

# University of Regina Students' Union

## General Elections, Winter 2018

### Final report

Lindy Whitehouse

Chief Returning Officer

### Part I

#### **The following positions were open for nominations:**

#### EXECUTIVE

- President
- Vice-President Student Affairs
- Vice-President Operations and Finance
- Vice-President External Affairs

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Director – Aboriginal Students'
- Director – Arts Students'
- Director – Business Students'
- Director – Champion College Students'
- Director – Education Students'
- Director – Engineering Students'
- Director – Fine Arts Students'
- Director – First Nations University Students'
- Director – Francophone Students'
- Director – Graduate Students'
- Director – International Students'
- Director – Kinesiology & Health Studies Students'
- Director – LGBTQ Students'
- Director – Luther Students'
- Director – Nursing Students'
- Director – Part-Time Students'
- Director – Women Students'
- Director – Science Students'
- Director – Students with Disabilities
- Director – Social Work Students'

#### SENATE (6 positions)

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL. Seat numbers vary between faculties. Faculties includes: Arts (Humanities), Arts (Social Sciences), Business Administration, Education, Engineering and Applied Science, Fine Arts, Graduate Studies, Kinesiology and Health Studies, Nursing, Science, Social Work.

EXECUTIVE OF COUNCIL – One position per faculty

**The following nominations were received:**

#### EXECUTIVE

##### President

- Matt Fedler
- Haris Khan
- Oleksandr Tsuprak

##### Vice-President Student Affairs

- Victor Adeolu Oriola
- Rylan Jensen
- Jermain Mckenzie
- Catherine Pamisaran

##### Vice-President Operations and Finance

- Derrick Gagnon
- James Colten Macdonald
- Muhammad Usman Khan

##### Vice-President External Affairs

- Anthony Gibson
- Heather O'Watch
- Rishabb Dutta

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

##### Aboriginal Students

- Allyson Watson

##### Campion College

- Carly Hill

##### Faculty of Arts

- Harneet Kaur
- Colin Keith

##### Faculty of Business

##### Administration

- Harmanpreet Sidhu
- Mason Sliva

##### Faculty of Education

- Patrick Scherr

##### Faculty of Engineering

- Anton Movchan
- Usman Shafiq

##### Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

- Vanessa Peynenburg
- Jinesh Kamdar

##### Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies

- Barzany Ridha

##### Faculty of Science

- Ramanpreet Singh

##### International Students

- Harmeet Singh Parmar
- Radhika Bansal
- Thabit Taher

##### LGBTQ Students

- Emily Nemeth

##### Luther College

- Dakota Kaufman

##### Part Time Students

- Supreet Pandher

#### Students' with Disabilities

- Jashneet Kaur
- Katlyn Richardson

#### Women Students

- Navjot Kaur Makkar

#### SENATE - Six positions available

- Derrick Gagnon
- Ramanpreet Singh
- Harmeet Singh Parmar
- Shawn Wiskar
- Anton Movchan
- Rylan Jensen
- Kaylee Hayko
- James Colton Macdonald
- Kailey Lowe
- Matt Fedler
- Carly Hill
- Colin Keith
- Haris Khan
- Emily Albano
- Thabit Taher
- Maksym Zabutnyy
- Kennedy Dollard
- Taylor Petrychyn
- Harmanpreet Sidhu
- Usman Shafiq

#### UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

- Arts – 8 seats available
  - Colin Keith
  - Matt Fedler
- Business – 9 seats available
  - Mason Sliva
  - Supreet Pandher
- Engineering – 6 seats available
  - Kaylee Hayko
  - Kailey Lowe
  - Muhammad Usman Khan
  - Thabit Taher
  - Kennedy Dollard
  - Emily Albano
  - Ahmar Javed
- Science – 5 seats available
  - Haris Khan

#### EXECUTIVE OF COUNCIL -

One position available per faculty.

#### Arts

- Shawn Wiskar
- James Colton Macdonald
- Matt Fedler

#### Engineering

- Rishabb Dutta

#### Science

- Haris Khan

## **Part II**

The following modes of information dissemination were adopted:

- Posters
- URSU Website
- Social Media
- Student Affairs' generic email system
- Handbills given out by information officers (voting days)

- Ads on campus TV
- Word of mouth

### **Part III**

General Elections and Referendum timeline:

Call for Nominations	Feb 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2018 to Feb. 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2018 at 4:00PM
All Candidates Meeting	March 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2018 at 5:00 PM URSU Board Room
Campaign Period	March 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2018 at 12:00AM to Mar 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2018 at 11:59PM
Candidate Profiles Due	Feb. 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2018 at 4:00PM
All Candidates Forum	March 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2018 at 3:00PM, Multi-Purpose Room
Voting Period	March 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2018 at 12:00AM to Mar 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2018 at 11:59PM
Expenses Form Due	March 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2018 at 4:00PM URSU Front Desk

### **Voting Locations**

Voting this year was 100% electronic. Stations were set up on polling days in Riddell and at the FNUniv from 9am – 5pm on both voting days, and in the classroom building from 5-8pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018. These stations were manned by poll clerks who had laptops to enable people to vote. Handbills were also available at these stations which informed people where to go to vote online. The poll clerks committed to being non-partisan.

### **Part IV**

Voting Turnout:

- 16,100 students were eligible to vote.
- 10.38% of eligible students voted.

## **ELECTED POSITIONS**

### **EXECUTIVE**

#### **President**

- **Haris Khan – 962 - elected**
- Matter Fedler – 413
- Oleksandr Tsuprak – 71
- Abstain - 192

#### **Vice President Student Affairs**

- **Jermain McKenzie – 514 - elected**
- Victor Adeolu Oriola – 397
- Rylan Jensen – 362
- Catherine Pamisaran – 283
- Abstain - 116

#### **Vice-President Operations and Finance**

- **Derrick Gagnon – 667 - elected**
- James Colten Macdonald - 165
- Muhammad Usman Khan – 568
- Abstain - 217

#### **Vice-President External Affairs**

- Rishabh Dutta – 604 - disqualified
- Anthony Gibson - 341
- **Heather O’Watch – 401 - elected**
- Abstain - 258

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **Aboriginal Students**

- **Allyson Watson - 824 - acclaimed**

#### **Campion College**

- **Carly Hill – 51 - acclaimed**

#### **Faculty of Arts**

- Harneet Kaur - 66

- **Colin Keith – 112 - acclaimed**

Faculty of Business Administration

- **Harmanpreet Sidhu – 55 - elected**
- Mason Sliva – 79 (Resigned)

Faculty of Education

- **Patrick Scherr – 85 - acclaimed**

Faculty of Engineering

- Anton Movchan - 98
- **Usman Shafiq – 119 - elected**

Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research

- **Vanessa Peynenburg – 48 - elected**
- Jinesh Kamdar - 34

Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies

- **Barzany Ridha – 60 - acclaimed**

Faculty of Science

- **Ramanpreet Singh – 148 - acclaimed**

International Students

- **Harmeet Singh Parmar – 145 - elected**
- Radhika Bansal - 129
- Thabit Taher - 55

LGBTQ Students

- **Emily Nemeth – 804 - acclaimed**

Luther College

- **Dakota Kaufman – 30 - acclaimed**

Part Time Students

- **Supreet Pandher – 76 - acclaimed**

Students' with Disabilities

- **Jashneet Kaur – 396 - elected**
- Katlyn Richardson - 352

Women Students

- **Navjot Kaur Makkar – 923 - acclaimed**

## SENATE

- **Derrick Gagnon – 622 - elected**
- Ramanpreet Singh -317 -
- **Harmeet Singh Parmar – 348 - elected**
- **Shawn Wiskar – 395 - elected**
- Anton Movchan - 182
- **Rylan Jensen – 344 - elected**
- Kaylee Hayko - 265
- James Colten Macdonald - 177
- Kailey Lowe - 265
- Matt Fedler - 263
- **Carly Hill – 330 - elected**
- Colin Keith - 115
- **Haris Khan – 552 - elected**
- Emily Albano - 293
- Thabit Taher - 212
- Maksym Zabutnyy - 196
- Kennedy Dollard - 204
- Taylor Petrychyn - 183
- Harmanpreet Sidhu - 246
- Usman Shafiq – 320
- Ahmar Javed - 219

## UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

- Arts – 8 seats available
  - **Colin Keith – 155 - acclaimed**
  - **Matt Fedler – 156 - acclaimed**
- Business – 9 seats available
  - **Mason Sliva – 104 - acclaimed**
  - **Supreet Pandher – 79 - acclaimed**
- Engineering – 6 seats available
  - Kaylee Hayko - 74
  - **Kailey Lowe -82 - elected**
  - **Muhammad Usman Khan – 95 - elected**

- **Thabit Taher – 113 - elected**
  - **Kennedy Dollard – 86 - elected**
  - **Emily Albano – 98 - elected**
  - **Ahmar Javed – 79 - elected**
- Science – 5 seats available
    - **Haris Khan – 179 - acclaimed**

## EXECUTIVE OF COUNCIL

### Arts

- **Shawn Wiskar – 67 - elected**
- James Colten Macdonald - 51
- Matt Fedler - 57

### Engineering

- Rishabh Dutta – 113 - disqualified

### Science

- **Haris Khan – 179 - elected**

## Part V

### Notes

I felt that the election committee worked really well and was nice to have support when dealing with issues. I also made use of the student electoral officer on voting days to help police the library and Riddell.

### Complaints

Several reports were received on March 20<sup>th</sup> 2018 of a candidate soliciting votes and actively campaigning in both the library and Kisik towers. Not only does this break the rule of active campaigning on voting days but these are also areas designated no campaigning zones. Further to that soliciting votes can affect the outcome of the election. According to the bylaw, interference or attempted interference with the voting process is worth 20 demerit points. Further to this, the candidate failed to turn in expense forms on time which is worth 8 demerit points. The election committee conducted a thorough investigation following these reports and concluded that the candidate had broken several bylaws which resulted in an accumulation of 28 demerit points and disqualified from the election. There is a separate Election committee report for this matter.

Another complaint that I received during the election that was of a concerning nature was regarding someone campaigning within URSU premises which would be seen to give them an unfair advantage. A photo of a candidate holding alleged campaign material behind the front desk was sent to me by another candidate. This photo however did not come directly from the candidate that was complaining but was sent to him to be forwarded to me. There was no statement to support that the complainants had seen this campaign material being handed out nor was the picture clear enough to show that it was in fact campaign material. I did however



talk with the candidate in question about this offence and when considering all the evidence I was satisfied that no bylaw had been broken. I have received further complaints from the complaining candidate since that I did not take this matter seriously but as there were no statements provided from witnesses stating that this alleged campaign material had been handed out, I felt I had no basis on which to pursue this investigation further.

There were several demerit points awarded during this campaign but no further penalties. Candidates were quick to report on each other, and at times I felt that this was done in a way that suggested they were telling me how to do my job. Further, candidates seemed to want me to tell them if I was going to punish other candidates which I felt was unacceptable. A large number of candidates failed to turn in their expense forms, even though a reminder was sent a week prior, and for this they received 8 demerit points. Instead of issuing any further penalties I decided that any expenses received past the deadline would not be reimbursed.

## **Recommendations**

- The campaign week should be reduced from two weeks to one week. Commencing on a Monday and ending the following Monday with 2 voting days to follow. A week should be left between the end of nominations and the start of campaigning. This gives the candidates sufficient time to get their campaign material to the CRO and gives the CRO sufficient time to review everything. This first week would be better spent promoting the election and announcing the candidates.
- The SEO could be given more of a role such as organising the voting stations and poll clerks during the election. This would enable the CRO to focus on the candidates.
- I would recommend that a manual is made for any future CRO. This was the second time I have carried out this role but I still felt there were things that I could have done better if things were set out a bit more clearly. This could be added to as problems arise from year to year.
- I would recommend having more than one All Candidates Forum. I was not aware that the previous year forums had been held in the FNUniv also, but I feel like this would be a good thing to have written into the bylaw to encourage participation in the elections from our other campuses.
- There were a few issues with candidate profiles arriving on time. The bylaw states that candidates have until the first day of campaigning whereas the nomination package said the final day of nominations. No penalties were issued for this based on this reason but this inconsistency should be rectified.
- Another problem regarding the demerit system was the All Candidates Forum. Failure to attend resulted in 5 demerit points according to the bylaw however this was difficult to administer. Some positions were unopposed and some of the people who ran opposed could not attend due to midterms. I did not penalise anyone for not attending this time as there was no way to be consistent. Something that may want to be considered in the future.