

**Report of the Chief Elections Commissioner
RE: The 2022 UWSA General Election**

Meagan Nenka, Chief Election Commissioner for the UWSA
Submitted to the University of Winnipeg Student Association Board of Directors on
March 27, 2022

i) Review of the 2022 UWSA General Election

I would like to begin by thanking the incredible team who made this election possible, and who supported one another throughout what became a very trying process. Specifically, I want to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of Election Campaign Facilitators Amy Voloshanovskiy and Ursella Khan to create a safe and collaborative environment for candidates. I would also like to thank the student groups who expressed their concerns over the transparency of this election, in response to an ongoing conduct complaint under investigation by the Election Accountability Board, and hope that my recommendation included in this report can contribute to positive change. This is my final election as Chief Election Commissioner, and I part ways with the UWSA in hopes that, as a whole, the organization creates the healing that it needs from within.

This report will provide an overview of online and telephone voting statistics, election results, and list recommendations to the board to consider for future elections.

Table 1. 2022 UWSA BOD Vacancies

2022 BOD Vacancies	Filled (Y/N)
President	Pending EAB Approval
Vice-President External Affairs (VPEA)	Y
Arts Director	Y
Business and Economics Director	Y
Education Director	N
Graduate Director	N
PACE Director	N
Science Director	Y
Accessibility Director	N

Community Liaison Director	Y
Environmental Ethics Director	N
International Students' Director	Y
Part-Time Mature Students' Director	Y
Racialized Students' Director	Y
Recreation and Athletics Director	Y
Student Living Director	Y
Two-spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and * Students' (2SLGBTQ*) Director	N
Women, Trans, and Non-Binary Students' (WTNB) Director	N
UWSA Regent	N
UWSA Senator	N
Emerging Leader Director – 2 year term	Y

Two referenda questions were posed during this election cycle: A new fee of \$3.00 per credit hour towards the Transformational Library Renovation project, as well as reinstatement of the UWSA U-Pass upon return to in-person courses.

Table 2. 2022 UWSA Referendum Questions

U-Pass	Y
Transformational	Y

ii) Vote Tabulation & Breakdown for the 2022 UWSA General Election

Table 3. Results of the 2022 UWSA General Election

<p>President <u>Kiratveer (Kirt) Singh Hayer -Pending EAB Approval</u> Yes: 445 (74.2%) No: 155 (25.8%) Abstain: 169 (22%)</p>

Vice-President External Affairs (VPEA)Jonathan Henderson - Elected

217 (33.6%)

Kanwalpreet Kaur

156 (24.1%)

Bhavya Jindal

153 (23.7%)

Aman Kumar

120 (18.6%)

Abstain: 123 (16.0%)

Arts DirectorUmar Awan - Elected

Yes: 458 (86.4%)

No: 72 (13.6%)

Abstain: 239 (31.1%)

Business and Economics DirectorJaspinder Kaur Dhillon - Elected

Yes: 458 (88.2%)

No: 61 (11.8%)

Abstain: 250 (32.5%)

Community Liaison DirectorSarah Anderson - Elected

Yes: 509 (93.7%)

No: 34 (6.3%)

Abstain: 226 (29.4%)

Emerging Leader Director – 2 year termShubhdeep Kaur - Elected

Yes: 465 (89.4%)

No: 55 (10.6%)

Abstain: 249 (32.4%)

International Students' DirectorTomiris Kaliyeva & Christine Quiah - Elected

279 (48.9%)

Suvansh Shukla & Tushar Singla

133 (23.3%)

Sunpreet Kaur

85 (14.9%)

Ravi Kumar
73 (12.8%)

Abstain: 199 (25.9%)

Part-Time/Mature Students' Director

Clifford Stornel - Elected

Yes: 471 (93.3%).

No: 34 (6.7%)

Abstain: 264 (34.3%)

Racialized Students' Director

Oyin Akinboye - Elected

Yes: 475 (91.5%)

No: 44 (8.5%)

Abstain: 250 (32.5%)

Recreation and Athletics Director

Vandan Khunt - Elected

Yes: 410 (85.2%)

No: 71 (14.8%)

Abstain: 288 (37.5%)

Science Director

Kaynat Grewal- Elected

258 (51.3%)

Ardita Ibrahimaj

245 (48.7%)

Abstain: 266 (34.6%)

Student Living Director

Vlad Samon - Elected

Yes: 441 (92.3%)

No: 37 (7.7%)

Abstain: 291 (37.8%)

U-Pass Referendum Question

Yes: 564 (87%)

No: 84 (13%)

Abstain: 121 (15.7%)

Transformational Library Renovation Referendum Question

Yes: 318 (54.1%)
 No: 270 (45.9%)
 Abstain: 181 (23.5%)

iii) Voting Statistics

Table 4. Voter Turnout

Monday March 29	No. of Voters	Tuesday March 30	No. of Voters	Wednesday March 31	No. of Voters
Online voting	356	Online voting	287	Online voting	125
Telephone voting	0	Telephone voting	1	Telephone voting	0

Note: Polling officer, Mikaila Collins, was available over the phone from 9 AM to 6 PM on March 7-9 at a rate of \$15/hour for a total of \$405.

Table 5. Voters by Years Enrolled at the University of Winnipeg

Year	No. of Voters
1st	249 (35.5%)
2nd	166 (23.7%)
3rd	135 (19.3%)
4th	82 (11.7%)
5+	69 (9.8%)
Abstain	68 (8.8%)

Table 6. Voters by Faculty

Program	No. of Voters
Science	229 (33.6%)
Arts	195 (28.6%)
Business	122 (17.9%)
Education	65 (9.5%)
PACE	29 (4.3%)
Kinesiology	23 (3.4%)

Graduate Studies	18 (2.6%)
Theological Studies	0 (0%)
Abstain	88 (11.4%)

Table 7. Historical Voter Turnout for UWSA Elections

Year	General Election	By-Election	Rank
2007	8	2	12
2008	7	2.4	14
2009	13.3	2.9	8
2010	9.1	4.3	10
2011	10.5	6.2	7
2012	11.5	10.1	3
2013	11.5	7.2	4
2014	9	13.6	2
2015	13.5	3.7	6
2016	8.2	1.6	13
2017	13.8	3.8	5
2018	6.8	4.15	11
2019	3.74	4.5	15
2020	15.3	8.8	1
2021	8.6	6.4	9
2022	8.3		

iv) Recommendations

Candidate Guide: Two candidates submitted requests for a change to their candidacy position after the Friday 9 AM deadline on Week 3. I recommend that this deadline is added to the calendar included within the Candidate Guide.

Election List: After voting opened, I discovered that some students in the P.A.C.E. program had been omitted from the election list received from campus' Technology Solutions Centre (TSC). I recommend that the UWSA connect with TSC to determine

how student data is being collected (as it may be that students with less than six months remaining in their program are excluded). Unfortunately, because new electors cannot be registered with Simply Voting after an election begins, voter turnout was impacted by these students being unable to vote.

Bad Emails: After uploading the spreadsheet of registered electors to Simply Voting, a list of “bad emails” is generated to flag contacts that will not receive email blasts. Generally, this list ranges between 10 to 20 emails, and the cause of this issue is unknown as they have been confirmed as valid University of Winnipeg student emails. I recommend contacting these students from the CEC email (using the “Blind carbon copy” option in Outlook) with instructions on how to vote by phone.

Email Blasts: I was contacted by several electors who expressed concern over having cast their vote without knowledge that a candidate was under investigation by the Election Accountability Board. I recommend that additional (daily) email blasts are scheduled when polls are open, to provide electors with pertinent information such as voter turnout and, most especially, complaints. The percentage of students checking their student email far outweighs the number who visit the election page on the UWSA website for updates or who follow the organization’s Instagram account. I believe that providing electors with knowledge of conduct complaints is essential to casting an informed vote, and subsequently to the transparency, integrity, and validity of an election and its results.

v) Additional Notes

Test Election: I have created a test election in Simply Voting, as a template for future ballots. All candidate names, photos, and biographies have been falsified.

Future Contact: I have provided written consent to the UWSA General Manager and Administrative & Special Projects Assistant to provide the future Chief Election Commissioner with my personal email, in the event that they have any questions regarding the Simply Voting software.