

# BY- ELECTION REPORT

2023

## RESULTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

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UFV Student Union Society  
[ufvsus.ca/by-elections](https://ufvsus.ca/by-elections)  
[elections@ufvsus.ca](mailto:elections@ufvsus.ca)

# ELECTION OVERVIEW

NOMINATION PERIOD: September 18th - September 29th (intended)\*

*\*September 18th - October 2nd (actual)*

REVIEW PERIOD: October 3rd - October 4th

ALL CANDIDATES MEETING/Q&A/INFO SESSION: October 5th

CAMPAIGN PERIOD: October 5th - October 13th

VOTING PERIOD: October 16th - October 18th

RATIFICATION: October 19th

FIRST DAY IN OFFICE: October 23rd

## EVENTS

All-Candidates Meeting (Includes Information Session + Q&A): October 5th

## ELECTORAL OFFICER

Claire Cook

## ELECTORAL APPEALS COMMITTEE

Vibhu Dikshit

Nicolas Xanthavanij

Logan Kang-Vinnish

Samarth Singla

Damanpreet Kaur

# CANDIDATES



**MEHMET ERCAN**  
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE  
AT-LARGE CANDIDATE



**ARMAAN GILL**  
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE  
AT-LARGE CANDIDATE



**BALKARN GILL**  
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE  
AT-LARGE CANDIDATE



**NICHAELA JACOB**  
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE  
AT-LARGE CANDIDATE



**CHANCE PADGHAM**  
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE  
AT-LARGE CANDIDATE



**JASKIRAT SINGH PARMAR**  
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE  
AT-LARGE CANDIDATE



**LEVI PENNER**  
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE  
AT-LARGE CANDIDATE

# EVENTS

The All Candidates Meeting took place on Thursday October 5, 2023 (First Day of Campaign Period) in person at 1:00 in S-Building on the UFV Abbotsford Campus in room S3103. This meeting was for the candidates to share about themselves, their candidate statement or why they should be voted for, and to give opportunity for the other candidates to ask each other questions. Following this, the meeting also contained an information session where key info was provided to the candidates, with time following for them to ask questions of the Electoral Officer (Claire Cook) and Vice President Internal (Alana Awram) and be provided answers. All five members of the Electoral Appeals Committee attended the meeting and seven of the eight Student Representative-at-Large Candidates attended the meeting. The Candidate who could not attend the meeting followed proper procedure, giving written notice in advance and a reason they could not attend and met with the Electoral Officer at their next earliest convenience, two hours later at 3:00PM Thursday, October 5 to catch up on what they had missed. Only one event was held due to the short timeline of a By-Election. No debate was required.

# ITEMS OF NOTE

## **NOMINATION PERIOD**

On Thursday, September 28, thanks to an Electoral Appeals Committee member it was discovered that replies to emails from the elections@ufvsus.ca email were in fact ending up in a different SUS inbox due to a setting from the previous election.

On Sunday, October 1 it was noted that rather than the nomination period ending at the end of the day on Friday, September 29, it would need to end on Monday, October 2nd as the job posting for Student Representative-at-Large incorrectly stated the nomination packages could be accepted until Monday, October 2nd.

## **REVIEW PERIOD**

Only one person who appeared in bamboo/the elections email, interested in the Student Representative-at-Large position, was informed that their nomination was not accepted.

Between Wednesday, October 4 and Thursday, October 5, a Student Representative-at-Large Nominee (different from above), was initially not accepted as a candidate, and then later was accepted as a candidate due to an error made during review period.

# ITEMS OF NOTE

## **CAMPAIGNING PERIOD**

One Student Representative-at-Large Candidate was removed from the voting platform and was removed from the SUS by-election webpage due to their own decision to not proceed in the election.

## **VOTING PERIOD**

Two errors on the voter list were detected and corrected before the voting period started.

On the first day of election period, October 16, 2023, the election platform notified that it couldn't deliver the vote email to two student's emails.

Student Representative-at-Large Candidates and Electoral Appeals Committee members were only provided just under two days of notice to attend the October 19th Ratification Meeting (Online or In Person option provided).

# RESULTS

## VOTER TURNOUT

Ballots were available to students for three days. Many votes came in at the very start of the election (12:00AM - October 16), and then transitioned into votes declining steadily over the rest of the voting period. This election had a 5% voter turnout\*, with 507 students casting a vote. The election software did not detect any voter fraud for this By-Election.

\*For reference; the 2021 By-Election had a 4% turnout, the 2020 By-Election a 6% turnout, and the 2018 By-Election had a 4% turnout.

## STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES AT LARGE

Mehmet Ercan: 197 votes

Armaan Gill: 110 votes

Balkarn Gill: 173 votes

Nichaela Jacob: 168 votes

Chance Padgham: 189 votes

Jaskirat Singh Parmar: 152 votes

Levi Penner: 98 votes

Mehmet Ercan, Armaan Gill, Balkarn Gill, Nichaela Jacob, Chance Padgham, Jaskirat Singh Parmar & Levi Penner win with 18%, 10%, 16%, 15%, 17% 14%, & 9% of the vote each.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The “Electoral Oversight Procedure” document on page three “4.5 During the campaign period:” says, “4.5.2 Ensure campaigning materials have been removed at the end of the Campaign Period and that candidate expenses have not exceeded \$125”. However, the “Election Rules” document on page three says, “3.1. Candidates cannot do the following:”, “3.1.7. Spend more than \$200 on their campaign and/or fail to submit an expense report to the CEO Officer by the end of the campaign period;”. I recommend the amount be changed to \$200.00 in the “Electoral Oversight Procedure” document, as that was the amount that had to be defaulted to during this 2023 By-Election.
2. A by-law should be created that Nominees should have to disclose memberships to any kind of groups.
3. Regarding signatures for Nominee’s Nomination Packages, the following should be changed; a) UFV Faculty Signature- Next to the signature the full name of the faculty member as well as their department should be written, b) Peers Signatures-Next to the signature the full name of the peer should be written as well as their student number.
4. It should be looked into how one wants the Faculty Members recommendation to be formatted, solely signature beside pre-written recommendation in package or a letter etc.
5. In future, current SUS executives/board members should not be allowed to provide their signatures as peers for nomination packages.



# RECOMMENDATIONS

6. In future for campaigning, a by-law should be made that prevents campaigning on private social media accounts as they can't be monitored easily or at all during campaign period.
7. A by-law should be created to deal with the scenario where a nominee has a criminal record.
8. The Candidate Nomination Package as well as the Bamboo Job Posting should be reviewed prior to the next elections/by-elections and updated.
9. When uploading the list of voters in future elections one should pay close attention during the initial upload to Election Runner that there aren't duplicate student numbers, and that when launching the election, there aren't duplicate student email addresses.

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.



Claire Cook  
SUB Lounge Assistant  
(Acting Electoral Officer)

October 19, 2023

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