Varsity to defer campus election until September

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UNIVERSITI Sains Malaysia (USM) in Penang will hold its campus election this September.

USM deputy vice-chancellor (Student Affairs and Development) Prof Adnan Hussein said the decision was made by the Majlis Pemilihan Siswa recently.

The university’s student representative council (SRC) was supposed to have been dissolved in February.

Prof Adnan said the election was postponed because the students pursuing the diploma in nursing programme at the School of Health Sciences were currently on their semester break.

“This is why we could not hold the election this semester,” he said when contacted recently.

He said the nursing diploma students would begin their new semester in September.

He further said the polls would be held within 45 days after the new semester starts.

Prof Adnan was commenting on a call made by the university's student leaders for the election to be held immediately.

USM Student Progressive Front (SPF) coordinator Yong Kin Yin in an email sent to the press, said the SRC was only supposed to serve for a year but until now, the university had yet to announce the dissolution of the SRC.

She said SPF was also against Universiti Malaya’s (UM) decision to defer its campus polls to September.

“UM’s move will destroy campus democracy. The university should have consulted the students before they elected the ‘executive caretakers’.

“Holding the campus polls in September will not give the final year students a chance to vote,” she added.

For this year, none of the public universities have yet to hold their campus elections.