March 20, 2020

To: The URSU Board of Directors

From: Amber Smale, Chief Returning Officer

RE: 2020 URSU General Election Final Report

BACKGROUND

The URSU engaged the services of a Chief Returning Officer in late September 2019 to oversee the 2019/20 By Election and General Election that was held on March 16 and 17, 2020.

During this engagement the CRO and the 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 10-28, 2020, with Nomination Day on February 28, 2020. Candidates were given until March 2, 2020 to withdraw from the Election or some positions if multiple were initially selected. One individual withdrew, leaving 37 candidates in this General Election. Additionally, this election included candidates for the RPIRG Board of Directors and a plebiscite in regards to the payment of CFS fees.

The URSU held candidate questions and answer session with URSU Executive and staff on February 7, 2020. The purpose of this session was to advise potential candidates of the URSU, the responsibility of URSU and the Board of Directors, the meeting expectations and commitment required to serve in those roles. The CRO held an all candidates meeting on February 28, 2020 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 Positions on March 11, 2020. This provided the candidates with an opportunity to present their platforms and answer any questions from students who were present.

The campaign period ran from March 2-15, 2020. 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 was a total of 15,092 students eligible to vote. Based on the Executive positions where all students are eligible to vote, a total of 1,575 voted which is a 9.58% voter turn out which is consistent with previous elections.

The official results were announced on March 18, 2020.

The Chief Returning Officer received a total of 11 complaints related to possible Election violations. The complaints fell into the following categories:

- Campaigning outside of the campaign period
- Other URSU members campaigning on behalf of candidates outside the campaign period
- 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, Marc Kelly and the Student Elections Officer, Fatima Osomo met on March 17, 2020 to review the complaints and to determine appropriate disciplinary actions.

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. Disciplinary reports for each candidate and penalties applied for each infraction have been submitted to the General Manager.

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.

The Elections Committee will not be disqualifying any candidates. Provided below is the result of demerit points that will be issued:

Nifemi Adekoya - 10 points
Talha Babar - 10 points
Sid Khan - 5 points
Victor Oriola - 10 points
Rajbir Singh - 5 points
Gurjinder Singh Lehal - 10 points

There was an attempt from outside of the URSU membership to influence the results of this election by providing documentation related to incidents between one of the candidates running and others on and off campus. This information has no bearing on the current election and was not taken into consideration by the CRO as the matters are outside of the CRO's and the URSU's authority and jurisdiction presently. Once those matters are resolved, this may be considered further if/when required by the URSU.

Online Voting

The General Election was held via online voting using a new 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. The UR Self Serve was directly linked to the voting software, so there was no change for members in the way they accessed the voting tool. 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 then 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, the two polling stations that are normally established at Riddell Centre and The First Nations University of Canada were closed. 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. The proposed changes are outlined below.

Section 3.1 General Election: There continues to be less then six months between a By Election and General Election. There are times when this may be needed and times when it's not. I would recommend this section be reworded to make By Elections optional depending on the URSU's ability to carry out decisions and operations with the existing Board of Directors. If this is not achievable, you may want to consider moving the General Election to the fall and a By Election to the spring. This would give those elected a longer period to get familiarized with their role and increases the likelihood of keeping candidates for a full year, rather than running a General Election in the spring followed by summer months where many may be out of classes and not focused on University activities. Lastly, all eligibility of candidates should be completed prior to the campaigning period beginning. There may need to be a week in between the Nomination and Campaign period to facilitate this.

Section 3.1.4 Constituencies and Positions: During the nomination period where eligibility was being determined for each candidate, it was discovered that the current wording in the Bylaw was preventing involvement rather than meeting its intent to ensure candidates are committed and able to serve without risk of being put on academic probation or withdrawing from class on their own. For graduate students, they are only required to take two classes to be considered full time. With the current eligibility clauses, it would take them nearly five years to be eligible and this would likely be when they are getting ready to graduate. With regards to undergrads, they would not be eligible to serve until two years into their program, providing they took a full course load of five classes each semester, otherwise it would be longer. I would recommend the eligibility requirements take into consideration transfer credits from other institutions or be reduced to encourage students to run. Additionally, the CRO should have flexibility in this clause to accept nominations based on individual circumstances or with the proper agreement in place with the candidate.

Section 3.1.15 Campaigning Guidelines: The majority of complaints for this election were related campaigning outside of the campaign period either by candidates or friends of candidates. Most non-profit or government organization elections do not prevent this practice and there's no reason why the URSU should prevent this practice in the CRO's opinion. However, it is important to continue to control campaigning within the vicinity of a physical polling station as this becomes an interference with the voting process. Preventing candidates from using social media or encouraging people to vote for them is very hard to police, prove and manage, especially when it may be friends or supporters of candidates

doing it. This section should be updated to allow campaigning on Election Days but should not include tabling provisions during Election Days.

Within this section, privacy requirements need to be established. In this election, there were concerns from students that their privacy was breached as a result of receiving unwanted What's App messages or e-mails from candidates. The URSU needs to be aware of how this may impact their reputation when students are unaware of or don't follow proper legislative requirements around anti-spam legislation. Mass e-mails may be used only when the candidate has appropriately obtained the e-mail addresses from people and all communications need to maintain the privacy of those e-mail addresses. Individuals also need to have the ability to remove their e-mail addresses and not receive future messages. Attached as Appendix C is a template that can be used to facilitate the collection of e-mail addresses or phone numbers appropriately by candidates and these should be filed with the CRO prior to any candidates sending out messages. All lists are to be destroyed immediately following the election. Additionally, the table for demerits should include varying levels of demerit points based on the level of breach. This will be covered in that section.

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: Under section 4.1.1 add breaching the privacy of any candidates, URSU members or staff of the URSU, member organizations or the University of Regina. Suspected breaches that involve University of Regina systems will be reported to the University itself for further investigation and discipline.

Appendix 1 Disciplinary Penalties Table: The Demerits Table should be updated as follows:

- 20 Points – Add: Breach of privacy resulting from a failure to follow established privacy standards or following the direction of the CRO in relation to privacy. This will automatically result in disqualification.
- 8 Points – Add: Failing to provide the CRO with required templates prior to sending out mass e-mails or text messages.
- 5 Points – Add: Unintentional breach of student privacy.
- 2 Points – Remove: Failure to submit a candidate profile by the deadline. This is an optional requirement that shouldn't be penalized.
- 2 Points – Add: Failure to submit a candidate profile for the official Ballot.
- 1 Point – Remove: All rows and place in the 5 points category and remove the maximum limits for each.

Lastly, given the amount of space available on bulletin boards, all candidate posters should be limited to between 8 ½ by 11 inches. This will enable the proper placement of posters by all candidates without having to partially cover others.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Amber Smale
Chief Returning Officer

2020 URSU General Election
Candidate List

EXECUTIVE
President
Victor Adeolu Oriola
Gurjinder Singh Lehal

VP Student Affairs
Ziyang Li (Zeo)
Keyur Patel
Abhishek Suri

VP Operations and Finance
Talha Babar
Gurkirat Singh
Saurav Munjapara

VP External Relations
Nifemi Adekoya
Deep Patel
Krupal Patel
Rajbir Singh

DIRECTORS
Faculties
Campion College
No Candidates

Centre for Continuing Education
No Candidates

Arts
Alfred Adenuga

Business Administration
Songhoprio (Sid) Khan
Mehar Singh

Education
No Candidates

Engineering
Imtiyaz Ahmed
Anirudh Bindal
Oluwatimilehin Oriola

Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)
Isaac Atayero

Kinesiology and Health Studies
Destinni Bentz

Media, Art, and Performance
No Candidates

Nursing
Josée Pelletier

Science
Vineet Dahiya
Harshkumar Patel
Marmikkumar Patel

Social Work
Selma Babini

First Nations University of Canada
Michael Shorting

La Cité
No Candidates

Luther College
Kiegan Lloyd

CONSTITUENCIES
Equity and Campaigns
Oghenerukevwe Jegede-Ikpen

Indigenous Students
Karlene Pruden

International Students
Md Abul Hossain

LGBTQ Students
No Candidates

Part Time Students
No Candidates

Students with Disabilities
Katlyn Richardson

Women Students
Uniniafore Jegede

SENATE
Six positions available
Adeoluwa Adebanji
Alfred Adenuga
Imtiyaz Ahmed
MD Abul Hossain
Kiegan Lloyd
Priyanshu Modi
Victor Adeolu Oriola
Katlyn Richardson
Abhishek Suri

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
Faculty
Arts (10 positions available)
Alfred Adenuga
Adeoluwa Adebanji

Business (6 positions available)
Mehar Singh

Education (5 positions available)
No Candidates

Engineering (3 positions available)
Imtiyaz Ahmed
Oluwatimilehin Oriola

Graduate Studies and Research (6 positions available)
Isaac Atayero

Kinesiology and Health Studies (3 positions available)
No Candidates

La Cité (1 position available)
No Candidates

Media, Arts and Performance (2 positions available)
No Candidates

<u>Nursing</u> (4 positions available)
No Candidates

<u>Science</u> (10 positions available)
Vineet Dahiya
Abhi Patel
Devansh Shah

<u>Social Work</u> (5 positions available)
Selma Babini

<u>Centre for Continuing Education</u> (3 positions available)
No Candidates

EXECUTIVE OF COUNCIL
Faculty – 1 position per faculty
<u>Arts</u>
Kiegan Lloyd

<u>Business</u>
Mehar Singh

<u>Education</u>
No Candidates

<u>Engineering</u>
No Candidates

<u>Graduate Studies and Research</u>
Isaac Atayero
Rajbir Singh

<u>Kinesiology and Health Studies</u>
No Candidates

<u>La Cité</u>
No Candidates

<u>Media, Arts and Performance</u>
Katlyn Richardson

<u>Nursing</u>
No Candidates

<u>Science</u>
Harshkumar Patel
Marmikkumar Patel
Karan Sharma

<u>Social Work</u>
No Candidates

<u>Centre for Continuing Education</u>
No Candidates

APPENDIX "B"

General Election Official Results

No	Position	Eligible Voters	Votes
	Canadian Federation of Students Plebiscite (In Favour)	15092	In Favour (861) Against (99) Abstain (615)
1	President (Gurjinder Singh Lehal)	15092	Victor Adeolu Oriola (595) Gurjinder Singh Lehal (660) Abstain (320)
2	Vice President, External Relations (Nifemi Adekoya)	15092	Nifemi Adekoya (705) Deep Patel (75) Krupal Patel (299) Rajbir Singh (484) Abstain (430)
3	Vice President, Operations and Finance (Gurkirat Singh)	15092	Talha Babar (445) Gurkirat Singh (736) Saurav Munjapara (292) Abstain (486)
4	Vice President, Student Affairs (Ziyang Li (Zeo))	15092	Ziyang Li (Zeo) (762) Keyur Patel (302) Abhishek Suri (444) Abstain (405)
5	Director, Faculty of Business Administration (Mehar Singh)	1531	Songhoprio (Sid) Khan (35) Mehar Singh (62) Abstain (88)
6	Director, Faculty of Arts (Alfred Adenuga)		ACCLAIMED
7	Director, Faculty of Engineering (Imtiyaz Ahmed)	908	Imtiyaz Ahmed (59) Anirudh Bindal (32) Oluwatimilehin Oriola (18) Abstain (64)
8	Director, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (Isaac Atayero)		ACCLAIMED

9	Director, Faculty of Kinesiology and Health Studies (Destinni Bentz)		ACCLAIMED
10	Director, Faculty of Nursing (Josée Pelletier)		ACCLAIMED
11	Director, Faculty of Science (Marmikkumar Patel)	2498	Vineet Dahiya (73) Harshkumar Patel (117) Marmikkumar Patel (180) Abstain (220)
12	Director, Faculty of Social Work (Selma Babini)		ACCLAIMED
13	First Nations University of Canada (Michael Shorting)		ACCLAIMED
14	Director, Luther College (Kiegan Lloyd)		ACCLAIMED
15	Director, Equity and Campaigns (Oghenerukevwe Jegede-Ikpen)		ACCLAIMED
16	Director, Indigenous Students (Karlene Pruden)		ACCLAIMED
17	Director, International Students (Md Abul Hossain)		ACCLAIMED
18	Director, Students with Disabilities (Katlyn Richardson)		ACCLAIMED
19	Director, Womens Students (Uniniafore Jegede)		ACCLAIMED
20	Senate (Abhishek Suri) (Priyanshu Modi) (Victor Adeolu Oriola) (Adeoluwa Adebanji) (Alfred Adenuga) (Md Abul Hossain)	15092	Adeoluwa Adebanji (129) Alfred Adenuga (78) Imtiyaz Ahmed (41) Md Abul Hossain (62) Kiegan Lloyd (46) Priyanshu Modi (214) Victor Adeolu Oriola (189) Katlyn Richardson (32)

			Abhishek Suri (233) Abstain (640)
21	University Council, Arts (Alfred Adenuga)		ACCLAIMED
22	University Council, Arts (Adeoluwa Adebanji)		ACCLAIMED
23	University Council, Business Administration (Mehar Singh)		ACCLAIMED
24	University Council, Engineering (Imtiyaz Ahmed)		ACCLAIMED
25	University Council, Engineering (Oluwatimilehin Oriola)		ACCLAIMED
26	University Council, Graduate Studies and Research (Isaac Atayero)		ACCLAIMED
27	University Council, Science (Vineet Dahiya)		ACCLAIMED
28	University Council, Science (Abhi Patel)		ACCLAIMED
29	University Council, Science (Devansh Shah)		ACCLAIMED
30	University Council, Social Work (Selma Babini)		ACCLAIMED
31	Executive of Council, Faculty of Arts (Kiegan Lloyd)		ACCLAIMED
32	Executive of Council, Faculty of Business (Mehar Singh)		ACCLAIMED
33	Executive of Council, Faculty of Graduate Studies &Research (Rajbir Singh)	1724	Isaac Atayero (48) Rajbir Singh (52)

			Abstain (86)
34	Executive of Council, Faculty of Media, Arts & Performance (Katlyn Richardson)		ACCLAIMED
35	Executive of Council, Faculty of Science (Marmikkumar Patel)	2498	Harshkumar Patel (107) Marmikkumar Patel (170) Karan Sharma (76) Abstain (244)
36	RPIRG Board of Directors (Noora Ashrafi) (Nicole Lerminiaux) (Prince Anim) (Parvin Yazdanparast) (Veerasekar Palaniappan Sambasivam) (Ben Schneider) (Cara Focht)		Noora Ashrafi (87) Prince Anim (78) Nicole Lerminiaux (82) Parvin Yazdanparast (74) Veerasekar Palaniappan Sambasivam (67) Ben Schneider (59) Cara Focht (49) Asif Ali Rahman (35) Sundus Zia (32) Rachel Krywulak-Burton (28) Mehrdad Safaei (23) Abstain (1053)

March 18, 2020

Submitted electronically

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Amber Smale, CRO

Appendix "C"

Template for Collecting E-mail Addresses and Phone Numbers

URSU General/By Election

==Date==

By completing this form, you hereby consent to ==Candidate's Name==, being a candidate for the position of ==Name of position== in the upcoming URSU Election to be held on ==Date==, to use your contact information for the purpose of communicating with you about their platform, surveys, ads, posters, voting, etc. during the campaigning period. The completed template(s) will be provided to the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) prior to any communications occurring and will be destroyed by the CRO and the Candidate immediately following the Election.

To withdraw your name after signing, you must contact the CRO directly at cro@ursu.ca. The collection of information will be between ==Campaigning period dates==.

Name of Student (first and last)	Student #	E-mail Address	Phone Number	Signature