March 31, 2022

To: The URSU Board of Directors
From: Ebenezer Fordjour, Chief Returning Officer

RE: 2022 URSU General Election Final Report

BACKGROUND

The URSU engaged the services of a Chief Returning Officer at the end of January 2022 to oversee the 2022 General Election that was held on March 29 and 30, 2022.

URSU jointly completed a Candidates Information and Nomination package along with the required public notices of the nomination period and available positions. The nomination period was February 14-March 8th, 2022 (deadline for candidates applications was March 7th at 4pm - for processing). Candidates were given until March 10, 2022 (at 4pm) to withdraw from the Election. Three individuals withdrew and 3 were determined to be ineligible and their nominations were not accepted, leaving 30 candidates in this General Election. Additionally, this election included candidates for the RPIRG Board of Directors and two referendums.

The CRO held an all candidates meeting on March 9th, 2022 which provided instruction to all candidates on their roles and responsibilities as candidates and what was/wasn’t allowed during the campaigning period. This was an overview of the Election and Referendum Bylaw along with the Candidates Information and Nomination package. An all candidates’ forum was held for all candidates running for Executive and Board of Director Positions on March 22, 2022. This provided the candidates with an opportunity to present their platforms and answer any questions from over 30+ students who were present.

The campaign period ran from March 15-28, 2022. Candidates were provided with clear instructions by the CRO about what they could/couldn’t do during the no campaigning period and on Election Days.

The list of available positions and candidates who ran for each is attached as Appendix A.

DISCUSSION

Election Results and Complaints

There were a total of 14,166 students eligible to vote. Based on the Executive positions where all students are eligible to vote, a total of 1,046 voted which is a 7.4% voter turnout which is up from previous elections by 0.7%, despite less votes being cast.

The official results were announced on March 31st, 2022. (Unofficially announced at the Rock The Vote - Elections wrap-up celebration inside the Lazy Owl.)
The Chief Returning Officer received a total of 4 complaints related to possible Election violations. The complaints fell into the following categories:

- Inappropriate use of position and resources
- Intentional misrepresentation of facts
- Slander against other candidates
- Privacy breaches

All complaints were received in writing, via e-mail to the CRO. Complainants identified the individuals involved, had witnesses or provided video and photos of individuals and incidents.

The Elections Committee, made up of the CRO, Public Elections Officer, Dev Chauhan and the Student Elections Officer, Jagroop Singh met throughout March March 25, 2022 to review the complaints and to determine appropriate disciplinary actions. The Elections Committee has determined that these complaints were not of merit.

Attached as Appendix B is the official results of online voting. Provided separately is the results received from the Simply Voting System which includes the outcome of each round for ranked ballots.

The Elections Committee will not be releasing the names of complainants or evidence provided as it may identify the complainant and this would breach the privacy between the CRO and the complainant and may cause people not to report known violations in the future.

Online Voting

The General Election was held via online voting using the software, Simply Voting. This software allowed the URSU to carry through on previously passed motions from the membership to conduct ranked voting moving forward. The system worked well and showed no indication that the ranking was done improperly. Members receive an e-mail with the direct link to voting. Additionally, the system allowed the URSU to only display races that applied to the voters. For example, faculty members only saw the races for the Executive positions and their faculty, rather than seeing every race. This provides greater accuracy on the results than previously when it couldn’t be prevented and there was no way of knowing if only the faculty members voted or not.

Given the Provincial and University directives around the COVID-19 virus there were no polling stations on campus. However, this still allowed the CRO to carry out the online voting as with previous elections.

Election and Referendum Bylaw Improvements

The CRO noted a few things that could be improved in future elections and to enable a more modern approach to Elections. In addition to a contracted administrative assistant/Elections Clerk; the proposed changes are outlined below.

Section 3.3.3 Referenda: This By-law caused some issues. Recommendation is to approve budgets before the beginning of the election. In addition, the Electoral Officers should be hired well in advance of the election to ensure compliance can be maintained. Also, default amounts should be set to avoid any problems in the event that board members cannot approve budgets in time.
Section 3.1.4 Constituencies and Positions: It’s important that the meeting with the URSU General Manager for executive roles occur prior to Nomination day. This is a requirement that candidates wishing to run for an Executive Position must sign off on. Having the nomination day prior to the meeting deadline encourages candidates to falsify their nomination papers.

In addition, The timeline as approved by the Board caused some confusion. The deadline for the submission of Nomination Package was March 7th at 4pm, which was clearly noted in the nomination package, which candidates are required to fully read and complete by the deadline. The Nomination Period was listed as being until March 8th, which is what the Board approved. From the view of the Elections Office this includes time for administrative tasks that are required in the verification of nominations. URSU’s operations should better communicate these deadlines and ensure there are no issues in the future by using the deadline for the submission of nomination packages in graphics rather than the end of the nomination period.

Constitution Article 5 (6): Article 12 references that executives have an executive employment contract. Article 6 14.3 - notes that executives should recognize their duties as officers and employees of the organization. Further, continued employment during and after an elections process is in conflict with the Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment Policy.

There were some serious matters in regards to this. URSU must clarify who is and who is not an employee of URSU. I would suggest the structure be revisited and it clearly be outlined who is considered an employee of URSU, and what will result in a disqualification or non-compliant nomination, so there is no room for doubt by candidates.

In addition, URSU Executive Employment contracts do not offer exemptions from the Constitutional requirement. The URSU Executive Employment contracts reference the Government of Saskatchewan’s protected leaves, which includes service leave for specifically “municipal, provincial, federal, school board and band council nominations, elections and offices”\(^1\), but does not cover URSU’s elections. This protected leave requirement also requires four weeks of written leave.

Section 3.1.18 Resolution of Campaigning Complaints: In this section, demerit points on their own should not disqualify a candidate. The consideration needs to be given to the nature of the offence, the intent, knowledge and actions of the offender before and after the complaint is known and the CRO’s ability to maintain the integrity of the Election itself as a result. Without that type of wording, it makes it very easy for candidates and others to simply report matters to try and get others disqualified.

Section 4 Consequences for Non-Compliance: This section requires further discussion and review, future URSU Boards should more specifically address paid leave for elected members, more strictly provide notice and registration information for referenda, and develop more policies on how URSU, members of URSU and those involved with URSU are addressed within the organization. Furthermore, a clear Chain of Command pertaining to Election and Referendum determining who has the authority and final say in matters, must be adhered to.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ebenezer Fordjour  
Chief Returning Officer
APPENDIX A

2022 URSU

General Election Candidate List

EXECUTIVE

President:
Navjot Kaur
Oghenerukevwe Erifeta
Subhan Syed

VP Student Affairs:
Harshkumar Patel

VP Operations and Finance:
Pedram Monfared

VP External Relations
Nadiya Ekhteraetoussi

DIRECTORS

Faculties

Campion
College
No Candidates

Centre for Continuing Education:
No Candidates

Arts:
Rahima Mian
Tehzib Patel
Business Administration:
Harsimmerveer Plaha

Education
Hosna Tayebianvar

Engineering
Arbaz Asif

Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
Aditya Pathak
Anastasiia Sheichuk

Kinesiology and Health Studies
Prabjyot Bajwa

Media, Art, and Performance
Amin Malakootikhah
Emanuella Nneibeife

Nursing
Mahima Rahman

Science
Birpartap Singh
Mohammad Zafar
Zakiyyah Noorally

Social Work
No Candidates

First Nations University of Canada
Danielle Nepoose

La Cité
No Candidates

Luther College
Nabeera Siddiqi

CONSTITUENCIES

Equity and Campaigns
Manindermeet Singh

Indigenous Students
Delrae Whitehawk

International Students
Parampreet Singh

LGBTQIA2S+ Students
Style Stenberg

Part Time Students
Emily Camposano

Students with Disabilities
Narinder Singh

Women Students
Amandeep Kaur

SENATE
Zakiyyah Noorally
Style Stenberg

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Arts
Carter Antoine

Business
No Candidates

Education
No Candidates

Engineering
No Candidates

Graduate Studies and Research
No Candidates

Kinesiology and Health Studies
No Candidates

La Cité
No Candidates

Media, Arts and Performance
Emanuella Nneibeife

Nursing
No Candidates

Science
Kartik Patel

Social Work
No Candidates

Centre for Continuing Education
No Candidates

EXECUTIVE OF COUNCIL Faculty – 1 position per faculty

Arts
Tehzib Patel

Business
No Candidates

Education
No Candidates

Engineering
Nisarg Patel

Graduate

Studies and Research
No Candidates

Kinesiology
and Health Studies
No Candidates

La Cité
No Candidates

Media, Arts and Performance
No Candidates

Nursing
No Candidates
Science
No Candidates

Social Work
No Candidates

Centre for Continuing Education
No Candidates
# General Election Official Results

## University of Regina URSU General Election

**March 29 and 30 2022**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Position and Declared Winner</th>
<th>Eligible Voters</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>President (Navjot Kaur)</td>
<td>14166</td>
<td>Navjot Kaur (338) Oghenerukeye Erieta (270) Subhan Syed (116) Abstain (420)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Vice President, External Relations (Nadiya Ekhteraetoussi)</td>
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<td>ACCLAIMED</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Vice President, Operations and Finance (Pedram Monfared)</td>
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<td>ACCLAIMED</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Vice President, Student Affairs (Harshkumar Patel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Director, Campion College (Vacant)</td>
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<td>ACCLAIMED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Director, Faculty of Arts (Rahima Mian)</td>
<td>2111</td>
<td>Rahima Mian (50) Tehzib Patel (42) Abstain (72)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Director, Business Administration (Harsimmerveer Plaha)</td>
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<td>ACCLAIMED</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Director, Faculty of Engineering (Arbaz Arif)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Director, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (Anastasiia Sheichuk)</td>
<td>2104</td>
<td>Anastasiia Sheichuk (77) Aditya Pathak (46) Abstain (96)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Position</td>
<td>Candidate(s)</td>
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</table>
| 10| Director, Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies  
(Prabhjyot Bajwa) | ACCLAIMED                                        |
| 11| Director, Faculty of Science  
(Birpartap Singh) | 2022 Birpartap Singh (101)  
Zakiyyah Noorally (78)  
Mohammad Zafar (26)  
Abstain (116) |
| 12| Director, Faculty of Social Work  
(No Candidates) | No Candidates |
| 13| Director, La Cité  
(No Candidates) | ACCLAIMED |
| 14| Director, Luther College  
(Nabeera Siddiqi) | ACCLAIMED |
|    | Director, Education  
(Hosna Tayebianvar) | ACCLAIMED |
|    | Director, Engineering  
(Arbaz Arif) | ACCLAIMED |
|    | Director, Nursing  
(Mahima Rahman) | ACCLAIMED |
|    | Director, Media, Arts and Performance  
(Emmanuella Nneibeife) | Emmanuella Nneibeife(21)  
Amin Malakootikhah(11)  
Abstain (21) |
| 15| Director, Equity and Campaigns  
(Manindermeet Singh) | ACCLAIMED |
| 16| Director, International Students  
(Parampreet Singh) | ACCLAIMED |
| 17| Director, Students with Disabilities  
(Narinder Singh) | ACCLAIMED |
| 18| Director, Part Time Students  
(Emily Camposano) | ACCLAIMED |
<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Candidate Name</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Director, Womens Students</td>
<td>Amandeep Kaur</td>
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<td>(Amandeep Kaur)</td>
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<td>Director, Indigenous Students</td>
<td>Delrae Whitehawk</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Director, First Nations University</td>
<td>Danielle Nepoose</td>
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<td>(Danielle Nepoose)</td>
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<td>Director, LGBTQIA2S+</td>
<td>Style Stenberg</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Director, Students with Disabilities</td>
<td>Narinder Singh</td>
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<td>University Council, Arts</td>
<td>Carter Antoine</td>
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<td>University Council, Engineering</td>
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<td>Executive of Council, Arts</td>
<td>Tehzib Patel</td>
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<td>Nisarg Patel</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Executive of Council, Media, Art and Performance</td>
<td>Emmanuella Nneibeife</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 28 | Senate  
(Style Stenberg)  
(Zakiyyah Noorally) | ACCLAIMED |
| 29 | SLAC Referendum | 14166 | In Favour (225)  
Opposed (604)  
Abstain (219) |
| 30 | SPSU Referendum | 14166 | In Favour (205)  
Opposed (613)  
Abstain (230) |
| 31 | Regina Public Interest Research Group  
Board of Directors  
Ziyang Zeo Li  
Amir Said  
Emily Katherine Camposano  
Zakiyyah Noorally  
Sundus Zia  
Anupom Das | Ziyang Zeo Li(365)  
Amir Said(287)  
Emily Katherine Camposano (277)  
Zakiyyah Noorally (258)  
Sundus Zia (245)  
Anupom Das(222)  
Kale Mclellan(214)  
Style Stenberg(196) |

April 12th 2022  
Submitted electronically  
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Ebenezer Fordjour, CRO