

RULES AND REGULATIONS TO CONDUCT THE ELECTIONS OF THE STUDENT'S UNION OF GMCH

Upholding the decision by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to conduct the elections of the Students Union considering the guidelines framed by the Lyngdoh Committee in 2009, the Gauhati Medical College administration lays down the following rules and regulations to conduct the elections of the Gauhati Medical College Students Union (GMCSU):

- Gauhati Medical College considers student representation being essential to the overall development of students and therefore, it recommends that institution statutes shall expressly provide for student representation.
- The College authorities recommend a system of direct elections of the office bearers of the student body whereby all students of the college shall vote directly for the office bearers.
- Where the atmosphere of the institution campus is adverse to the conduct of peaceful, free and fair elections, the institution shall initiate a system of student representation based on nominations. It is to be noted that the nomination system suffers from several flaws, and must only be resorted to as an interim measure.
- The College administration strictly recommends disassociation of student elections and student representation from political parties.
- During the period of the elections no person, who is not a student on the rolls of the college, shall be permitted to take any part in the election process in any capacity. Any person, candidate, or member of the student organisation, violating this rule shall be subject to disciplinary proceedings in addition to the candidature, as the case may be, being revoked.
- The College administration recommends that the entire process of elections, commencing from the date of filing of nomination papers to the date of declaration of results, including the campaign period, shall not exceed 10 (Ten) days. The administration further recommends that elections be held on a yearly basis and the same should be held within 8 weeks from the date of commencement of the academic session.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR CANDIDATES:

- Under graduate students between the ages of 17 and 25 may contest elections.
- The College administration refrains from prescribing any particular minimum marks to be attained by the candidate, the candidate should in no event have any academic arrears in the year of contesting the election.
- The candidate contesting for the portfolio of President, Vice-President and General Secretary must have cleared the second MBBS final examination.
- The candidate must have attained the minimum percentage of attendance (i.e. 75%) in all subjects of his/her current academic year. The candidate shall have two opportunities to contest the election for any post of office bearer in the student's union.

- The candidate shall not have a previous criminal record, that is to say he/she shouldn't have been tried or convicted of any criminal offence or misdemeanour. The candidate shall also not have been subject to any disciplinary action by the college authority.
- Relevant documents supporting the attendance, current college and hostel clearance certificates, marksheets etc. as suggested by the Returning Officer have to be submitted along with the nomination paper by each candidate in a sealed envelope addressed to the Returning Officer.

ELECTION RELATED EXPENDITURE AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

- The maximum permitted expenditure per candidate shall be Rs.5000/- (Five thousand). The nomination of the candidate will be nullified in the event of any non-compliance or in the event of any excessive expenditure. Each candidate shall within two weeks of the declaration of the result, submit complete and audited accounts of the expenditures to the college authorities.
- With the view to prevent the inflow of funds from political parties into the student election process, the candidates are specially barred from utilizing funds from any other source than voluntary contributions from the student body.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CANDIDATES AND ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATORS

- No candidate shall indulge in, nor shall abet, any activity, which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between castes and communities, religious or linguistic, or between any group(s) of students.
- Criticism of other candidates, when made, shall be confined to their policies and programs, past record and work. Candidates shall refrain from criticism of all aspects of private life and of facts based on unverified allegations or distortions.
- There shall be no appeal to caste or communal feelings for securing votes. Places of worship, within or outside the campus shall not be used for election propaganda.
- All candidates shall be prohibited from indulging or abetting, all activities which are considered to be "CORRUPT PRACTICES" and offences, such as bribing of voters (in cash or kind or distributing freebies in any form etc.), Intimidation of voters, impersonation of voters, canvassing or the use of propaganda within 100 metres of polling stations, holding public meetings during the period of 24hrs ending with the hour fixed for the close of the poll, and the transport and conveyance of voters to and from the polling station.
- No candidate shall be permitted to make use of printed posters, printed pamphlets or any other printed material for the purpose of canvassing. Candidates may only utilize hand-made posters, provided that such hand-made posters are procured within the expenditure limit set out herein above.
- No candidate shall be permitted to carry out processions, or public meetings, or in any way canvass or distribute propaganda outside the college campus. During the election period the candidates may hold processions and/or public meetings, provided that such processions and/or public meetings do not, in any manner, disturb the classes and other academic or co-curricular activities of the college. The use of loudspeakers, vehicles and animals for the purpose of canvassing shall be prohibited.

- On the day of polling, student organisations and candidates shall:
 - ▶ Co-operate with the officers on election duty to ensure peaceful and orderly polling and complete freedom to voters to exercise their franchise without being subjected to any annoyance or obstruction.
 - ▶ Not serve or distribute any eatables, or other solid and liquid consumables, except water on polling day or hand out any propaganda on the polling day.
 - ▶ Except the voters, no one without a valid pass/ letter of authority from the college authorities shall enter the polling booths.
 - The College authorities shall appoint impartial observers. If the candidates have any specific complaint or problem regarding the conduct of the elections they may bring the same to the notice of the observer.
 - All candidates shall be jointly responsible for ensuring the cleaning up of the polling area within 48hrs of the conclusion of polling.
 - Any contravention of any of the above recommendations may make the candidate liable to be stripped of his/her candidature. The college authorities may also take appropriate disciplinary action against such a violator.
 - In addition to the above mentioned code of conduct, it is also recommended that certain provisions of the IPC 1860 (section 153-A and chapter IX-A – “offences relating to election”), may be applicable to student elections.

PROCEDURE OF CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS

- The College authorities shall notify in advance the schedule for the elections which includes issue of nomination papers, submission of nomination papers, scrutiny of nomination papers, last date of withdrawal of nomination papers, elections (counting of votes & declaration of results) and oath taking of elected office bearers of the union.
- The Principal, Gauhati Medical College shall appoint a Returning Officer under whom the whole process of the election shall be conducted. The Principal, Gauhati Medical College recommends the Returning Officer to recruit additional officers for the smooth conduct of the elections.
- A nominal fee of Rs.1000/- (One Thousand) only shall be collected for the issue of the nomination paper. However, the nomination fee is subjected to change at the discretion of the Principal, Gauhati Medical College if he/she feels necessary with proper justification.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- The Gauhati Medical College has a Grievances Redressal Cell with the Principal as its chairman. This cell shall be mandated with the Redressal of election-related grievance including breaches of the code of conduct of elections. This cell fully abides by the guidelines laid down by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.
- The Gauhati Medical College authorities shall organize leadership-training programs so as to groom and instill in students' leadership qualities.
- In the event of the office of any major post of office bearers like the President and the General Secretary falling vacant within two months of elections, re-elections shall be conducted; otherwise the Vice President shall be promoted to the post of President and Asst. General Secretary to the post of Secretary, as the case may be.

IT MAY BE MENTIONED THAT APART FROM THE ABOVE MENTIONED RULES AND REGULATIONS, ANY ISSUE RELATED TO THE FORMATION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE STUDENTS UNION WILL BE STRICTLY ADDRESSED AS PER THE GUIDELINES LAID DOWN BY THE LYNGDOH COMMITTEE, 2009 WHICH IS RECOGNISED AS GOLD STANDARD BY THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF INDIA AND THE HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA.

SD/-

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