

Official Election Report of the Chief Returning Officer

This is the official election report of the Chief Returning Officer for the UWSA 2014 General Election.

The following positions were contested in the 2014 General Election

Executive Positions

- 1 President
- 1 Vice President Equity & Administration
- 1 Vice President Finance & Operations
- 1 Vice President Academic Affairs
- 1 Vice President External Affairs
- 1 Vice President Events & Development

Campus-Wide Positions

- 6 Board of Directors' Positions
- 4 Senate Positions
- 1 Board of Governor's Representative

Segment Positions

- 8 Arts and Social Science Representative Positions
- 3 Business Representative Positions
- 3 Engineering Representative Positions
- 2 Human Kinetics Representative Positions
- 4 Science Representative Positions
- 3 Nursing Representative Positions
- 2 Law Representative Positions
- 2 Interfaculty Representative Positions
- 2 Education Representative Positions
- 1 International Student Representative
- 1 Residence Student Representative

Lance Positions

- 5 Lance Oversight Board Representatives

2014 General Election Timeline:

Nomination Period: Monday, February 3rd, 2014 at 9:00am to Friday, February 28th, 2014 at 4:00pm. Forms must be submitted IN SEALED ENVELOPES to the UWSA Office. The UWSA front desk staff receiving the sealed envelope is to date, time-stamp and sign the envelope across the seal.

All-Candidates Meeting: Friday, February 28th, 2014 at 6:00pm in the UWSA Council Chambers. Doors will remain open for 10 minutes after 6:00pm. Any candidate arriving after the doors have closed will be disqualified from the election.

Campaign Period: Monday, March 3rd 2014 at 12:01am to Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 11:59pm.

CAW Centre Poster Night: Sunday March 2,2014 at 7:00 pm to 11:59pm. This is an opportunity to get campaign materials approved and to put up posters in an emptied CAW centre.

Poster Recycling Night: Saturday March 15,2014 at 9:00 pm to 12:00 am. This event is mandatory (a proxy can be sent in your place). Any candidate not represented shall forfeit their expenditure refund.

All Candidates Forum: Thursday, March 6, 2014 at 12:00PM in the CAW Commons.

Voting Days: Thursday, March 13th, 2014 at 9:00am to Friday, March 14th, 2014 at 9:00pm.

Unofficial Results Available: Friday, March 14th, 2014 at 10:00pm at the Rock the Vote event. In addition, results will be posted within 24 hours on the front door of the UWSA Office

Last day to appeal results posted: Tuesday, March 18th, 2014, at 4PM.

Voting Options

VOTING IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT www.uwindsor.ca/uwsavote

However, there will be poll stations open at the following locations from 9:30am – 6:30pm:

CAW Student Centre, Toldo Health Centre, Odette, Centre for Excellence & Innovation, Human Kinetics Building, Leddy Library

Results:

President – Mohammad Akbar (Windsor United)

#	NAME	VOTES
1	No	968
2	Yes	741
-	None of the Above	0
-	Decline to Vote	172

Vice President Equity & Administration – Kate Du Toit (Windsor United)

#	NAME	VOTES
1	No	868
2	Yes	760
-	None of the Above	0
-	Decline to Vote	177

Vice President Finance & Operations – Omar Shahid (Windsor United)

#	NAME	VOTES
1	No	949
2	Yes	647
-	None of the Above	0
-	Decline to Vote	179

Vice President Academic Affairs – Hussein Zarif (Windsor United)

#	NAME	VOTES
1	No	952
2	Yes	621
-	None of the Above	0
-	Decline to Vote	199

Vice President Events & Development – Jessaline Fynbo (Windsor United)

#	NAME	VOTES
1	No	862
2	Yes	733
-	None of the Above	0
-	Decline to Vote	178

Vice President External Affairs – Adam El-Dika (Windsor United)

#	NAME	VOTES
1	No	910
2	Yes	659
-	None of the Above	0
-	Decline to Vote	194

Board of Governors Representative – Ben Brillantes (Windsor Connect)

#	NAME	VOTES
1	No	790
2	Yes	739

-	None of the Above	0
-	Decline to Vote	219

Senate

#	NAME	VOTES
1	Calvin Chak	427
2	Michael Simard	381
-	None of the Above	914
-	Decline to Vote	197

Board of Directors'

#	NAME	VOTES
1	Farah El-Hajj (Windsor Connect)	544
2	Fouad Nader (Windsor Connect)	487
3	Jaydee Tarpeh (Windsor Connect)	485
4	Jemilah Adekale (Windsor Connect)	464
5	Sukhjot Singh (Windsor Connect)	439
6	Vidya Mohan (Windsor Connect)	446
-	None of the Above	946
-	Decline to Vote	138

Lance Oversight Board Representatives – Sejal Behl

#	NAME	VOTES
1	No	879
2	Yes	561
-	None of the Above	0
-	Decline to Vote	280

International Student Representative – Romina Elezi

#	NAME	VOTES
1	No	29
2	Yes	120
-	None of the Above	0
-	Decline to Vote	16

Education Representative Position – Fatima Ali Bazzi

#	NAME	VOTES
1	No	8
2	Yes	5
-	None of the Above	0
-	Decline to Vote	0

Interfaculty Representative Positions

#	NAME	VOTES
1	Alexandra Furlought	26
2	Paviiththira Vimalananthan	16
-	None of the Above	26
-	Decline to Vote	7

Nursing Representative Positions

#	NAME	VOTES
1	Angela Li	48
2	Brad Torrie (2014-2015 UWSA Nursing Representatives)	44
3	Diana Lu (2014-2015 UWSA Nursing Representatives)	41
4	Makram Al-Matary (2014-2015 UWSA Nursing Representatives)	45
-	None of the Above	5
-	Decline to Vote	1

Science Representative Positions

#	NAME	VOTES
1	Annie Kanwar	61
2	Ghadeer AlGhosein	60
3	Hassan Shahzad	78
4	Hossam Sleiman	63
5	Ini Akpan	42
6	Marisa Market	73
7	Reza Fartaj	38
8	Tareq Tamr	79
-	None of the Above	47
-	Decline to Vote	19

Engineering Representative Positions

#	NAME	VOTES
1	Abdur Rahim	132
2	Evan Freeman-Gibb	150
3	Manjinder Lehal	61
-	None of the Above	77
-	Decline to Vote	13

Business Representative Positions

#	NAME	VOTES
1	Adil Ali	80
2	Akshat Kumar	46
3	Dino Hodzic (#WeAreOdette)	65
4	Karishma Shah (#WeAreOdette)	80
-	None of the Above	41
-	Decline to Vote	10

Arts and Social Science Representative Positions

#	NAME	VOTES
1	Alanna Foulon (The Party)	50
2	Alexandra Boychyn (Students First)	134
3	Ali Bazzi (Students First)	125
4	Ashleigh Erdelyan (Students First)	140
5	Emmanuel Igodan (Students First)	220
6	Jacob Godfrey (The Party)	59
7	Josh Demars (The Party)	59
8	Justin Tubaro (The Party)	55
9	Kyle Lariviere	121
10	Linda Deborah (The Party)	49
11	Marissa Rossi	122
12	Mohammed Almoayad (Students First)	136

13	Rebecca Westlake (Students First)	180
-	None of the Above	153
-	Decline to Vote	44

NOTE: The Students First slate running for Arts and Social Science Representative positions was disqualified after the announcement of the results due to a complaint regarding some members campaigning in an undesignated area.

Voting per candidate per faculty

See attached pages

Positions remaining vacant after the nomination period:

- 2 Human Kinetics Representative Positions
- 2 Law Representative Positions
- 4 Lance Oversight Board Positions

Slates

The registered slates running in the 2014 Winter general election were:

- Windsor United
- Windsor Connect
- 2014-2015 UWSA Nursing Representatives
- #WeAreOdette
- The Party
- Students First

Election issues

The biggest issue regarding the 2014 Winter General Election was the “None of the Above” campaign, whether this was a campaign team or not is undecided. They caused confusion among members that were voting and misleading individuals based upon false facts. The elections division had no way of addressing the campaign other than telling them to stop their campaign.

Appeals to EMC

1. The students endorsing the “None of the Above” vote during the 2014 UWSA General Elections were acting as a campaign by definition, unapproved by the CRO, and violated the following elections policy guidelines as stated in By-Law 80:
 - a. 6.4 The CRO may act to eliminate campaigning or issue a penalty, where in the discretion of the CRO, such campaigning leads to confusion of the members, commits plagiarism, or threatens the integrity of the election or the UWSA

- b. 6.6 d) Free from any content that denigrates the spirit of a fair, peaceful and well intentioned democratic election
- c. 7.1 The voting days must be free of active campaigning
- d. 7.5 In the event that the successful candidate receives fewer votes than the “None of the Above” option, the candidate shall be deemed to have lost the election
 - i. This student received a “tie vote” with the “None of the Above,” and contests the ruling that she has lost the election

Decision: The “None of the Above” group did violate these policies, and so the EMC calls for a re-vote.

Note: This appeal received 60 signatures and so is an appeal to Council

- 2. Elections Policy Part 7: Schedule of election procedure – voting period
 - a. Part 7.1 of the Elections Policy: the voting day(s) set out in 4.4 must be free of active campaigning and any campaigning is subject to the penalties in 6.1.5.1
 - i. The campaign period was re-opened during voting days
 - b. 7.1.1 Campaign materials may remain posted during voting days; however active campaigning will not be allowed
 - i. The students’ posters were torn down or covered
 - c. 7.6 Voters will: a) approach the poll with the purpose of voting; b) not engage in discussions regarding the candidates or any act of campaigning within 30 feet of the poll
 - i. Candidates were campaigning around and near polling stations and approached students with their laptops
 - d. 12.1 In the event of an online system failure, for the duration of two consecutive hours, or four hours in total the election results will become invalid
 - i. The election link on the website was faulty
 - e. UWSA Constitution: Part 3.4 Elections Policies shall be created and maintained by Council
 - i. Elections Policies were manipulated in a misguided attempt to restore the fairness and integrity to the elections
 - f. Constitution 4.1.1 No less than five weeks before the first day of voting, the CRO shall bring to Council notice of the a) dates of the nomination period, campaign period, and voting days
 - i. The CRO did not have the authority to re-open campaign period again due to the fact that it was not approved by Council
 - g. By-Laws 3.5 The CRO shall close the campaign period before the first day of voting
 - i. This explicitly states that campaigning and voting are to be held on separate days

Decision: The EMC decided that the CRO and DRO did violate these policies, and a re-vote should be called

Note: This appeal received 81 signatures and so is an appeal to Council.

3. The “Vote None of the Above” is a campaign by definition. This campaign did not follow the Elections Policy and violated
 - a. Elections Policy 6.6 a) All campaign materials must be personally approved by the CRO or DRO
 - b. 6.6 d) Free from any content that denigrates the spirit of a fair, peaceful and well intentioned democratic election
 - c. 6.4 The CRO may act to eliminate campaigning or issue a penalty where in the discretion of the CRO, such campaigning leads to confusion of the members, ..., or threatens the integrity of the election or the UWSA.
 - d. 7.1 The voting day(s) must be free of active campaigning
 - e. 7.4 The CRO will set polling stations
 - i. There were polling stations that were set by this campaign with their personal laptops/computers
 - f. 7.8 c) The CRO and DRO will: make any rulings necessary to preserve or restore the integrity and proper conduct of the election.

Decision: The EMC decided that the “None of the Above” group did violate these policies, and so the EMC calls for a re-vote.

Note: This appeal is accompanied by 60 signatures, and so is an appeal to Council.

4. The “None of the Above” group had unrestricted campaigning
 - a. The “None of the Above” worked under the context of promoting democracy, however it is clear that many involved used the rally of democracy to smear candidates in an effort to support their personal endeavors
 - b. Some members of the UWSA executive were involved in making sure candidates were not running, which undermines democracy in the UWSA election
 - i. Election Policy 7.8 c) The CRO can make any rulings necessary to preserve or restore the integrity and proper conduct of the election
 - ii. 6.4 The CRO may act to eliminate campaigning or issue a penalty where in the discretion of the CRO such campaigning leads to confusion of the members or threatens the integrity of the election or UWSA
 - iii. 6.5. Campaign materials is the subset of campaigning that includes materials on campus pertaining to a candidate or a group

of candidates that are f) Given as a speech or as a means of drawing attention

- c. This appeal includes proof that the “None of the Above” group had a polling station set up in the CAW cafeteria
- d. This appeal includes proof that the Engineering Society sent out a mass email personally attacking one of the Windsor United Candidates.
- e. This appeal includes proof that the “None of the Above” group campaigned specifically against Windsor United
- f. This appeal includes proof that many RA’s used their reach and positions in residence to campaign for the “None of the Above”, which is a violation of Residence policy
- g. This appeal provides proof that one of the UWSA executive members told people not to run in the election to violate election integrity

Decision: The EMC has decided that the “None of the Above” group did violate these policies, and so the EMC has called a re-vote.

- 5. The “None of the Above” group had unrestricted campaigning while candidates had to follow the rules.
 - a. The “None of the Above” campaigned on the first day of voting while none of the candidates could do that (before the CRO re-opened the campaign period)
 - b. The “None of the Above” used local media outlets but candidates were not allowed
 - c. The “None of the Above” had set up their own polling station on the first day of voting where candidates were not allowed to do this
 - d. The “None of the Above” used hate speech and negative campaigning and candidates had no way of defending themselves

Decision: The EMC has decided that the “None of the Above” group did violate these policies, and so the EMC has called a re-vote.

- 6. Elections Policy 7.6 Voters will b) not engage in discussions regarding the Candidates or any act of campaigning within 30 feet of the poll
 - i. This policy was violated due to re-opening of the campaign period by the CRO and DRO
 - b. Elections Policy 7.1 The voting day(s) set out in 4.4 must be free of active campaigning and any campaigning is subject to the penalties in 6.15.1
 - i. This policy was violated due to re-opening of the campaign period by the CRO and DRO
 - c. Elections Policy 7.1.1 Campaign materials may remain posted during voting days; however active campaigning will not be allowed equally and fairly to all candidates who have not lost this privilege due to penalties or otherwise

- i. This policy was violated due to re-opening of the campaign period by the CRO and DRO
- d. Elections Policy cannot supersede By-Laws (By-Law 80 4.14) The CRO shall open the campaign period no less than 9 days before the first day of voting
- e. By-Law 80 5.1.3 In no case is the discretion of the CRO or EMC, as provided for by the regulations governing the Election, sufficient grounds for appeal
 - i. Discretion does not provide license for direct violations of the rules

Decision: The CRO and DRO did violate these policies and By-Laws, so the EMC calls for a re-vote.

Recommendations

Further develop Elections Policy to include policies regarding residences, a proper clubs endorsement policy, and media policy.

It also recommends finding ways to deal with a campaign like the “None of the Above” It also recommends that “None of the Above” in future elections be accepted as a candidate.

Another recommendation is to buy new ipad’s for the purpose of only the UWSA elections.

The Elections Division requires a private office with more security. This is crucial to maintain confidentiality. The recommendation is an office detached/outside of the main UWSA office if possible.

The elections division recommends that the online voting system submission be changed to remove the “save” option, and implement only the “cast” option. Although the voting system informed students to Save and Cast their vote, some students did not click save before casting their vote and received blank voting email confirmations. By keeping only the “Cast” option, a lot of confusion can be avoided.

The EMC recommends holding a Re-Vote. The EMC recommends a new condensed timeline as follows:

Nomination Period: Monday, March 24th, 2014 @9AM – Friday, March 28th, 2014 @4PM

Poster Night: Saturday, March 29th, 2014 @11:59PM

Campaign Period: Sunday, March 30th, 2014 @12:01AM – Friday, April 4, 2014 @11:59PM

Voting Days: Saturday, April 5, 2014@9AM – Sunday, April 6, 2014@9PM at uwindsor.ca/uwsavote

Administrative access log report is attached

Recommendation to Destroy Ballots

The CRO recommends that Council accept the report of the 2014 Winter General Election and move to clear the online voting system.

This report of the 2014 Winter General Election of the University of Windsor Students' Alliance is respectfully submitted on March 21,2014.

CRO Shauhrat Gill