



Mohd Roslan (left) observing students voting during election day on campus.

Back to manual voting

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THE RETURN to using paper ballots went quite smoothly during Universiti Putra Malaysia's (UPM) first student-led campus elections.

UPM Student Representative Council (MPP) Election Committee secretary Nurul Fariesya Praya, 21, says it only took them two hours to count the ballots.

This is not too bad considering this is the first time these students were counting ballot papers manually, just like Malaysia's election process.

"It was quite challenging as it is our first time handling the entire process ourselves, especially for the faculties with a large student body (more than 1,000 students)," she tells *StarEdu*.

The 89-year-old research university saw a 58.79% (9765 voters) voter turnout, she adds.

Nurul Fariesya says 45 new MPP members, two for each of the 17 faculties and 11 general seats were elected on Feb 27.

A total of 113 candidates campaigned for these seats over five days beginning Feb 22.

Campus elections are conducted at all public universities yearly to select student leaders.

The new board has not been selected yet, she adds.

On polling day, UPM deputy vice-chancellor (student affairs and alumni) Prof Dr Mohd Roslan Sulaiman said 194 students were part of the many committees tasked to carry out the campus elections at both the Serdang and Bintulu campuses.

He added that the students had undergone training with the Election Commission (SPR) for one month including conducting election simulations.

Campus elections this year also saw the return of using paper ballots, he said, adding that previously, the election process was done using electronic votes (E-Undi).

"This is based on a decision by the former student parliament," he said, adding that E-Undi was used for six years.