16	
12	
13	

25  
21  
21  
18  
17  
16  
14  
10

**List 4: RCDS**

1	
2	
5	
3	
7	
6	
8	
4	
9	

**299**      **2**  
68 *Elected*  
59 *Elected*  
43  
38  
27  
24  
19  
12  
9

**List 5: GGuS**

1	
3	
2	

**100**      **1**  
40 *Elected*  
31  
29

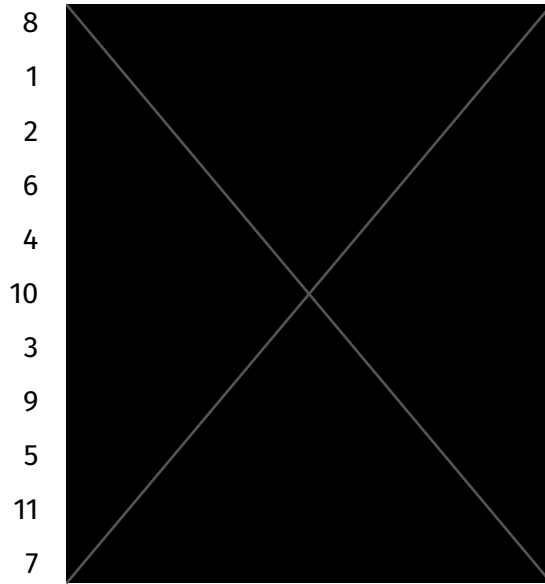
**List 6: UP.rising**

2	
4	
1	
3	
6	
5	

**802**      **6**  
241 *Elected*  
164 *Elected*  
135 *Elected*  
110 *Elected*  
91 *Elected*  
61 *Elected*

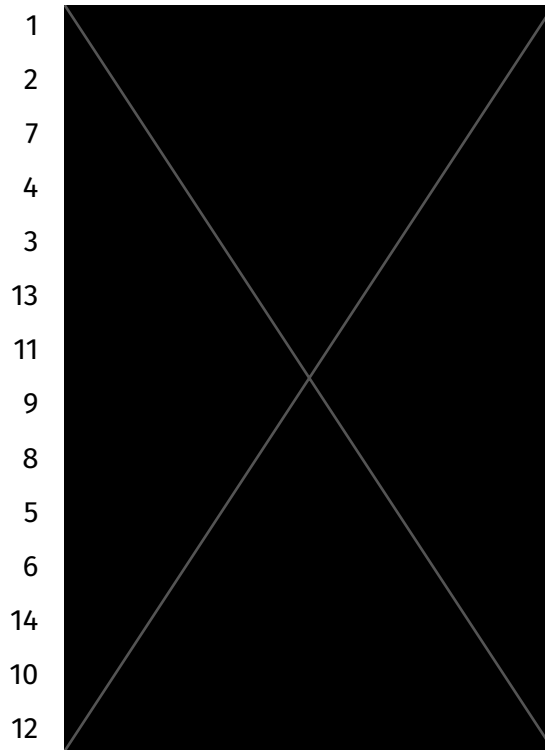


**List 7: BFF**



<b>340</b>	<b>3</b>
51	<i>Elected</i>
48	<i>Elected</i>
48	<i>Elected</i>
35	
32	
29	
27	
21	
18	
17	
14	

**List 8: Juso-HSG**



<b>436</b>	<b>3</b>
93	<i>Elected</i>
54	<i>Elected</i>
48	<i>Elected</i>
43	
34	
26	
24	
23	
21	
18	
17	
16	
14	
5	

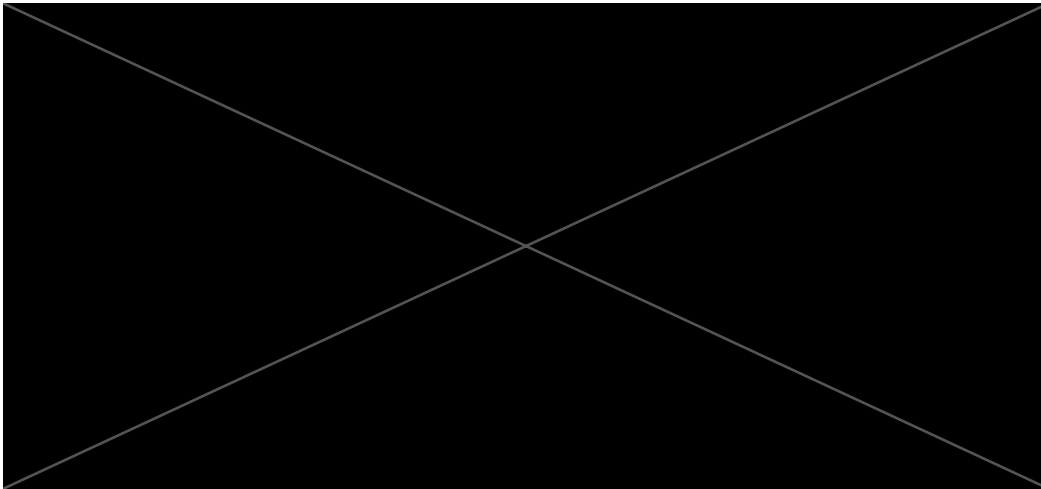
# Names of Persons Involved in Operation of the Election

## **Election Workers**

The election workers at the polling stations and during the counting in the counting office of the committee elections can be found in the report of the General Election Committee of the University of Potsdam.

## **Counting Assistants**

The Student Elections Committee was assisted in counting the votes on June 24, 2022 by:



Potsdam, June 30, 2022

**Student Election Committee 2022**

 (Chairman)

 (Dep. Chairman)







