

Election and voting regulations of the student organization VERSO at Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK)

This document is the english translation of the document «VERSO Wahl- und Abstimmungsreglement» and is not legally valid.

A Fundamentals

§1 General

¹ These regulations govern all matters relating to elections and voting within the student organization VERSO.

² The legal basis for these regulations is the Rules of Procedure of the VERSO student organization, as well as the Rules of Procedure of the VERSO student organization of all five departments of the ZHdK (§12,13).

B Elections

§2 Terms of office

¹ Elected persons shall generally hold office until they resign, withdraw from the university, or are voted out, unless the VERSO DEP stipulates otherwise in its Rules of Procedure. VERSO may define exceptions for individual positions.

§3 Announcements

¹ In the event of a vacancy, the position and the meeting at which the election will take place is to be advertised to eligible persons with sufficient notice in advance.¹

A standardized procedure is prescribed for seats on the Student Council, which is attached to these regulations.

§4 Candidacies

¹ All eligible persons may stand as candidates until the second ballot. No further candidacies are permitted from the third ballot onwards.

§5 Election

¹ In principle, the candidate who achieves an absolute majority is elected. The absolute majority is calculated from the next higher whole number of the number of eligible voters present divided by two.² If not all seats are filled in an election, further rounds of voting may be held. Anyone who receives no votes or the fewest votes from the third ballot onwards is eliminated from the election, unless one or more candidates receive the same number of votes or someone is elected.

³ If the same result is achieved in three consecutive ballots, the vacant seats remain vacant.

¹ N.B.: This rule does not automatically apply to self-constituting units. A vacancy in the co-presidency of VERSO does not have to be advertised to all students; instead, the seat on the Student Council is filled by the respective department. The Student Council then constitutes itself on the basis of its own composition.

⁴ If, after the third ballot, there is only one candidate remaining and that candidate does not achieve an absolute majority, the seat remains vacant.

⁵ If more than one seat is to be filled, a joint election shall be held. Each voter shall have as many votes as there are seats to be filled. For each candidate, only one vote may be cast.

⁶ If several candidates achieve an absolute majority, the number of votes shall decide.

⁷ If several candidates achieve an absolute majority with the same result, a runoff election shall be held. In runoff elections, a simple majority shall apply, and in the event of a tie, the decision shall be made by lot.

⁸ Further ballots shall be held for the remaining seats.

§6 Form

¹ Voting takes place by raising one's hand.

² All persons entitled to vote may request a secret ballot.

³ Candidates must leave the meeting room during the vote. If they are eligible to vote, they must inform the secretariat of their vote. If there is only one candidate for a position who is already a member of the electing body, the chair of the meeting may decide to keep the candidate in the meeting room by asking for active opposition.

§7 Non-election or special case

¹ If a position is not filled, the seat shall be advertised again, and the election shall take place at the next meeting. The position shall be advertised until the mandate is filled.

§8 Resignation

¹ In the event of the resignation or de-registration of an elected representative, by-elections shall be scheduled.

§9 Motion of no confidence and vote of no confidence

¹ All students may submit motions of no confidence against individual elected representatives of VERSO and VERSO DEP. A motion of no confidence at the VERSO DEP level must be submitted by at least seven students from the department by written request to the board. A motion of no confidence against a member of the Student Council or the Semester Council must be submitted to the respective body by at least seven students, at least two of whom must be members of the respective body. If this is not possible due to the political situation (e.g., if it concerns the chair of the meeting), the other body may be entrusted with this task. The person concerned must be informed 48 hours before the meeting at which the motion of no confidence is to be dealt with. Motions of no confidence do not have to be constructive.²

² The motion is dealt with at the meeting; the proposers and any persons proposed as successors are invited as guests. The vote of no confidence takes the form of a vote of no confidence and may be held by secret ballot. The vote of no confidence requires a two-thirds majority. The two-thirds majority is the rounded whole number of two-thirds of those present and entitled to vote.

² This means that they do not have to appoint a successor.

³ Those affected have the right to be heard.

⁴ Dismissals take place before the elections.

C Voting

§10 Mode

¹ All motions must be put to a vote. Coequal motions, motions of change, or sub-motions shall be put to a vote side by side, with all voters having only one vote each. Sub-motions shall be put to a vote before the motions of change, and the motions of change before the main motion. All motions require an absolute majority.

² If amendments or sub-amendments have been made, or if two motions of equal rank have been put to the vote, the final motion must be put to a final vote.

§11 Form

¹ Voting takes place by raising one's hand.

² The chair of the meeting may propose that formal resolutions³ be carried out with active opposition. However, participants may request a vote by a show of hands.

³ All those eligible to vote may request a secret ballot.

§12 Majorities

¹ In principle, a simple majority is required for motions. A simple majority of valid votes shall decide. Abstentions shall not be taken into account. In the event of a tie, the Presidium or the Co-Chair of the Semester Council shall decide.

² Motions to amend the Rules of Procedure require an absolute majority. The absolute majority is calculated as the next higher whole number of the number of voting members present divided by two.

³ A two-thirds majority is required for motions to amend the Rules of Procedure and the Statutes of the Association VSZHdK. The two-thirds majority is the rounded whole number of two-thirds of those present and eligible to vote.

D Final provisions

These regulations were discussed by the Student Council (StR 111) on August 24, 2023, and approved by the Semester Council (SR 29) on October 19, 2023. They shall enter into force on October 19, 2023.

The Co-Presidency of VERSO

Jonas Bernetta

Laura Gubler

³ For example, approval of the agenda, approval of the minutes, or other decisions that are unlikely to be contested.

Appendix 1 – Procedure for the election of Student Council members

Procedure

¹ A position on the Student Council becomes vacant. The relevant VERSO department convenes a student assembly with a minimum of four weeks between the announcement of the vacant position and the election at the StV.

² The position is advertised by email to all students in the department by the relevant department using a standard advertisement text (other communication channels are optional). VERSO DEP sets a deadline for the acceptance of applications; this should generally be approximately two weeks before the election date.

³ Applications are submitted by email to the relevant VERSO department, stating the applicant's name, pronouns, degree program, semester, and interest in VERSO (see advertisement text below).

⁴ The VERSO department communicates the candidacies to the students of the relevant department by inviting them to the student assembly and sending the agenda by email.

⁵ At the student assembly, all candidates are given the opportunity to introduce themselves and their positions. They are then elected in accordance with the election regulations. If no election regulations are in place, an absolute majority is required for a person to be elected to the Student Council. If several people achieve an absolute majority, a runoff election will decide the outcome.

Announcement text

Subject: Call for applications for a seat on the VERSO student council

**Disclaimer for non-German speakers: We are looking for someone to represent the Department [DEPARTMENT] on the VERSO student council. This office requires good German skills, so we apologize deeply for only advertising it in German.*

Dear students of [DEPARTMENT]

We are looking for a committed student to represent the Department [DEPARTMENT] at the university level on the VERSO Student Council as of [DATE].

VERSO is the student organization at Zurich University of the Arts. We represent the rights and interests of all ZHdK students in a wide range of areas relating to university administration and policy. The VERSO Student Council consists of two representatives from each department, meaning that a total of 10 students make up the VERSO Student Council.

The student who takes on the role of student representative on the VERSO Student Council represents all ZHdK students in dealings with the university. The workload amounts to approximately 15% of a full-time position and is compensated on an hourly basis.

If you are interested in this position, please contact [EMAIL] by [DATE] with the following information:

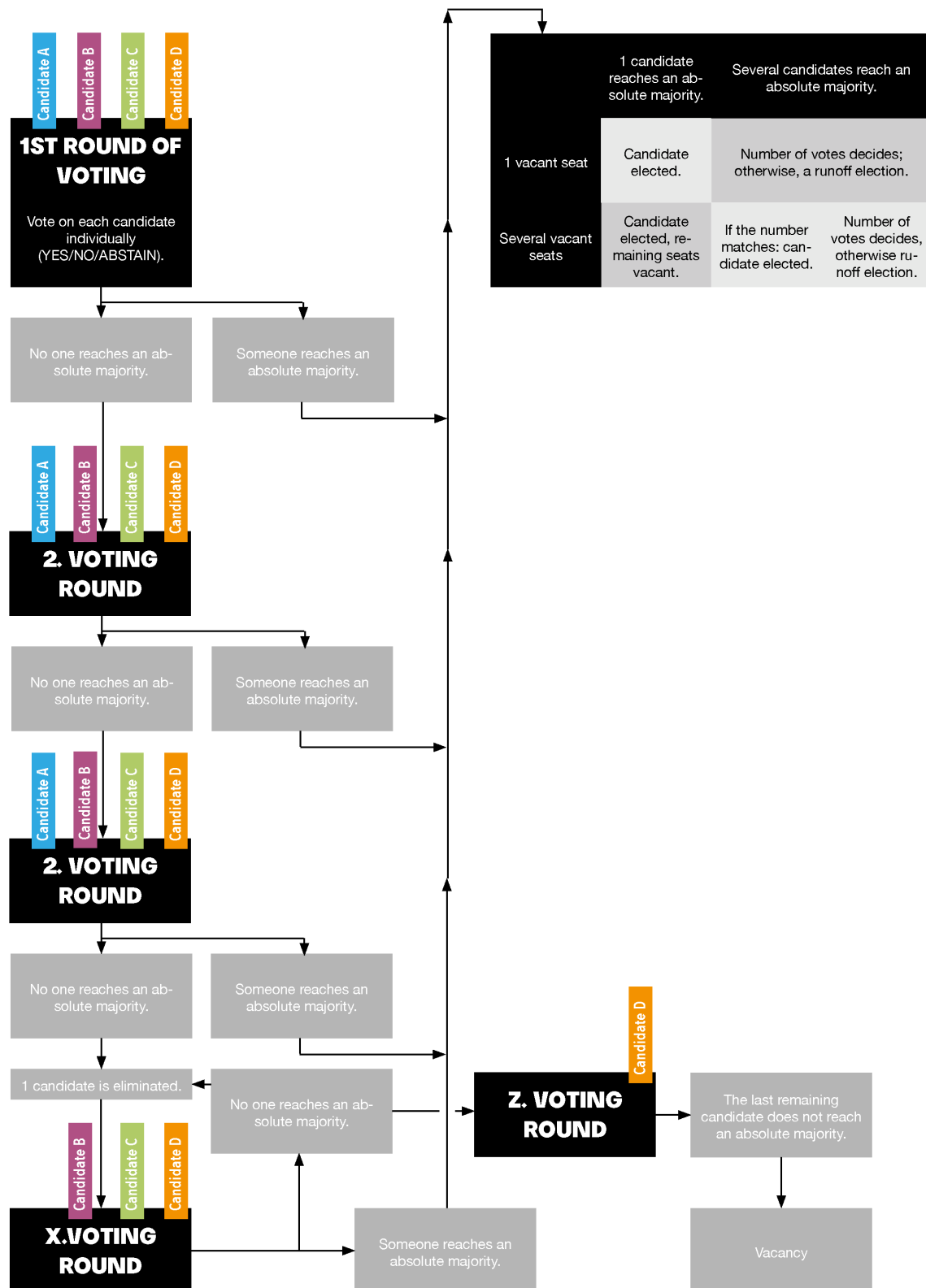
- First name, last name
- Pronouns
- Study program
- Semester
- A short text about yourself and what interests you about VERSO (max. 800 characters including spaces)

We welcome applications from all genders and would also like to encourage BIPoC to apply.

The election will take place during the student assembly on [DATE], at which all students of the [DEPARTMENT] are eligible to vote. We will include your details with the agenda in the invitation to the assembly. At the student assembly, you will have the opportunity to introduce yourself in more detail before the election.

We appreciate your interest and will be happy to answer any questions you may have before the election!

Appendix 2 – Schematic representation of an election



Appendix 3 – Schematic representation of a vote

General:



Example:

