

Student Union Society
2017 General Election Report
Prepared for ratification on March 26, 2016

By: Sevrina Sharma – Chief Electoral Officer

Election Results:

- Total Voters: 540
- Executive Positions:
 - President – Gurvir Gill
 - VP External – Alyson Gher- White
 - VP Internal – Jaleen Mackay
- Board Positions:
 - College of Arts Representative – Andrew Stahl
 - Faculty of Sciences Representative – Ekanki Chawla
 - Aboriginal Representative – Cody Dumas

Incidents and Items to Report:

- On March 8th, the CEO received an email from a candidate regarding placement of another candidate's poster on the SUS sponsored board in Chilliwack. This was overruled because it does not violate any of the SUS rules or policies.
- On March 9th, the CEO received an email from a candidate regarding two other candidates that were being promoted by a current SUS board member on Facebook. The two candidates were given their 1st warning.
- On March 20th, the CEO received an email from a source that a current SUS board member was promoting a candidate on Facebook. This Candidate was given their 1st warning.
- On March 20th, the CEO received two complaints via email from a candidate. One was for a candidate still having their Facebook page running during voting. This complaint was overruled because of election policy 5.12.1. The other complaint was that the candidate had posters left up on March 20th. The electoral committee and I decided since this was a grey zone because it was in between the campaigning period and voting period and since the candidate had sent an email in regards to taking it off before voting began it was also overruled.
- On March 21st, the CEO received two complaints via email from a candidate. One was for a neutral post on Facebook which was overruled. The other was for receiving notifications from a candidates Facebook page to directly vote for this candidate. This candidate was given their 2nd warning.
- On March 17th, an All Candidate Meeting was held in Baker House in order to allow candidates to present their platforms to residents. 6 Candidates attended the event. However, no Baker House residents were in attendance, so the event was cancelled.
- On March 14th, an All Candidate Debate was held in the SUS Building atrium that was attended by 7 out of 8 Candidates. A group of approximately 10-15 students was in attendance, and all Candidates were given an equal opportunity to promote their campaign.
- The CEO received expense reports from all candidates by March 24, and was able to confirm that everyone stayed within the \$125.00 spending cap.
- The voting period began on March 21st, via email being sent out to all UFR students who are enrolled in a course and have paid their fees.

Recommendations –

- When there are no nomination packages received for a vacant position by the end of the nomination period, the nomination period should be extended until someone applies. The CEO received emails from 2 different individuals who were interested in running for Board positions. They understood that they had missed the nomination period, but hoped there was a way for them to still run in the election since no one else had applied for the position.
- Dates for two All-Candidate Meetings/Debates should be set before the nomination period starts. This would allow for maximum promotion of the events and provide

candidates with ample time to rearrange their schedules.

- A working document should be created for future CEOs with important contacts, and procedures that includes:
 - Questions asked in previous All Candidate debates, and the format of the debate;
 - Template of voting ballot, and information about who to contact to setup the voting portal;
- All Candidates should be required to shutdown their social media accounts during the voting period. There are too many grey areas, and the risk is far too high of a Candidate finding a loophole in the rules. If the Candidates are required to remove all campaign materials from campus buildings, then it makes sense to require they do the same on the internet. Especially, since students can access these social media pages while on campus, which is a form of campaigning on campus.
- Amendments to the Oversight Policy need to be made:
 - The policy needs to clearly explain how Candidates who want to appeal the CEO's decision in general can be made. Currently, only a Candidate who has had sanctions laid upon them by the CEO has clear directions. If a Candidate is upset that the CEO was not tough enough with the sanction, there is no clear method for their appeal.
 - Clarification regarding warnings needs to be given. Moreover, if stricter sanctions are expected during the voting period, then it needs to be clearly stated in the policy.

Election Ruling:

These elections have been free and fair, with all candidates having an equal opportunity. As a result, I recommend, to the current Student Union Society Board, these results be ratified.