



SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY

SEKUSA'S ELECTORAL CODE OF CONDUCT

The following Regulations of SEKUSA Elections 2026/2027 are hereby made with respect to the South Eastern Kenya University Statutes, the Students Handbook, and the SEKUSA Constitution.

PART I: PRELIMINARY

Title

1. This Code of Conduct may be cited as the **SEKUSA Electoral Code of Conduct, 2026**.
2. This Code shall be subscribed to by:
 - (a) All candidates duly nominated and elected under the provisions of the SEKUSA Electoral Rules; and
 - (b) All agents involved with the electoral process.
3. All candidates, their supporters, and agents shall abide by this Code.

Interpretation

4. In this Code of Conduct, unless the context otherwise requires:
 - **“Campaign material”** means a candidate’s manifestos, fliers, posters, and any other material with a candidate’s symbols or pictures used in connection with the SEKUSA election.
 - **“Campaign period”** means such period as will be determined by the Electoral Committee.
 - **“Candidate”** means a person duly nominated and cleared as a candidate for the SEKUSA elections by the Electoral Committee.

PART II: CODE OF CONDUCT

Rights of Candidates

5. A candidate has the right to:
- (a) Vie for any position he or she wishes in the SEKUSA elections;
 - (b) Express his or her opinions, provided such opinions are within the confines of the SEKUSA Constitution and any other written law;
 - (c) Debate and contest the manifestos of other candidates;
 - (d) Campaign freely within the confines of the SEKUSA Constitution, the SEKUSA Electoral Rules and Regulations, SEKU Statutes, and University Student Rules and Regulations;
 - (e) Virtually distribute non-offensive electoral literature and campaign materials;
 - (f) Co-operate with the Committee and other relevant authorities in the investigation of matters and/or allegations arising during the election period.

Duties of Candidates

6. All candidates commit themselves to:
- (a) Adhere to the values and principles of the SEKUSA Constitution;
 - (b) Condemn, avoid, and take steps to prevent violence and intimidation;
 - (c) Promote gender equality;
 - (d) Promote ethnic tolerance; and
 - (e) Promote cultural diversity.

Campaign Period

7. The campaign period shall commence and close on such date as the Electoral Committee may determine.

Duties and Responsibilities

8. All those bound by this Code shall, throughout the election period:

- (a) Campaign in a fair, truthful, free, and transparent manner;
- (b) Avoid, condemn, and prevent violence, intimidation, abusive language, or words that may disparage his or her opponents;
- (c) Instruct his or her agents, supporters, and campaigning teams to respect the rules and regulations governing these elections;
- (d) Respect and affirm the rights of all participants and supporters of opponents in the elections to:
 - i. Express divergent political opinions;
 - ii. Debate and contest the manifestos of other candidates in a positive, objective, and lawful manner; and
 - iii. Campaign freely for support and votes.
- (e) Abide by and respect the Statutes and other regulations of South Eastern Kenya University when holding public meetings and conducting campaigns;
- (f) Refrain from distributing offensive electoral literature and campaign materials;
- (g) Avoid erecting banners, placards, or posters in any area;
- (h) Promote free and fair campaigns by all lawful means;
- (i) Avoid corrupt practices such as bribing voters, manipulating documents or individual voters, or offering any inducement or reward to voters;
- (j) Avoid accepting external donations for purposes of influencing the conduct of elections;
- (k) Respect the sanctity of polling by avoiding offering money or presents at polling centres;
- (l) Refrain from infringing on the rights of other candidates, their campaigners, or representatives;
- (m) Avoid plagiarizing the symbols, colours, slogans, or acronyms of other candidates' posters;
- (n) Refrain from publishing or repeating false, defamatory, or inflammatory allegations concerning any person involved in the elections with a view to defaming or disparaging such a person;



- (o) Refrain from any attempts to abuse a position of power, privilege, or influence for political purposes, including any offer of reward or threat, or refusal to abide by the penalty imposed by the Electoral Committee;
- (p) Avoid all forms of discrimination;
- (q) Uphold all national values and ethos as espoused in the Constitution of Kenya, 2010;
- (r) In relation to the Electoral Committee:
 - i. Acknowledge the authority of the Committee in the conduct of the election;
 - ii. Ensure attendance at meetings convened by the Committee;
 - iii. Implement the orders and directions of the Committee;
 - iv. Facilitate the Committee's right of access through its officials to all public campaign meetings or other electoral activities;
 - v. Respect and honour any penalties imposed by the Electoral Committee; and
 - vi. Take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of all officials of the Committee from exposure to insult, hazard, or threat in the course of their official duties.
- (s) Take responsible steps to discipline, stop, and control his/her agents and/or supporters from infringing this Code.
- (t) Without prejudice to the right to present a petition to the Appeals Committee, accept the final outcome of the election and the Appeals Committee's declaration and certification of the results thereof.

General Offences

9. A candidate shall not:

- (a) Cause violence, use any language, or engage in any conduct which leads or is likely to lead to violence or intimidation during an election period;
- (b) Carry or display arms or weapons, traditional or otherwise, of any kind at campaign meetings;
- (c) Make false, defamatory, or inflammatory allegations concerning any candidate or any other person in connection with this election;



- (d) Arrange a campaign meeting or rally at the same time and venue as another similar event organized by another candidate;
- (e) Prevent voters from accessing voting premises or interfere with the election process;
- (f) Plagiarize the symbols, colours, slogans, or acronyms of other candidates;
- (g) Deface, remove, or destroy any campaign materials of any candidate or publication of the Electoral Committee;
- (h) Offer any inducement, reward, or bribe to any person in consideration of such person:
 - i. Joining or not joining any camp;
 - ii. Attending or not attending any election or campaign event;
 - iii. Voting or not voting;
 - iv. Accepting, refusing, or withdrawing that person's nomination as a candidate in an election;
- (v) Abuse or attempt to abuse a position of power, privilege, or influence, including any offer of reward or the issuance of a threat;
- (vi) Propagate any opinion or action which is prejudicial to:
 - i. The wellbeing, integrity, or security of the University; or
 - ii. The maintenance of public order.
- (m) Discriminate against any person in any way; and
- (n) Carry any statue, caricature, or anything which tends to ridicule, revile, or scandalize any candidate at any gathering or meeting.

The Enforcement of the Electoral Code of Conduct

10. The Electoral Committee shall ensure enforcement of this Code of Conduct.

11. Every candidate, official, and agent shall:

- (i) Acknowledge the authority of the Committee to enforce the provisions of this Code;
- (ii) Ensure compliance with summons issued to the candidates by the Committee;



(iii) Co-operate in the official investigation of issues and allegations arising during the election period; and

(iv) Respect and comply with the orders issued by the Committee.

12. The Committee shall issue summons to any person against whom a complaint has been received as having infringed the provisions of this Code, and any other person whom the Committee has reason to believe has infringed the provisions of this Code, to attend its meetings.

13. In its proceedings, the Committee may interrogate and/or accept written submissions from the person(s) summoned.

14. Any person who is summoned by the Committee and attends its meetings shall be accorded the right to be heard.

15. The Committee shall exercise the powers provided under this Code to punish any person found to have infringed this Code.

16. The Committee shall deliver its verdict expeditiously and inform the parties of its decision.

17. Where, in the opinion of the Electoral Committee, and upon presentation of sufficient evidence, a candidate or his/her supporters or agents have contravened any of the provisions of the Electoral Rules and Regulations or the SEKUSA Constitution, the candidate shall be liable to the following penalties:

(a) Disqualification from the elections;

(b) Formal warning;

(c) Being barred from holding any meetings, campaigns, or otherwise meeting with voters during the election period;

(d) Being barred from participating in any one or more future SEKUSA elections; and

(e) Recommendation of disciplinary action by the University.

Application

18. This Code shall apply from the date of publication of a notice of election until the swearing-in of newly elected officials.

Breach

19. Any person may complain to the Committee about the breach of this Code.



Signed:



Date: 18th September, 2026

Prof. Augustus Wali
Chairperson, SEKUSA Electoral Committee, 2026/2027



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