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UPM campus elections: Students, security personnel trade blows

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SERDANG: Universiti Putra Malaysia students and security personnel traded blows at the campus grounds about 3.45pm on Wednesday.

The altercation came about after the Pro-Mahasiswa group continued to insist that the university's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni) Prof Dr Fauzi Ramlan apologise to them for disqualifying 10 of the 11 Pro-Mahasiswa candidates, who had won in the UPM campus elections.

A glass door at the main administrative building was smashed in the incident.

About 20 minutes later, a scuffle broke out between a group of Pro-Mahasiswa students and their Pro-Aspirasi counterparts.

Serdang OCPD Supt Abdul Razak, who confirmed the incident, said two security guards suffered minor injuries when the glass door was smashed.

"The guards were sent to the Serdang Hospital for treatment while a police report on the incident was lodged by UPM administrative staff.

"We will be going through the video captured by the university's CCTV to identify the people involved in the scuffle," he said when contacted.

The 10 Pro-Mahasiswa candidates were disqualified on Tuesday night for allegedly campaigning as a group but were reinstated on Wednesday morning.

At 7am on Wednesday, five representatives from the Pro-Mahasiswa group had a meeting with UPM Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Radin Umar Radin Sohadi and then with Prof Dr Fauzi.

At about 12.30pm, the four representatives who met with Prof Dr Fauzi emerged from the building and said the objections against the 10 candidates had been overruled and they had been reinstated.

But the students did not disperse and more students from other public universities started arriving to join their UPM counterparts.

These students took turns to speak out against UPM's student affairs department.

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