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International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) Students' Perception towards the Conduct of Student Representative Council (SRC) Election 2014

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Abstract:

The aim of this paper is to evaluate students' actual experience during the election of Students' Representatives Council in November 2014. Specifically the paper aims to evaluate the perception of the students towards the conduct of Students Representative Council's election which was held on November 20, 2014 after a four days campaign. A survey of 21 items was used to analyze the students' satisfaction after the election. The findings show that the students are satisfied with the conduct of the election for 2014 where the means is above 5. However, there are only three items indicated lower than 5 of the means of the evaluation. First the process of public speaking, second the announcement of the results and third the incentive of 35% book voucher for the voters.

Keywords: *Students representative council, election, manifesto, political campaign*

1. Introduction

The SRC's election is considered as important to the university and the students because the election is aimed to elect the student leaders representing them at the university and national level. Furthermore, the 2014 election is considered as important after several major changes that had been introduced since the last election. First, the appointment of the Director of Student Affairs and Development Division (STADD) as the Chairman of the Election replacing the Deputy Rector of Students Affairs, second, the separation of IRKHS seats into two divisions, namely Human Science Division and IRK Division and lastly the counting process would be conducted at the respective polling station. After the process was completed it showed that the voters' turnout was 68.68% of the eligible voters which was higher than 57.3% of the last year. However, the figure is less compared to the expectation of 70% total turnout. Thus, this paper tries to analyze how students perceived the conduct of the election for this year based on the system and the process of the election.

2. Students' Representative Council Election (SRC): The System

Part IX of IIUM Constitution suggested that the registered students of the university shall elect such number of registered students a Students Representative Council from their respective center of studies or the Kulliyah (IIUM Constitution: 48) This provision suggests that each Kulliyah should have a number of candidates to be elected by their respective students for the SRC post. The system used for the election is the group representation constituency where each kulliyah regardless of the number of students must have two representatives. The representatives will serve the students for one academic year only. Other than the Kulliyah, the students are required to elect five candidates from the General Constituencies who are supposed to be among the international undergraduate students of IIUM.

2.1. The Candidates

The candidates for the election must be undergraduate, registered students who are not disqualified from being elected under the constitution, the regulations. Among the important conditions are the candidates must have obtained a CGPA of not less than 2.70 at the time of nomination, must have yet to undergo at least one-academic year to graduate from the university and must never been found guilty of any disciplinary offence that carries a minimum fine of RM200.00 or which will subject the offender to a suspension by the university authority. The candidates must also be supported by a seconder and two proposers who may have the same qualifications

like the candidates. During the nomination process 41 candidates submitted the forms to the Election Secretariat and all of them have been accepted and no withdrawal was recorded during the nomination. Table below shows the candidates and the Kulliyah.

No	Kulliyah	Numbers took form	Numbers recommended	Numbers submitted for nomination
1	AIKOL	8	5	5
2	KAED	7	3	5
3	KENM	13	8	3
4	KICT	3	3	3
5	KIRK	5	5	3
6	HS	6	6	5
7	KLM	2	2	2
8	KOE	9	6	3
9	KOED	5	5	4
10	INTERNATIONAL	8	8	8
	TOTAL	66	51	41

Table 1: Candidates and the Kulliyah

2.2. The Voters

All registered and active undergraduate students are qualified to become the voters. This definition exclude the students on leave of absent (study leave), pre-sessional and bridging programme, exchange students, part-timer, distance learning, Re-admissions and dismissed students, suspended, short term programme, and allied students (twinning programme) (IIUM Election of SRC Regulation 2013 (Amendment 2014)). Thus for 2014 out of the 15,804 registered students, 13,552 are considered as eligible voters. Among those students, 1728 are international voters.

KULLIYAH	ELIGIBLE VOTERS
Architecture and Environmental Design (KAED)	1284
Economic and Management Science (KENM)	2199
Engineering (KOE)	3039
Human Sciences (HS)	2765
Islamic Revealed Knowledge (IRK)	1338
Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	981
Language and Management (KLM)	192
Education (KOED)	403
Laws (AIKOL)	1351
Total	13552

Table 2: Voters by Kulliyah

Sources: AMAD for Election Secretariat, Gombak Campus, 2014.

3. Result of the Survey

This section is based on a survey through questionnaire on 230 students' respondents from International Islamic University Malaysia. SPSS is used to perform statistical analysis on the data collected from the survey forms.

3.1. Descriptive Statistics

The respondents for the study are 230 students on Gombak Campus, International Islamic University Malaysia (Table 3). A total of 72 (31.3%) males and 158 (68.7%) females responded to the questionnaires distributed. The respondents' age ranges between 18 to 26 years old. Most of the respondents are 20, 21 and 22 years old, respectively, with 42.2%, 22.6% and 18.3%. 113 (49.1%) respondents are first year students, while the second year students are 54 (23.5%) students and third year students are 38 (16.5%) students. The fourth year students are only 25 (10.9%) students. From this study, it has shown that overall performances of the respondents' academic achievement are between 2.5 to 3.49 CGPA. Only 35 (15.2%) of them are getting CGPA above than 3.50. However, there are 6.5% or 15 students that do not have the CGPA. This is because there are still in the first year and the first semester of their study. Respondents from Kulliyah of Economics are 124 and Human Sciences Division is 106 respondents. Most of the respondents are the intake from the Center of Foundation Studies (76.1%) and only 23.9% of them are from the direct intake. Amongst the respondents, 125 (54.3%) students are active in society compared to 105 (45.7%), who are not active in society. In term of voting experience, 114

(49.6%) respondents have voted for one time only and 106 (46.1%) respondents have voted for more than one time. Lastly, 25 (4.3%) of the respondents have no voting experience. (Table 2)

Demographic factor		Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	72	31.3
	Female	158	68.7
Status	Single	222	96.5
	Married	8	3.5
Age	18	2	0.9
	19	2	0.9
	20	97	42.2
	21	52	22.6
	22	42	18.3
	23	24	10.4
	24	10	4.3
Voting Experience	26	1	0.4
	First Time	114	49.6
	More than One	106	46.1
Year of study	Never	25	4.3
	First year	113	49.1
	Second year	54	23.5
	Third year	38	16.5
CGPA	Fourth year	25	10.9
	3.5 to above	35	15.2
	3.00 to 3.49	113	49.1
	2.5 to 2.99	56	24.3
	2.00 to 2.49	11	4.8
Intake	Below 2.00	0	0
	None	15	6.5
Membership of group	Ex-Cfs	175	76.1
	Direct Intake	55	23.9
Kulliyah	Active	125	54.3
	Non-Member	105	45.7
	Economics	124	53.9
	IRKHS	106	46.1

Table 3: Profiles of the respondent

Table 3 below shows twenty-one items included in the questionnaire to measure the students' experience in SRC election 2014. A seven-point Likert-scale is applied in the questionnaire with level 1 indicates that the respondents strongly disagree while level 7 indicates that the respondents strongly agree with the statement. Those items are stated in statements as follows; "2 star points is very meaningful", "The overall process of election is very good", "Rules and regulation are made available to students", "I clearly get the information on the details of the election process", "The nomination process runs smoothly", "The process of voting is smooth", "The polling station is easily accessible", "Duration of voting is sufficient", "Students are given enough time to view the list of candidate", "The outcome of the election is very satisfy", "The election commission fully monitor the process", "The counting process is conducted smoothly", "Seat allocated for the Kulliyah is sufficient", "The date for the election is very suitable", "Numbers of days for campaign is sufficient", "The media for the campaign is effective", "The poster allowed for the campaign is attractive and informative", "Election commission are very efficient", "Public speaking process is accessible to all students", "The result is announce on time" and "The 35% book voucher discount is very attractive".

	Mean	Std. Deviation
The overall process of election is very good	5.49	1.145
2 star points is very meaningful	5.49	1.531
Rules and regulation are made available to students	5.46	1.064
I clearly get the information on the details of the election process	5.40	1.212
The nomination process run smoothly	5.40	1.191
The process of voting is smooth	5.39	1.289
The polling station is easily accessible	5.32	1.314
Duration of voting is sufficient	5.31	1.403

Students are given enough time to view the list of candidate	5.30	1.396
The outcome of the election is very satisfy	5.19	1.253
The election commission fully monitor the process	5.17	1.242
The counting process is conducted smoothly	5.14	1.276
Seat allocated for the Kulliyyah is sufficient	5.11	1.400
The date for the election is very suitable	5.10	1.399
Numbers of days for campaign is sufficient	5.09	1.362
Election commission are very efficient	5.05	1.299
The poster allowed for the campaign is attractive and informative	5.05	1.369
The media for the campaign is effective	5.05	1.400
Public speaking process is accessible to all students	4.92	1.454
The result is announce on time	4.65	1.720
The 35% book voucher discount is very attractive	4.13	2.030

Table 4: Items representing students experience during SRC election 2014

From the finding reported in Table 3, the overall process of election is very good (M =5.49, SD =1.145), 2 star points is very meaningful (M =5.49, SD =1.531), and rules and regulation are made available to students (M =5.46, SD =1.064) during the election period, as these three variables rank first, second and third, respectively (figure 1, figure 2 and figure 3).

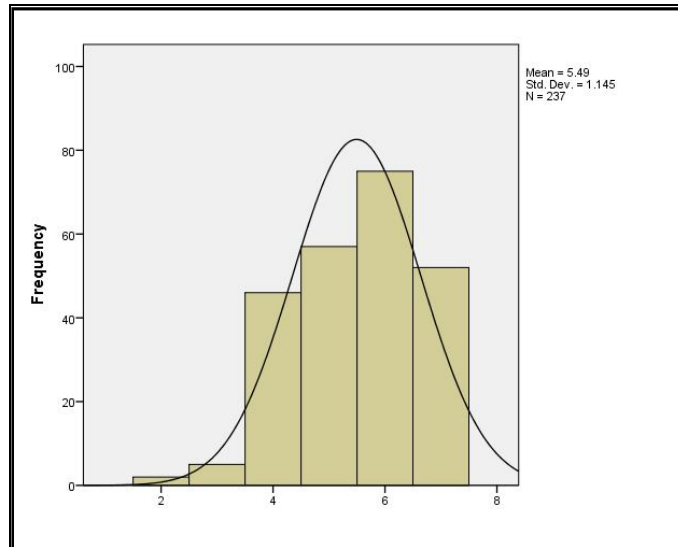


Figure 1: The overall process of election is very good

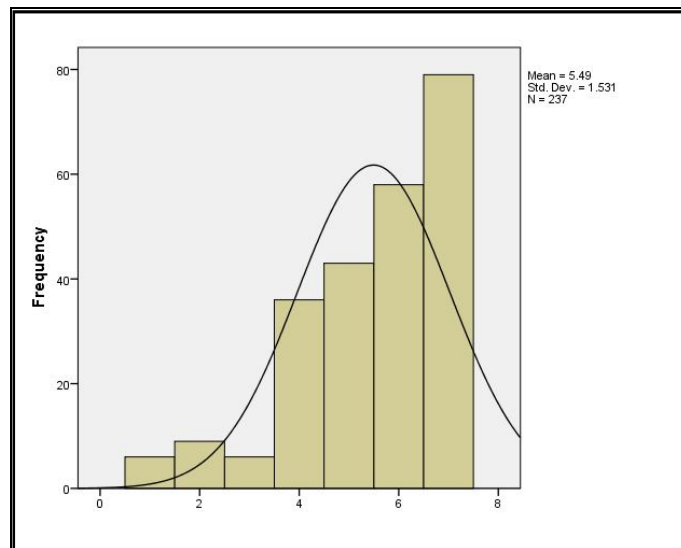


Figure 2: 2 star points is very meaningful

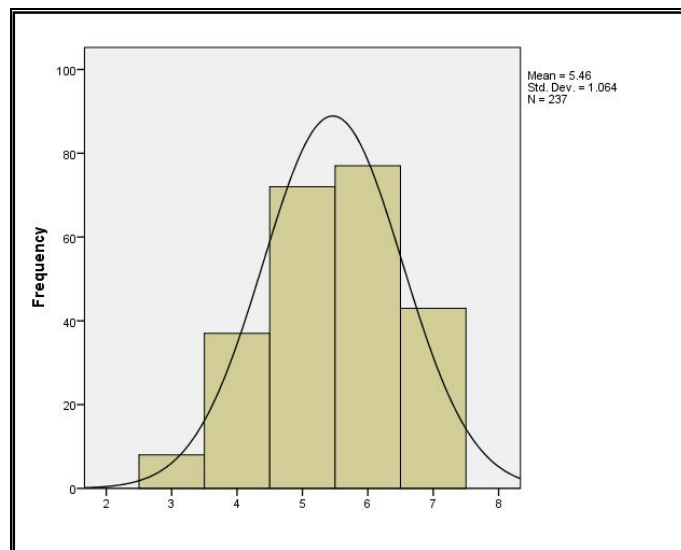


Figure 3: Rules and regulation are made available to students

The lowest ranking variable is the statement “The 35% book voucher discount is very attractive” ($M = 4.13$, $SD = 2.030$) (figure 4). In this case the item is clearly ranked as the lowest means compare to others and it is more spread out. The standard deviation of 2.030 shows that the individual’s response is 2 points differs from the means. From the finding it shows that even though students satisfy with the overall process of election however they do not satisfy with the 35% book voucher discount.

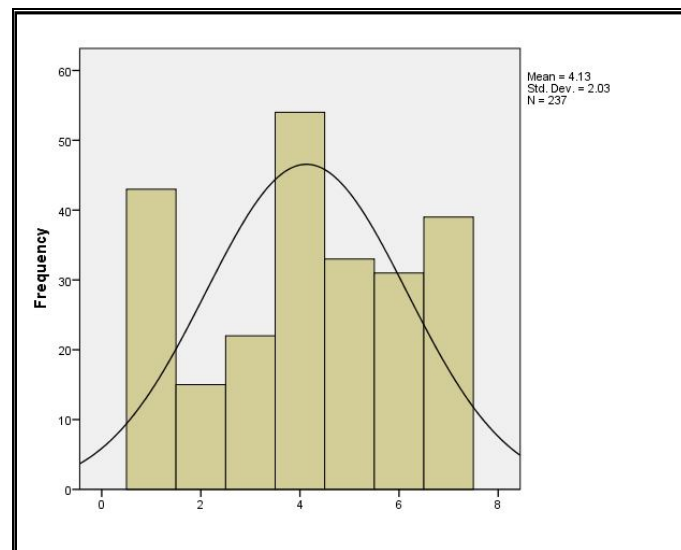


Figure 4: The 35% book voucher discount is very attractive

4. Conclusion

In general the students are quite happy with the overall conduct of the students’ election with the means of 5.49. There are only three items indicated lower evaluations. First the process of public speaking, second the announcement of the results and third the incentive of 35% book voucher. The result shows that improvements need to be done for these aspects for the future election. First, the conduct of public speaking should be made open to all students so that they can evaluate the quality of the candidates. Second, the announcement should also be made as early as possible and they must be assessable to the students. Third, more attractive incentives should be given to voters. The 35% book voucher was considered less attractive. The discount should not only limit to the books sold at the university. It might be open also to other book store outside the university like the Popular Bookstore and MPH.

5. References

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