

ANNUAL ELECTION REPORT

PUBLIC

2024

**RESULTS &
RECOMMENDATIONS**

UFV Student Union Society
ufvsus.ca/elections
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ELECTION OVERVIEW

NOMINATION PERIOD: January 22nd - February 11th

REVIEW PERIOD: February 12th - February 25th

ALL CANDIDATES MEETING (INFO SESSION): February 22nd

CAMPAIGN PERIOD: February 26th - March 10th

UFV ABBOTSFORD DEBATE: February 27th

UFV CHILLIWACK (CEP) TABLING: February 28th

UFV ABBOTSFORD QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION: March 6th

VOTING PERIOD: March 11th - March 14th

RATIFICATION: March 15th

FIRST DAY IN OFFICE: May 1st

EVENTS

All-Candidates Meeting (Info Session)

UFV Abbotsford Debate

UFV Chilliwack (CEP) Tabling

UFV Abbotsford Question and Answer Session

ELECTORAL OFFICER

Claire Cook

ELECTORAL APPEALS COMMITTEE

Taanyah M.

Samarth S.

Muskan T.

CANDIDATES



JAYDEN HOVEY
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE



GABRIELLA WERTHEIMER
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE



ARMAAN GILL
VICE PRESIDENT INTERNAL
CANDIDATE



TIRTH PAHOUJA
VICE PRESIDENT INTERNAL
CANDIDATE



HARMANJOT SINGH
VICE PRESIDENT INTERNAL
CANDIDATE



MOHAMMAD AFEEF ALAM
VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL
CANDIDATE



ROXY GRANIKOVAS
VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL
CANDIDATE



JOSIAH HANSEN
VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL
CANDIDATE



ARMAAN ANSARI
VICE PRESIDENT STUDENTS
CANDIDATE

CANDIDATES



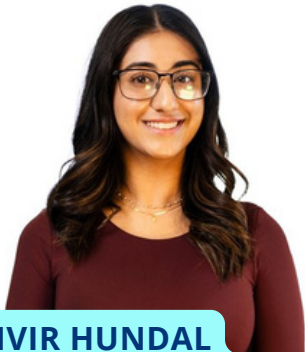
BILAL FAISAL FAHEEM
VICE PRESIDENT STUDENTS
CANDIDATE



DURGESH CHITRE
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
AT-LARGE CANDIDATE



BALKARN SINGH GILL
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
AT-LARGE CANDIDATE



TANVIR HUNDAL
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
AT-LARGE CANDIDATE



NICHAELA JACOB
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
AT-LARGE CANDIDATE



SIMRANPREET KAUR
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
AT-LARGE CANDIDATE



PRABCHARN MAHAL
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
AT-LARGE CANDIDATE



TANVI MALIK
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
AT-LARGE CANDIDATE



CHANCE PADGHAM
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
AT-LARGE CANDIDATE

CANDIDATES



JASKIRAT SINGH PARMAR
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
AT-LARGE CANDIDATE



DARIA TSYNDA
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE
AT-LARGE CANDIDATE

Removed Presidential Candidate: Lauren Onderwater

Removed Vice President Students Candidate: Angelina Joseph

EVENTS

ALL CANDIDATES MEETING (INFORMATION SESSION)

Candidates attended this in person meeting on February 22 to learn about how to be a candidate in the election. 19 Candidates attended. The three Candidates that could not attend, met with the Electoral Officer at their earliest convenience. Individuality, Campaigning, Complaints/Appeals and Events were all topics that were covered.

UFV ABBOTSFORD DEBATE

This in person event was on February 27 in Evered Hall (S-Building). 17 Candidates attended. All Candidates were given either one or two questions depending on position, and were allowed to respond to each other. All responses were timed. Free cookies, coffee and tea were provided, and the turnout was low. The event was filmed and a recording is online.

UFV CHILLIWACK TABLING

This event was at the UFV Chilliwack (CEP) Campus on February 28. 16 Candidates attended. Three tables were set up in the atrium of A Building, and SUS Logo cookies were on the tables, free for students to take. Candidates were able to interact with some students, but turnout was overall low.

UFV ABBOTSFORD QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

This event was on Wednesday March 6 in the SUB Restaurant. 15 Candidates attended and there was an overall turnout of about 70-90 people. Pizza and soft drinks were provided. The evening served as an opportunity for the candidates to engage with the students.

ITEMS OF NOTE

NOMINATION PERIOD

Nomination Period lasted from January 22 - February 11. Nomination Packages for six different types of positions were provided. These positions were: President, Vice President External, Vice President Internal, Vice President Students, Student Representative At-Large and Indigenous Representative. Two (of 23) Nominees submitted their applications on January 23. Two (of 23) Nominees submitted their applications on February 2. Three (of 23) Nominees submitted their applications on February 7. Two (of 23) Nominees submitted their applications on February 8. Two (of 23) Nominees submitted their applications on February 10. 12 (of 23) Nominees submitted their applications on February 11, and of these, 10 of them came in, in the last hour of Nomination Period. Five of the six types of positions available were applied for. These were: President, Vice President External, Vice President Internal, Vice President Students and Student Representative At-Large.

REVIEW PERIOD

Review Period lasted from February 12 - February 25. Only one Nominee was not accepted as a Candidate. This was due to not fully meeting the eligibility requirements that are required by the Election Rules. On February 14, 22 of the Nominees were notified that they were accepted as Candidates to run in the Election.

SUS Marketing did headshots and videos of the candidates once they were accepted. These took place on February 15th, 16th and 20th.

The All Candidates Meeting (Information Session) took place on February 22.

CAMPAIGN PERIOD

Campaign Period lasted from February 26 - March 10. The UFV Abbotsford Debate took place on February 27, the UFV Chilliwack Tabling event, on February 28 and the UFV Abbotsford Question and Answer Session, on March 6.

During Campaign Period, 138 emails, regarding approval of Campaign Materials, were received.

Also during this period, there was a total of five complaints, two warnings, two sanctions, two appeals and one removal of a Candidate.

For the following 2024 Campaign Period overview of Warnings, Sanctions, Appeals and Removal: one Warning, one Sanction, one Appeal and one Removal belong to Lauren Onderwater (Indicated by: *), and one Warning, one Sanction and one Appeal belong to Armaan Ansari (Indicated by: ***).

The final result of Lauren Onderwater's situation was that: she was removed as a Candidate from the SUS 2024 Annual Election, and is now ineligible to participate in any SUS Elections or By-Elections for the next two (2) years.

The final result of Armaan Ansari's situation was that: the sanction that required him not to campaign online/on social media was upheld.

ITEMS OF NOTE

CAMPAIGN PERIOD (continued)

WARNINGS

Warning 1 - March 2, 2024***

A Candidate received a **(6.1.2 Electoral Oversight Policy)** formal written warning for having violated the **Election Policy (5.5)** that all online material created for promotion of a campaign must be officially declared to and approved by the Electoral Officer and for having violated the **Election Rule (2.)** Individuality.

Warning 2 - March 4, 2024*

A different Candidate received a **(6.1.2 Electoral Oversight Policy)** formal written warning for having violated the **Election Policy (5.5)** that all online material created for promotion of a campaign must be officially declared to and approved by the Electoral Officer

SANCTIONS

Sanction 1 - March 1, 2024*

A Candidate received a written sanction **(6.2.2 -Electoral Oversight Policy)** that required them to remove certain election materials, due to having violated the **Election Rule of (2.1)** Individuality and **(1.1.5)** Ethics.

Sanction 2 - March 3, 2024***

A different Candidate received a written sanction **(6.2.1 -Electoral Oversight Policy)** that limited the amount of election materials they were allowed, and were therefore not permitted to campaign online/on social media, due to having violated the **Election Rule of (3.1.9)** Offer any sort of direct incentive (bribe) to any voting member and having violated the **Election Rule (1.1.5)** Maintain Ethical Standards. Of important note was that in: **Election Rules (4.4.)** The CEO can sanction a candidate for violations committed by non-candidates acting on behalf of the candidates, and that in: **Electoral Oversight Policy (6.1.1)** The CEO may sanction a candidate for violations committed by non-candidates acting on behalf of candidates, as determined by the CEO, and that in **Election Rules (4.2.)** Sanctions are made at the discretion of the CEO.

ITEMS OF NOTE

CAMPAIGN PERIOD (continued)

APPEALS

For **Sanction 1***, only the removal of one of six election materials ordered to be removed in the sanction was appealed by the Candidate to the **Electoral Appeals Committee**. The **Electoral Appeals Committee** upheld the appeal for this one material, and the Candidate was consequently allowed to continue using only this one item.

For **Sanction 2*****, the Candidate (different from above appeal) appealed this Sanction to the **Electoral Appeals Committee**. The **Electoral Appeals Committee** upheld the Sanction, and the Candidate consequently, was still required to not campaign online or on social media.

REMOVAL OF CANDIDATE*

The Presidential Candidate, Lauren Onderwater, was removed for multiple violations of the Election Rules and was removed under **Electoral Oversight Policy (6.4)** as the Candidate was consequently deemed no longer eligible as defined by Elections Rules. As required first by the **Electoral Oversight Policy (6.4)**, the Electoral Appeals Committee made the decision to agree to this removal.

The Electoral Officer removed Lauren Onderwater as a Presidential Candidate due to her Election Rule/Policy violations (and complaints) which all together demonstrated the Candidate's inability to Maintain Ethical Standards which is required to be eligible to participate in SUS elections by **Election Rules 1.1.5**.

The removed Candidate will be ineligible to participate in any SUS Elections or By-Elections for the next two (2) years, in accordance with **Electoral Oversight Policy (6.5) & (6.5.1)**, as the Candidate continued to violate policy after having been sanctioned.

It is important to note that the decision was approved by the Electoral Appeals Committee and was therefore final and could not be appealed. The Electoral Appeals Committee takes seriously any appeals and complaints received, aiming to maintain a fair and transparent electoral environment.

The choice was not made lightly, as SUS values the integrity of the election process and strives to ensure that all rules and regulations are upheld.

ITEMS OF NOTE

VOTING PERIOD

Voting Period lasted from March 11 - March 14. At the beginning of Voting Period the Electoral Officer removed 284 Campaign Posters from Campus. Also, during Voting Period, there was a total of seven complaints, two warnings and one removal of a Candidate. For the following 2024 Voting Period overview of Warnings, and Removal: one Warning, belongs to Jayden Hovey (Indicated by: **), one Warning, belongs to Gabriella Wertheimer (Indicated by: ****) and one Removal belongs to Angelina Joseph.

WARNINGS

Warning #1 - March 14, 2024**

A Candidate received a **(6.1.2 Electoral Oversight Policy)** formal written warning for having violated the **Election Rule (3.1)** Candidates cannot do the following: **(3.1.1.)** Campaign during any part of the election that is not the campaign period;

Warning #2 - March 14, 2024****

A different Candidate received a **(6.1.2 Electoral Oversight Policy)** formal written warning for having violated the **Election Rule (3.1)** Candidates cannot do the following: **(3.1.1.)** Campaign during any part of the election that is not the campaign period;

REMOVAL OF CANDIDATE

The Vice President Students Candidate, Angelina Joseph was removed under **Electoral Oversight Policy (6.4)** as a serious offence of the rules occurred **(unintentionally)** that would have prevented the election from continuing as a free and fair process. As required first by the **Electoral Oversight Policy (6.4)**, the Electoral Appeals Committee made the decision to agree to this removal.

The Electoral Officer removed Angelina Joseph as Vice President Students Candidate due to UFV publishing a feature post about Angelina Joseph (including a photograph (very similar to the photo used in Campaign Material) and a caption) on UFV's highly followed social media platforms, Instagram, X and LinkedIn, during Voting Period when no Candidate is allowed to Campaign. The Candidate was not responsible for the timing of this article, which was not about the election, however with the extremely similar photo and the Candidate's name being posted on the UFV social media platforms, the impact was that it gave unfair advantage over the other Candidates. Even during campaigning no Candidate would have been permitted to appear on UFV's channels like this. This post would have prevented the election from continuing as a free and fair process. The post was up for 22 hours. The potential impact was irreversible. The Candidate had to be removed to maintain a free and fair election.

It is important to note that the decision was approved by the Electoral Appeals Committee and was therefore final and could not be appealed. The Electoral Appeals Committee takes seriously any appeals and complaints received, aiming to maintain a fair and transparent electoral environment. The choice was not made lightly, as SUS values the integrity of the election process and strives to ensure that all rules and regulations are upheld.

GENERAL NATURE OF EACH COMPLAINT FROM ENTIRE 2024 ELECTION

Complaint #1: Ethics, **Complaint #2:** Plagiarism, **Complaint #3:** Plagiarism, **Complaint #4:** Bribery, **Complaint #5:** Bribery, **Complaint #6:** Campaigning Violation, **Complaint #7:** Campaigning Violation, **Complaint #8:** Unfair Advantage **Complaint #9:** Coercion **Complaint #10:** Campaigning Violation **Complaint #11:** Campaigning Violation **Complaint #12:** Campaigning Violation

RESULTS

VOTER TURNOUT

Ballots were available to students for four days. Most votes came in at the beginning of the voting period and declined steadily for the rest of it. The election had a 10% voter turnout with 1,100 students casting a vote.

PRESIDENT

Jayden Hovey: 575 votes

Gabriella Wertheimer: 434 votes

Jayden Hovey wins with 55% of the vote.

1009 votes tallied, with 37 spoiled ballots & 54 abstentions.

VICE PRESIDENT INTERNAL

Armaan Gill: 282 votes

Tirth Pahouja: 231 votes

Harmanjot Singh: 374 votes

Harmanjot Singh wins with 36% of the vote.

887 votes tallied, with 139 spoiled ballots & 74 abstentions.

VICE PRESIDENT EXTERNAL

Mohammad Afeef Alam: 297 votes

Roxy Granikovas: 386 votes

Josiah Hansen: 190 votes

Roxy Granikovas wins with 39% of the vote.

873 votes tallied, with 124 spoiled ballots & 103 abstentions.

RESULTS

VICE PRESIDENT STUDENTS

Armaan Ansari: 159 votes

Bilal Faisal Faheem: 419 votes

Angelina Joseph: 347 votes **Candidate Removed: Votes Do Not Count**

Bilal Faisal Faheem wins with 41% of the vote.

925 votes tallied, with 103 spoiled ballots & 72 abstentions.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES AT-LARGE

Durgesh Chitre: 183 votes

Balkarn Singh Gill: 309 votes

Tanvir Hundal: 442 votes

Nichaela Jacob: 343 votes

Simranpreet Kaur: 324 votes

Prabcharn Mahal: 193 votes

Tanvi Malik: 291 votes

Chance Padgham: 264 votes

Jaskirat Singh Parmar: 252 votes

Daria Tsynda: 414 votes

Tanvir Hundal, Daria Tsynda, Nichaela Jacob, Simranpreet Kaur, Balkarn Singh Gill, Tanvi Malik, Chance Padgham, Jaskirat Singh Parmar & Prabcharn Mahal win with 15%, 14%, 11%, 11%, 10%, 10%, 9%, 8% & 6% of the vote each.

RECOMMENDATIONS

ELECTION RULE/POLICY/BYLAW 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 2024 Annual Election.
- 2.** A by-law should be created that Nominees should have to disclose memberships to any kind of groups on or off campus.
- 3.** A by-law should be created that current SUS Executives/Board Members should not be allowed to provide their signatures as peers for nomination packages.
- 4.** 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.
- 5.** A by-law should be created to deal with the scenario where a nominee has a criminal record.
- 6.** A by-law should be created that for a student to run in the election they need to have spent one semester at UFV first (whether new to university or transferring)
- 7.** In "Electoral Oversight Procedure" 3. Electoral Appeals Committee 3.1 During the planning period: 3.1.1 Attend meeting with ED and CEO regarding expectations and processes", it should be changed so that the ED doesn't need to participate in this meeting. They may do so, but it is not required that they do. This needs to be adjusted in any other documents as well that may mention it.

RECOMMENDATIONS

ELECTION RULE/POLICY/BYLAW RECOMMENDATIONS (continued)

8. Some by-law should be created, after consulting the marketing team, that allows marketing and candidates to crossover more during campaigning (re-sharing etc.).
9. The bylaws that require the ballot and the election webpage to be alphabetized by candidates surnames should be changed or eliminated.
10. Elections Rules document bylaws should be reviewed and expanded upon where necessary (eligibility, ethics, individuality, campaigning).

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

11. In future elections, the Electoral Officer needs more support or the election process needs deadlines added that will make the process more manageable.
12. Voting Period rules around campaigning need to be reviewed.
13. 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.
14. Any Marketing Content Days should be included in the meeting/events timeline that is included in the job descriptions, the nomination packages, application received emails and acceptance to be a candidate emails.
15. The Candidate Nomination Package as well as the Bamboo Job Posting should be reviewed prior to the next elections/by-elections and updated.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I declare that I have strictly adhered to, and been governed by the: Elections Policy, Electoral Oversight Policy, Electoral Oversight Procedure and Elections Rules.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claire Cook". The script is cursive and fluid.

Claire Cook
SUB Lounge Assistant
(Acting Electoral Officer)

March 15th, 2024