

Student Union Society  
2015 General Election Report  
Prepared for ratification on February 27, 2015

Joe Johnson (Chief Electoral Officer)



**STUDENT UNION SOCIETY**

# RESULTS

Total voters: 473

President (Thomas Davies)

VP External (Sukhi Bar)

VP Internal (Ricardo Coppola)

Aboriginal Representative (Jennifer Janik)

College of Arts Representative (Ekaterina Marenkov)

Faculty of Health Sciences Representative (Ria Geluk)

Faculty of Professional Studies Representative (Derek Ward-Hall)

Faculty of Sciences Representative (Joshua Wilkie)

# Incidents and Items to Report

- Polling began at 12:01 p.m., February 23 and concluded at 11:59 p.m., Feb 26.
- In the early voting hours on February 23 it was discovered that the Aboriginal Representative position was marked as a mandatory vote. This was a mistake on the part of ITS. However, a correction was made by 9:23 a.m. where this position was no longer reflected as being mandatory. The correcting process did not allow for the potential of double voting. These initial votes are counted in the total but there were not enough cast during this portion of the election period to have altered the result in any way.
- Under discretion of the Chief Electoral Officer, Baker House was excluded from the allowable campaign locations. The reason being that this is a controlled location. Should it have been allowed, candidates with access to Baker House would have an unfair advantage in campaigning. Campaign posters were also not allowed as Baker House has control of posters within the residence, thus removing decision and approval away from the Chief Electoral Officer.
  - A candidate raised concern on this decision. It was therefore brought to the Electoral Committee for discussion. The decision stood.
  - General election posters were posted in Baker House.
- Section 2, final point, of the Election Rules was invoked to have a candidate alter a campaign photo.
  - This clause of the Election Rules states that candidates cannot "Use promotional materials that suggest that they have sponsorship or endorsement from UFV, SUS, any club, association, and/or on-campus or off-campus organization."
  - The photo in question was one taken through an arranged Student Union Society photo shoot, and was in existence because of the candidate's current involvement with the student union.
  - Language in the contract of the photo provided ambiguous terms on personal usage, allowing interpretation either way towards campaigning.
  - With consideration to the ambiguity of the contract, but primarily due to the fact that the photo is in existence due to SUS involvement, usage of the photo may be seen as suggesting SUS endorsement.
  - This decision was brought to the Electoral Committee for discussion. The decision stood.
- The second All-Candidates Meeting scheduled for February 19 in Chilliwack was cancelled. Due to various factors, notably weak promotion, there were no students in attendance. However, the decision to cancel the meeting was due to having only one candidate in attendance. The meeting would have still been held to allow for candidate exposure to students through media coverage. Candidate absences were all due to valid and acceptable conflicts and extraordinary circumstances, resulting in no sanctions being imposed. All expected candidates had also been at the first meeting.

# Recommendations

In future elections:

- Consider the idea of separating the duties of the Chief Electoral Officer into a second position for promotions, potentially called Electoral Promotions Officer. The current role of Chief Electoral Officer is one officiating electoral issues, assessing rules, ensuring the operations of the election are carried through, and ensuring a fair election, while also promoting the election. Promoting is a distinct duty and could perhaps benefit by taking a percentage of payment from the Chief Electoral Officer to create this second position. The Electoral Promotions Officer would work with SUS resources in creating promotional material, and arrange All-Candidate Meetings under supervision of the Chief Electoral Officer.
- Hold All-Candidate Meetings on either a Monday & Thursday or a Tuesday & Wednesday schedule. Classes that occur twice a week are commonly held on a Monday & Wednesday or Tuesday & Thursday schedule. By adopting this pattern it may alleviate class conflicts for candidates should they have a class that falls during both meetings.
- Ensure a unique identifier, Student ID or not, be used with tracking of each ballot cast on myUFV to correlate problems that may arise with double voting.
- Have an introductory manual written for the newly hired Chief Electoral Officer, adapted from the election policy documents. This manual may be used as an overview of how to run an election and connect the policies together in a semi-formal manner.
- Provide the Chief Electoral Officer, or Electoral Promotions Officer should this be a position created, with a strong understanding of the SUS resources available to them and the timelines necessary to work with those resources.
- For promotional purposes, arrange class visits to discuss the election and how to vote.
- In addition to the SUS Facebook page, consider a general elections Facebook group, or event page, to provide directed election information to students who join the group/event. Information can be pushed through here of the upcoming All-Candidate Meetings or as voting opens.
- Establish concrete policy surrounding social media.
- Establish concrete policy regarding the allowance of candidates promoting the election in general during the voting period.

- Establish in policy that candidates are required to submit an expense report with a \$75 limit.
- Have one All-Candidates Meeting hosted by SUS elections and one hosted by campus media, under an approval process of SUS elections.
- Baker House is home to a large number of students. However, it is not an environment conducive to campaigning. Consider other forms of inclusiveness with this group such as arranging formal meet-and-greets.
- Make it explicit that the Chief Electoral Officer has executive decision on all ambiguous rules.

## Election Ruling

I have found this election to be free and fair. All-candidates had equal opportunity. It is for this reason that I recommend, to the current Student Union Society Board, these results be ratified.

# Executives

---

## President

Thomas Davies

<b>Yes</b>	<b>285</b>
No Opinion	123
No	65
	<b>473</b>

---

## VP External

Sukhi Brar

<b>Sukhi Brar</b>	<b>231</b>
Dylan Thiessen	169
No Opinion	58
None of the Above	15
	<b>473</b>

---

## VP Internal

Ricardo Coppola

<b>Yes</b>	<b>249</b>
No Opinion	164
No	60
	<b>473</b>

---

# Representatives

---

Aboriginal			
Jennifer Janik	Yes	230	
	No Opinion	183	
	No	38	
			<b>451</b>
<hr/>			
College of Arts			
Ekaterina Marenkov	Yes	221	
	No Opinion	179	
	No	44	
			<b>444</b>
<hr/>			
Faculty of Health Sciences			
Ria Geluk	Yes	235	
	No Opinion	172	
	No	37	
			<b>444</b>
<hr/>			
Faculty of Professional Studies			
Derek Ward-Hall	Yes	250	
	No Opinion	156	
	No	34	
			<b>440</b>
<hr/>			
Faculty of Sciences			
Joshua Wilkie	No Opinion	182	
	Joshua Wilkie	125	
	Sahil Chawla	114	
	None of the Above	27	
			<b>448</b>

---