

A Wake-up Call for Student Democracy

Chung, So-young

Reporter
chung00524@khu.ac.kr

Kyung Hee University (KHU) has hit a painful turning point in student governance. An unprecedented election fraud case in the Seoul Campus General Student Association (GSA) has erased what looked like renewed student interest. On the Global Campus, student associations have increasingly shifted into Emergency Response Committees (ERCs) because of low participation and a lack of candidates. Now, with both campuses' GSAs operating under ERCs, the question is not simply who will fill leadership roles this semester. It is whether students can trust the process again.

A Brief Moment of Momentum

2026 was supposed to be different. While the Global Campus was heading toward multiple ERCs due to lack of candidates—including for the

GSA—Seoul Campus looked promising. Just a year earlier, their election had been canceled for the same reason, and they had barely avoided an ERC through a March by-election. So having two candidate teams to run was a remarkable change.

That attention appeared to show up online, too. According to view counts on the University broadcast station V.O.U.'s YouTube livestreams, the previous year's public hearing and vote count drew about 600 and 200 views. This year, numbers rose to about 2,000 and 4,000.

Then the momentum disappeared. Vote counting was delayed because of suspected proxy voting by a campaign staff member. Through investigation, it was confirmed that the fraud was real, and the election results were invalidated. In principle, there should have been a revote, but it was

not a possible option because of practical constraints. Both campuses ended up with ERCs anyway, and it is still unclear whether a March by-election will fix things.

Chance to Rebuild Trust

This is South Korea—a country the world watches for its mature democratic culture. And this happened at a university which represents learning and intelligence. This scandal spread beyond KHU to various news outlets, which is deeply shameful.

This incident matters because student governance depends on trust. Once that's broken, it takes years to rebuild. The people who are responsible for this incident must realize how one act of fraud could damage confidence in the entire system.

However, it is also worth asking what systemic issues made

this possible. Real oversight, clear consequences, and actual prevention measures should be established. The Central Election Management Committee (CEMC) did not conduct a revote, mentioning lack of time and budget. Neither did they offer solid solutions. The new CEMC running the March by-election needs to study what went wrong and build a system that actually prevents fraudulent proxy voting.

What Students Can Do Next

The hardest truth is that indifference enables corruption. Fraud happened even with thousands of people watching online. Imagine what will happen when no one is paying attention. Student governance only works when everyone—not just a few candidates—stays engaged. Voting matters, but it is not enough. Students need to monitor the process and ask questions continuously.

This moment is disappointing, but it does not mean the end of student governance. It can be a chance for KHU to build a more mature and more democratic student community. We cannot let the renewed energy students showed fade away. The by-election is not just about filling the vacancy; it is a chance to rebuild trust.

The hardest truth is that indifference enables corruption.

From Confusion to Convenience: KHU's New Space Platform

Bae, Min-ji

Reporter
baeminji2004@khu.ac.kr

Kyung Hee University (KHU) is set to introduce a new campus Space Management System this March, developed by the Facility Management Team. Based on the information on campus facilities, the system is expected to make reserving and managing campus spaces much easier.

Introduction of the New Campus Space Management System

The new campus Space Management System is a web-based platform that allows users to view and manage campus spaces more efficiently by integrating space data from both campuses into a single database.

Discussions about the introduction of the system began in 2022, and practical design work started in late 2024.

Over the past six months, the Facility Management Team

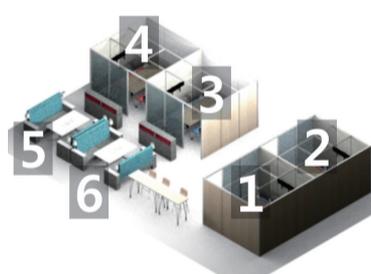
has collected detailed information on campus buildings and spaces, updated floor plans, and constructed the database infrastructure. The Facility Management Team explained, "The system is currently in its inspection phase, verifying whether actual space usage matches the data recorded in the system."

In addition, new regulations related to the Space Management System will be enacted. Under these regulations, each user will be granted different levels of access, ensuring convenient access to relevant spaces.

Space Management System Expected to Enhance Campus Convenience

Through the introduction of the new Space Management System, the most noticeable change will be in the space reservation process.

Because the previous reservation system covered only certain campus spaces, students often had to experience inconvenience of checking



Available facilities for reservation at the library, KHU Seoul Campus
Photo: khu-kr.libcal (lib.khu.ac.kr)

whether a desired facility was included in the system. In many cases, some spaces required separate reservation procedures through student associations or administrative offices, leading to confusion and inconvenience.

Park Hyun-soo, a student in the Dept. of English Language and Literature, shared his experience, "I wanted to reserve the World Seminar Room in the College of Humanities, but I could not find any information about it in the existing reservation system. Later, I found out that it wasn't managed through the system and had to be reserved separately through the

college student association."

The new Space Management System aims to resolve these issues by integrating all campus spaces into one unified platform. It will also provide real-time information on space availability. Students will be able to search for and reserve spaces in one place, as well as check available time slots in advance to plan their schedules more efficiently.

Park Se-eun, a student in the Dept. of English Language and Literature, expressed expectation for the new system: "It will be much more convenient not having to search for where to reserve a facility. Being able to check the real-time availability within the system will also help with planning."

Currently in its final preparation stage, the official implementation of the system is scheduled in March. By enabling integrated management of all campus spaces and offering real-time usage information, the University expects the system to enhance the overall quality of student life.

The University Life

Kyung Hee University
English Press

Founded in 1958, The University Life is a nonprofit English newspaper of Kyung Hee University. Dedicated to the globalization of the university, the newspaper aims to impartially review the achievements and the problems of the administration, the faculty and the student body of Kyung Hee University. As an English medium, the newspaper also aims to provide international students with information and insights into the culture of Korea.

Publisher

Kim, Jin-sang, President

Editor-in-Chief

Chung, So-young

Associate Editor

Hong, Jeong-min

News Editor

Kim, Gyeom

Sub-Editor

Kang, Keon | Yang, Seo-yoon
Oh, Eun-je

Reporter

Shin, Jung-hyeok | Jeon, Seok-yun
Lee, Yoo-chan | Bae Min-ji
Lee Su-hwan | Song, Ye-won

English Advisor

Prof. Cynthia Yoo | Prof. Joshua Suarez

Art Director

Chung, Joo-young | Kim, Sung-mi

Seoul Campus

Kyung Hee University,
26 Kyungheedaero, Dongdaemungu,
Seoul, 02447, Korea
Phone: +82-2-961-0097

Global Campus

Kyung Hee University,
1732 Deogyong-daero, Giheung-gu,
Yongin-si, Gyeonggi-do, 17104, Korea
Phone: +82-31-201-3233

Homepage

media.khu.ac.kr/khu_eng/

E-mail

khuunilife@khu.ac.kr

media.khu.ac.kr/khu_eng/

khuunilife@khu.ac.kr

@khuunilife

Printed by Chungsol Design

Phone: +82-2-966-1495

Fax: +82-2-959-7395

Representative: Choi, Hae-gyu

The views expressed in The University Life are those of the editors or the signed contributors and do not necessarily represent official positions of Kyung Hee University. Readers' opinions, feedbacks or interactions are always cordially invited. For subscription or address change, contact us: khuunilife@khu.ac.kr
The newspaper is published four times a year during the semesters. The newspaper has been registered as the periodical by the Ministry of Culture & Information since July 1, 1974.