

UPM student-run elections revert to paper ballots

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SERDANG: For the first time ever, student elections in Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) were conducted by the students themselves.

In announcing this yesterday, UPM deputy vice-chancellor for student affairs Prof Dr Mohd Roslan Sulaiman said campus elections this year used paper ballots that would be counted manually after using e-voting for campus elections in the last six years.

“This is based on a decision by the former student parliament,” he said, adding that the use of paper ballots would give students the chance to experience how Malaysia’s elections are conducted.

“In using the paper ballots, we hope the elections will be smooth, fair and transparent.”

UPM Student Representatives Council (MPP) Election Committee

chairman Muhammad Fazril Aiman Mohd Nor, 22, said the committee reverted to using paper ballots as they cost less.

Campus elections are conducted in all public universities annually to select student leaders.

UPM held its student elections yesterday to pick 45 MPP members, two for each of the 17 faculties, and 11 general seats.

In September 2018, the Education Ministry said campus polls would be carried out transparently and independently by the MPP without interference from their university’s management.

But the MPP must still comply with the various rules and regulations when carrying out their respective campus elections.

The management of universities would aid the MPPs in terms of facilities and guidelines on the elections, said the ministry.

Mohd Roslan said the students had trained with the Election Commission for one month.