



elections@ufvsus.ca

University of the Fraser Valley Student Union Society

General Election 2021

Final Report

Results & Recommendations

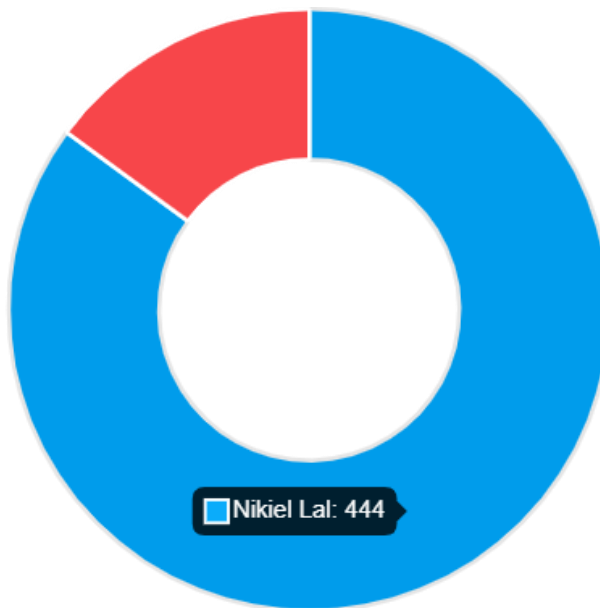
Hayden Earl Buker
Chief Electoral Officer, 2021

Election Results :

Those candidates with the greatest number of votes cast in their favour are the successful candidates. Spoiled ballots render a vote null and void

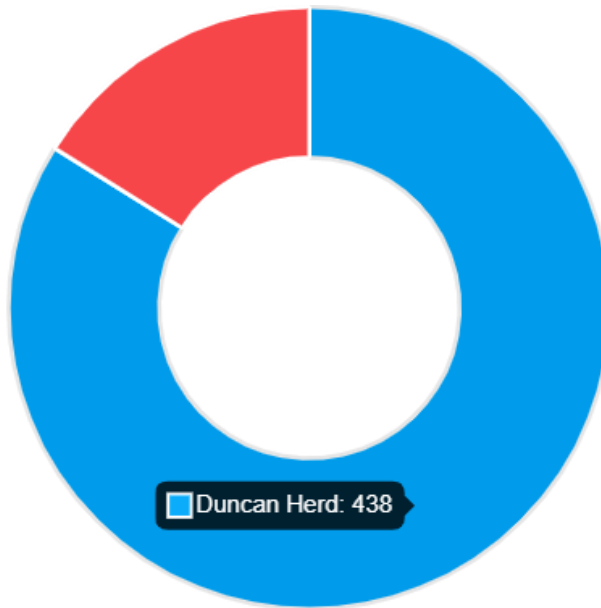
Total Voters : 522

President



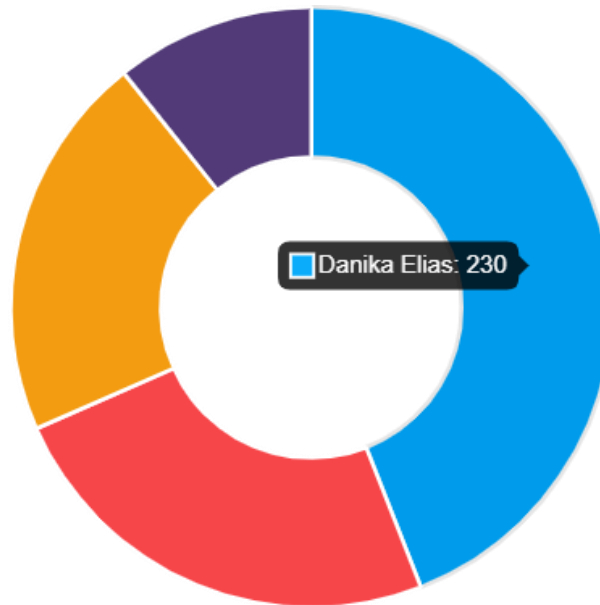
Options	Votes	
Nikiel Lal	444	85%
Spoil Ballot	78	15%

Vice President Internal



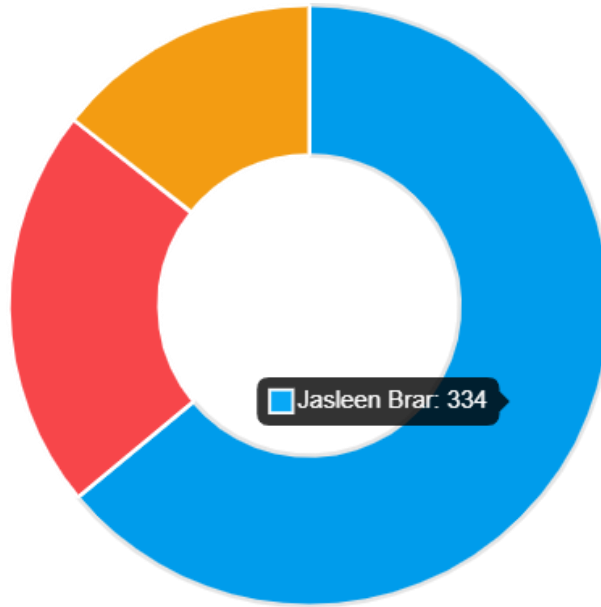
Options	Votes	
	Duncan Herd	438
Spoil Ballot	84	16%

College of Arts Representative



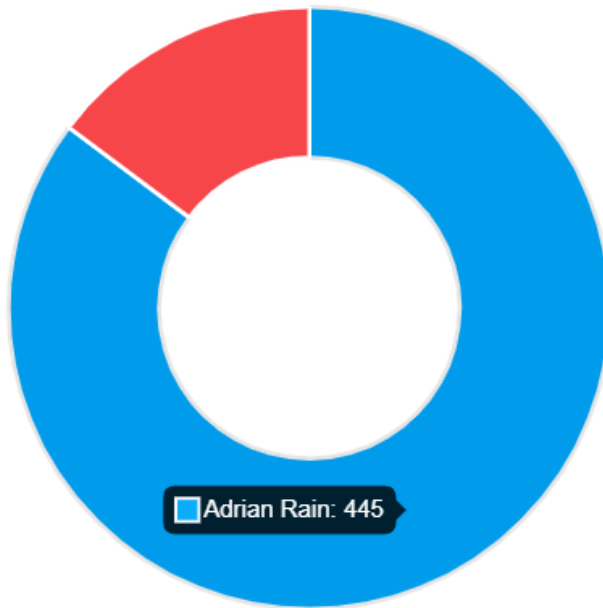
Options	Votes	
	Ravjeet Dyal	109
Danika Elias	230	44%
Moninder Grewal	127	24%
Spoil Ballot	56	11%

Faculty of Health Sciences



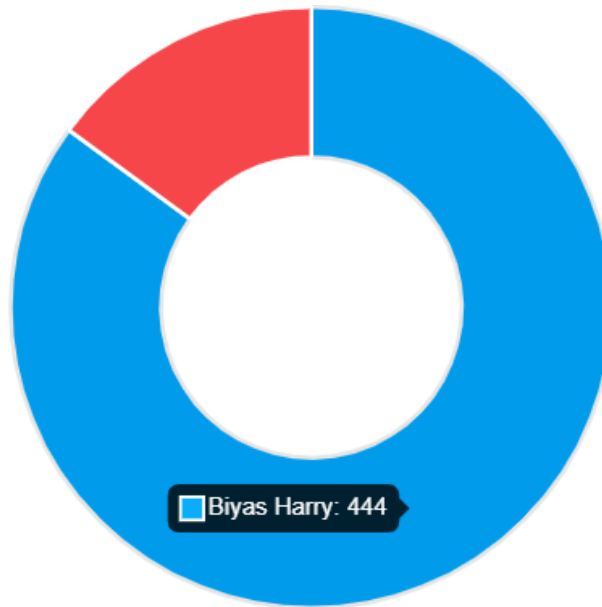
Options	Votes	
	Jasleen Brar	334
Ravneet Sohal	113	22%
Spoil Ballot	75	14%

Indigenous Students Representative



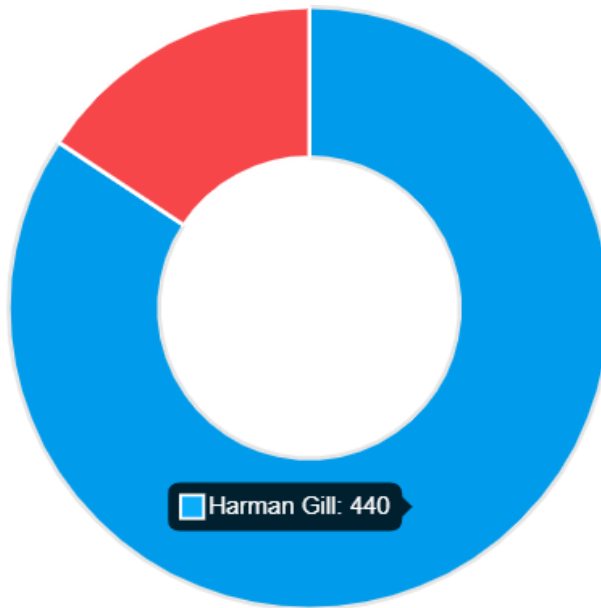
Options	Votes	
Adrian Rain	445	85%
Spoil Ballot	77	15%

Faculty of Sciences Representative



Options	Votes	
	Biyas Harry	444
Spoil Ballot	78	15%

Faculty of Professional Studies Representative



Options	Votes	
Harman Gill	440	84%
Spoil Ballot	82	16%

Incidents and Items to Report

- 19/1/21 – Contact was made with UFV Cascade. Information forwarded to interim News Editor/Editor-in-chief, no follow up contact was made
- 25/01/2021 – Scheduling conflicts and confusion meant the election began two days later than originally planned. To fix this issue, days were added to the nomination period at the end of the period
- 16/2/2021 - Special Purpose Board Meeting was held to discuss the nomination of two candidates. Below is the outline proposed in the meeting :
 - A late nomination packet was received for the Aboriginal Rep (this title is pending change at the next AGM to Indigenous Rep). This was received one day late. The CEO requests the Board of Directors vote to waive Election Policy 3.2 & 3.21 (*3.2 Nomination packages must be submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer by the last day of the nomination period, in accordance with the submission terms stated on the nomination package. 3.2.1 Election packages submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.*) as per Bylaw 33.2 (*33.2 The Elections Policy and any and all amendments thereto must be approved by Ordinary Resolution*). This would grant permission to accept the nomination for this uncontested and vacant position.
 - A nomination packet was received from a student with a lower CGPA than required. This student has a documented disability and as per SUS's policy on Harassment & Discrimination, UFV's policy accommodation, and the BC Human Rights Code, the CEO would like to request an exception to the CGPA requirements for the nominee. The CEO requests the Board of Directors

to vote to waive Election Rule 1.1.3 (*Maintain a minimum CGPA of 2.67, which is defined as maintaining a GPA of 2.67 in all undergraduate and graduate-level courses taken;*) as per Bylaw 32.2 (*33.2 The Elections Policy* and any and all amendments thereto must be approved by Ordinary Resolution*) * NB: Election Rules are included in the Elections Policy. This would grant permission to accept the nomination for this

contested position and allow the nominee to run for election. The Board agreed to both points

- 11/03/2021 – Two candidates needed to be reminded to receive approval for their social media posts before posting. None of the content was in violation of any policy and the posts were approved retroactively. Warnings were given not to repeat and no problems came about again
- 17/03/2021 – Issue occurred where Election Runner forwarded duplicate reminder-to-vote emails to students over the course of 10 minutes. Election Runner has been contacted and the issue has been solved – should not be a problem in future elections
- 17/03/2021 – Student made complaint regarding number of emails being received and asked to stop receiving them. Student was contacted to see if they had received the correct number of invitations to vote, or if another error had occurred but no response was given.

Recommendations

- Relevant Elections policy should be reworked to allow campaigning during the nomination and voting periods. (eg; Elections oversight policy 4.6.3 & Elections policy 5.11)
- Elections Policy 2.2 should be altered to allow **SUS** promotional materials to be distributed as soon as all relevant election dates are set.
- Candidate Statements should remain mandatory however candidates should be provided time until the end of the review period to create their statements.
- Candidate statements should be allowed to be altered during the election, but with a note at the beginning of the statement in bold text stating that the original document has been altered or removed.
- The EAC should have a much more relevant role in Elections at SUS. As it stands the EAC serves to add legitimacy to the electoral process without actually having a role to play. Oversight policy needs to be altered to allow students to contact the EAC directly rather than going through the CEO, the EAC should hold their own separate email (such as EAC@ufvsus.ca) to avoid the use of their student emails, and they should be required to attend meetings such as the mandatory information meeting for candidates.
 - Suggest three roles within the EAC to help organize these efforts :
 - Secretary – heads email operations
 - Policy Analytic – stays up to date with the elections policy and follows the actions of the election to make sure policy is being followed and will raise concerns when necessary

- Event Representative – Officially attends all events to promote the EAC’s visibility in the election
 - These roles would lend real legitimacy to the elections rather than perceived
 - The EAC should further be advertised during the Nomination and Planning period more fully by SUS rather than discretely
- Policy should be created to clearly indicate how Elections should proceed when there is only a single candidate running. Suggest having a two-part requirement to proceed :
 - Minimum requirement of votes – University Göteborg uses this method for their Board of Representatives
 - Include a ‘Spoil Ballot’ option as was implemented in this election
 - Intention is to ensure 1) a candidate is not elected when it is clear the electorate do not care for them, and 2) allows students to express a ‘protest vote’ similar to Federal and Provincial elections where ballots can be intentionally spoiled. This information is then made public and the new government can enter with that knowledge that their voters accept, but are not happy with their success
 - Also need to have clear policy about the result of a candidate receiving fewer votes than the ‘Spoil Ballot’ option

Conclusion

Despite initial scheduling conflicts which resulted in a delayed start to the election, there were no major complaints made against the election process nor any of the candidates. Two exceptions were made at the Special Purpose Board Meeting, which resulted in two nominees being able to submit their nomination packages despite not meeting the requirements. The election proceeded entirely online and adapted appropriately for the three online events held. Election Runner successfully delivered all 9 600 voting invitations without issue, however duplicate reminder emails were sent out. Despite the apparent stress all students are under due to their online coursework, the voter turnout was disappointing, albeit acceptable with a turnout of 5.5%. Two warnings were given to candidates although no sanctions were given against any candidates.

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 Board that these results be ratified.