Gijima
Technology People

Customer Solution Success Story

University goes to the polls with Microsoft

🕐 August, 2020 (Microsoft Teams | Microsoft Power Platform | SharePoint Online)

Customer Profile

Customer
University of Johannesburg (UJ)

Country
Republic of South Africa

Industry
Academic – Tertiary

Organisation Size
4 000+ Employees
40 000+ Students

Software and Services

- Microsoft Teams
- Microsoft SharePoint Online
- Microsoft Power Automate

Customer Challenge

Since the inception of the University of Johannesburg (UJ) the annual Student Representative Council (SRC) elections have been a manual process. Students and student organisations had to complete and submit a printed registration form that had to be processed and reviewed by the election committee.

With thousands of students spread across 4 main campuses, the message and facility to submit registrations had to be made available and accessible to all.

With the latest technologies available and most users connected via their mobile devices, the time had come to go online. The student affairs department reached out to Microsoft and Gijima to assist with a more dynamic solution

The Answer

Gijima Technology Service's Microsoft team answered the call to:

- Develop an environment that is accessible to all students and organisations on the Microsoft Teams platform
- Provide electronic forms for the registration of nominations for each of the elections processes:
    - Independent Nominations for 1 of 10 contestable positions for each of the 4 campuses
    - Independent Nominations for 1 of 2 contestable positions for the Central SRC
    - Student Organisations for 1 of 10 contestable positions for each of the 4 campuses
    - Student Organisations for 1 of 2 contestable positions for the Central SRC

The current licensing model for the students did not include the full Microsoft Power Platform, including Power Apps, resulting in the solution

being built on the Microsoft Online platform, and embedding the modern SharePoint Online solution within the Teams environment.

Using the automation features of Microsoft Power Automate, notifications and actions could be orchestrated accordingly.

Once the deadline was reached for the nomination process, the review of registrations was assigned to the electoral committee who could access and review each submission individually.

For now, the solution only had to enable the registration of nominations and campaigning before the official voting process commence.

Outcome

With the licensing limitations, changing customer requirements and extremely tight deadlines, the solution was well received and performed very well.

The committee could extract the results and monitor the support from students from the comfort of any of their connected mobile devices. Being built on SharePoint Online, a full audit trail is also available for the auditors.

Going forward, the next electoral runs would be marketed long before the start of registration and voter education would receive more attention. Integrating with the student affairs database would automate and ultimately simplify the committee's review process.

The following were the benefits seen by the university:

- Simplified and centralized marketing of the nominations
- Automated messaging and notifications
- Full Audit Trail and data governance, including rollback on versions
- Student participation using their mobile devices

This customer story underlines Gijima's ability to adapt to the ever-changing technology frameworks and customer requirements.

Contact Gijima for any further information on how we can assist you in your digital journey