



## **Covenant Elections 2023**

Drawn up by

Fractie Front

Fractie SAM

Fractie Stimulus

Vrijspraak, student party of Magister JFT

Student Party ECCO

Active TLS

Active TiSEM

Active TSB

Active TSHD

### Fractie Front



Representative: Marinka Hack

22 – 3 – 2023

Date

### Fractie SAM



Representative: Joost Lammers

22 – 3 – 2023

Date

### Fractie Stimulus



Representative: Naomi de Leng

22 – 3 – 2023

Date

### Vrijspraak, student party of Magister JFT



Representative: Erna Habibija

22 – 3 – 2023

Date

### Student Party ECCO



Representative: Monika Gryzwacz

22 – 3 – 2023

Date



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TiSEM



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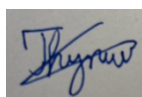
TSB



Active

TSHD

### Active TLS



Representative: Thijn van Wijchen

22 – 3 – 2023

Date

### Active TiSEM



Representative: Ilja Bolwerk

22 – 3 – 2023

Date

### Active TSB



Representative: Nayomi Latulola

22 – 3 – 2023

Date

### Active TSHD



Representative: Vonne Grijpma

22 – 3 – 2023

Date



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## Provisions of the covenant

### Article 1. Definitions

Paragraph 1. The terms used in this document shall have the meanings assigned to them by this Regulation.

Paragraph 2. For the purpose of these Regulations, the following definitions shall also apply:

- a. University Council: The University Council as referred to in Article 28 of the Structure regulation of Tilburg University.
- b. Parties: The student parties with a seat on the University Council as well as the student parties with a seat on the Faculty Councils of Tilburg University for the academic year 2022-2023. This article also includes any future student parties participating in the elections.
- c. Voters: That part of the electoral community, namely the student section of Tilburg University as referred to in Article 1.2, paragraph 2, under b of the 2007 Electoral Regulations.
- d. Tilburg University Campus: The territory as referred to in the Articles of Association of the Catholic University Brabant Foundation.
- e. Participation elections: The annual elections on the campus of Tilburg University, which aims to appoint new members of the student parties of the University Council and the Faculty Councils.
- f. Campaigning: Giving those entitled to vote substantive information about the elections of the various councils, their election points and other relevant information about elections to the various councils for the promotion of the student party.
- g. Voting methods: Voting takes place by electronically filling in and sending the voting form in the newly developed voting application.
- h. Recruitment of votes: The persons exclusively entitled to collect and process votes for the purpose of the Participation Election in the manner described under g by means of electronic devices as described under k.



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- i. Passive promotion: Promoting a party by means of impersonal promotion, namely through published texts, images and media files without coming into direct contact with the public. Among others via posters, signs, stickers, magazines, leaflets. Within this form of promotion, there is no direct contact between a representative of a student party and those entitled to vote.
- j. Active promotion: The promotion of a student party by means of personal promotion, namely through personal contact between a representative of a student party and those entitled to vote.
- k. Electronic devices: Computers, laptops, magnetic data carriers, mobile phones, smartphones, tablets and other mobile digital electronic devices.
- l. Campaigners: Everyone who is actively recruiting votes.
- m. Campaign period. Starting at the external list announcement until the first day of the elections.
- n. Elections: The three days, referred to in Article 2 of this covenant.

## Article 2. Election period participation elections

The 2023 participation elections for student parties will start on Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 at 09.00 and shall end on Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 at 16.00, as defined in accordance with Article 6.3 of the Electoral Regulations 2007.

## Article 3. Attitude student parties

Paragraph 1. At all times, the student parties shall ensure the safeguarding of:

- a. The principle of loyalty;
- b. The secrecy of elections;
- c. Providing clear and adequate information to those entitled to vote;
- d. Independence of the student parties from third parties;
- e. Bearable elections for all parties involved;
- f. Prevention of obstructive behavior during campaigning and polling;
- g. A positive attitude towards other parties.



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Paragraph 2. All of the above for the sake of the legitimacy of the student representation at Tilburg University, the continuation of the cooperation between the student parties and the benevolence to hold bearable participation elections on campus.

#### Article 4. Loyalty and cooperation

Paragraph 1. In accordance with the principle of loyal cooperation, all concerned parties shall respect each other and support each other in the performance of the tasks set out in this Code of Conduct.

Paragraph 2. In concrete terms, the Faculty Council parties agree not to conduct a campaign or indulge in promotion within a radius of ten meters around a fixed campaign point. Fixed campaign points that will be used in most of the cases are stalls on the campus. When determining the fixed campaign point, the entrances of buildings will be taken into account. The radius around a campaign point may therefore never block the entrance of a building. The university Council parties agree not to conduct a campaign in the radius as determined by the university for each party.

#### Article 5. Electoral terrain

Paragraph 1. The campaigns and elections will be held 'hybrid'. Promotion and campaigning will be done both online and offline. Online promotion and campaigning entails promotion via the website, live streams and social media. This includes, but is explicitly not limited to, platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter and YouTube.

Paragraph 2. Offline promotion and campaigning include the use of physical election posters, flyers, and other promotional material on and off-campus. Furthermore, campaigners are allowed to be present on campus, as defined in accordance with articles 10 and 11 of this covenant.

Paragraph 3. In Appendix A an overview can be found of assigned areas for parties to promote and campaign during election days.



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## Article 6. (Potential) voters privacy and harassment

- Paragraph 1. When contacting (potential) voters, parties should consider the privacy of this group. This means that for every message sent to (potential) voters via social media as described in Article 1, the sender of this message should include a disclaimer about where the sender got the contact details from the recipient of this message from. The disclaimer does not have to be included when the messenger had contact with the (potential) voters via WhatsApp, as described in Article 1, between the start of the academic year (29<sup>th</sup> August 2022) and the first covenant meeting (1<sup>st</sup> February 2023). This is the one and only exception.
- Paragraph 2. Parties should take precautions to prevent (potential) voters from getting overloaded with messages by different members for each party.

## Article 7. Campaign

- Paragraph 1. The student parties are allowed to campaign in the period prior to the participation elections, except previous exceptions in other provisions of this Covenant.
- Paragraph 2. As an exception to paragraph 1 of this article, student parties shall not be permitted to indulge in active or passive campaigning or promotion outside the electoral terrain during the election period. Exceptions can only be made after agreement and signature by all concerned student parties and, where appropriate, by the parties and other concerned parties.

## Article 8. Content of campaign days

- Paragraph 1. The student parties have agreed that the elections must be content oriented. To this end, each student party may organize content-oriented campaign days.
- Paragraph 2. During these content-oriented campaign days, each party is able to give substantive information on the elections, focus points per student party, the



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covenant and other relevant information which serves as a clarification of the character and personality of the student parties.

Paragraph 3. The number of substantive campaign days organized per student party is as follows: up to two (2) weekdays and within a period of two weeks for the start of the co-determination elections. In the week of the elections, the days before the elections are excluded from the possibilities. To prevent crowding on campus, the before mentioned dates are divided among parties via a time slot schedule. This can be found in Appendix B.

Paragraph 4. Exceptions to this article are only made in accordance with and with the signature of the student parties concerned.

#### Article 9. Accountability and accessibility

During the election period, each student party that is competing for seats on the Faculty Council or University Council has the task of accounting for his/her views. Each student party ensures that campaigners are available for questions from the student.

#### Article 10. Campaigners

Paragraph 1. Parties are not allowed to have more campaigners on campus than what is considered necessary. This means that the people allowed to campaign and promote on campus are limited to:

- a. (Candidate) board members;
- b. (Candidate) faculty council members;
- c. University council members;
- d. List pushers;
- e. Buddies.

Paragraph 2. Due to the length of election lists a distinction is made between the maximum number of people the University Council parties and Faculty Council parties are allowed to have on campus. This translates to the following maximum numbers:





- a. For University Council parties the maximum is set to 48 people;
- b. For TiSEM faculty parties the maximum is set to 12 people;
- c. For TSB faculty parties the maximum is set to 12 people;
- d. For TSHD faculty parties the maximum is set to 10 people;
- e. For TLS faculty parties the maximum is set to 13 people.

Paragraph 3. Within the set maximum for people allowed on campus as in paragraph 2, persons are interchangeable. This means that parties are free to place anyone, as mentioned in paragraph 1, on campus within this set maximum.

#### Article 11. Right to recruit votes

Paragraph 1. During the election period, persons that are allowed to recruit votes in the participation elections using electronic devices are limited to the persons mentioned in article 10 paragraph 1:

- a. For University Council parties, buddies as mentioned in sub e of paragraph 1, are excluded from using electronic devices. The only exception to this is when a buddy substitutes for one of the one of the people mentioned in sub a to d;
- b. For Faculty Council parties, buddies as mentioned in sub e of paragraph 1 are allowed to make use of electronic devices.

Paragraph 2. For each party a maximum is set on the number of electronic devices that can be used at the same time on campus.

- a. For University Council parties, this maximum is set to 15;
- b. For Faculty Council parties, this maximum is equal to the total number of people allowed on campus.

#### Article 12. Individually attached electronic devices

Paragraph 1. The electronic devices used by exclusively entitled parties for the recruitment of votes during the participation elections must be made known as such and are to be verifiable at all times as to whether they are individually attached.



Paragraph 2. All electronic devices should have a sticker of the respective student party at a visible point for students to improve clarity for students. Stickers should be distinguishable for each party and dedicated to use during the elections.

Paragraph 3. Concerning privacy reasons and government regulations, each party should periodically (at least daily) clear all cookies from the used electronic device.

Paragraph 4. Parties are able to make use of QR-codes that allow (potential) voters to scan this code and vote from their own phones.

### Article 13. Proof of use of voting rights

Paragraph 1. The student parties will, after collecting a vote, hand out a so-called ‘voting wristband’ to the person entitled to vote so that the student can show that he/she exercised his/her voting right.

Paragraph 2. In addition, students who do not wish to vote or wish to vote blank may receive a voting wristband.

Paragraph 3. There will be different voting wristbands made available for the faculty councils, so that the difference may be clear and unnecessary approaches may be diminished.

- a. Before a voting wristband is handed out, the student in question will be given an explanation of what there is to be voted for if they wish.
- b. All student parties are expected to exercise restraint in distributing these voting wristbands.

Paragraph 4. A maximum of one (1) wristband per council (University Council, Faculty Council) will be awarded per student.

### Article 14. Electoral cooperation

Paragraph 1. It is not allowed for one student party to use resources for the benefit of another student party. This includes financial resources, as well as (online) promotion through official channels and paired networks. The previous is by



no means restrictive enumeration, parties involved are expected to constantly behave in the spirit of this provision, being: to prevent an unfair competition.

Paragraph 2. There is one exception: the launch of the initiative, being: the establishment of a new student party from an already existing party with:

- a. A clear explanation of the initiative;
- b. Clear substantiation as to why it is an improvement of student participation;
- c. The candidates;
- d. A clear vision that ties in with the founding party initiating it;
- e. A time limit of one year for all former.

The launch will consist of one (1) post on each social media channel of which can be promoted for a maximum of two (2) days, within the boundaries of reasonable sense. This rule applies only the first year after initiation.

Paragraph 3. In addition, it is not allowed for candidates to form direct electoral connections with other individuals when both representing different student parties.

Paragraph 4. Parties and their candidates agree that their election strategy and activities are aimed at bringing their own programs and candidates into the limelight. By doing so, parties wish to avoid making improper use of contacts and/or resources that cannot be directly traced back to their own programs or candidates. All parties underscore the importance of free, fair and secret elections.

#### Article 15. Publication of election program

Paragraph 1. The university council parties make annual agreements regarding the publication of the election programs.

Paragraph 2. These agreements must be recorded at least 1 month before the start of the elections.



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### Article 16. Election page

- Paragraph 1. An election page prior to the voting from in the voting application on the Tilburg University's website will be introduced, within which student parties are offered the opportunity to develop a content-related provision of information to eligible voters in relation to the participation elections.
- Paragraph 2. On this election page, the core agreements in this covenant shall also be published in order to make the covenant known and publicized to those entitled to vote.

### Article 17. Noise pollution on the campus

- Paragraph 1. The student parties, in particular the university council parties, shall make annual agreements about playing music on campus.
- Paragraph 2. In addition, the use of megaphones is prohibited.

### Article 18. Sustainability

All parties have expressed their concerns about sustainability during the elections. All parties have agreed to make an effort to make the elections more sustainable in the following ways:

- a. The reduce of usage of single-use items;
- b. To refrain from using flyers. Flyers are only allowed to be handed out at the stands of each party.

### Article 19. Joint information session

The briefing committee will hold a joint information session on behalf of the student parties, where the participation elections and the Covenant are explained extensively. Candidate party members should be present if possible. List pushers and campaign supporters will be invited without obligation. During this information session, use is made of politically uncoloured information. It is the responsibility of the current party members that the importance of this session is conveyed to their candidates and others involved. If for a legitimate reason anyone involved in the elections is not able to attend this meeting, it is the responsibility of the respective student party to timely and extensively convey the information discussed.



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## Article 20. Publicity Covenant

The Covenant will be made known in the following ways prior to and during the elections:

- a. On the websites of the student parties;
- b. On the election page prior to the voting form in the voting application on the internet page of Tilburg University;
- c. In the election mails sent to those entitled to vote;
- d. In mails to student boards in Tilburg;
- e. Via word of mouth;
- f. Mailed to everyone allowed to promote and/or campaigning according to this covenant;
- g. In other ways, after consultation.

## Article 21. Declaration of intent

Parties agree on maintaining and creating an honest, factual and clear environment surrounding the elections. Parties will not engage in any activities that could be harmful to other parties. Furthermore, parties will treat each other with respect.

## Article 22. Withheld disclosure procedure realization covenant

The student parties will refrain from any propaganda or publication relating to individual input from persons, parties, organizations and/or other capacities provided in the establishment, negotiation and definition of the Covenant.

## Article 23. Election manager per student party

Each participating student party shall provide a person who bears the responsibility for the elections of that party. Communication between student parties will initially always be through these persons. The election managers for the 2023 participation elections are as follows:

- Fractie Front: Marinka Hack
- Fractie SAM: Joost Lammers
- Fractie Stimulus: Maxine Große
- Active TSHD: Vonne Grijpma
- Active TLS: Thijn van Wijchen
- ECCO: Monika Gryzwacz
- Vrijspraak, student party of Magister JFT: Erna Habibija
- Active TSB: Nayomi Latulola



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- Active TiSEM: Ilja Bolwerk

#### Article 24. Disputes Committee

Each participating student party shall provide a person to take a seat in the Disputes Committee. This committee decides on disputes that arise during the campaigning period and the elections. The conduct of this committee is further defined in the Guidelines Disputes Committee (Appendix C).



## Appendix A. Campus division



Place	Party
1	Active TiSEM
2	ECCO
3	SAM
4	Front
6	Active TSHD
7	Stimulus
10	Vrijspraak
11	Active TLS
12	Active TSB



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TSB



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TSHD





Figure 1: Front stunts



Figure 2: SAM stunts





## Appendix B. Campaign days schedule

	Party						
Date	Front	SAM	ECCO	Stimulus	Vrijspraak	Active TLS	
27-3							
28-3							
29-3							
30-3							
31-3							
3-4							
4-4							
5-4							
6-4							
7-4							

## Appendix C. Disputes Committee

If a student who comes out on behalf of a group affiliated to Tilburg University violates one of the provisions of the covenant for the participation elections, the following procedure will be followed to prevent future violation.

There are three different degrees of violations that apply during the elections:

- Degree 1: Mild violation
- Degree 2: Serious violation
- Degree 3: Violation of the law

In principle, the first offence is accompanied by a warning and the person concerned is addressed by the group to which he/she belongs or by someone from the Disputes Committee. In the event of further violations, the overview drawn up by the Disputes Committee will be taken into account. Following this overview and consultation with the Disputes Committee, a sanction will be given. If a member of the Disputes Committee is unable to be present, this member can express his/her opinion so that the members of the Disputes Committee present are aware of his/her point of view. The opinion of the offending person's student party must be present in person as a member during the sanction talk/conversation. A measure requires at least a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority vote in favor. The criteria for reporting an infringement are as follows:

- At least three witnesses or;
- A witness of the Disputes Committee or;
- Visual material.



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