Report of the Election Management Team
RE: The 2023 UWSA General Election

Thomas Hanan, General Manager and Khushneet Kaur, Chief Election Commissioner for the UWSA
Submitted to the University of Winnipeg Student Association Board of Directors on April 26th, 2023

i)   Review of the 2023 UWSA General Election

Chief Election Commissioner Review:

I am really happy to see the involvement of students for the General elections. It lead to the highest voter turnout over last 20 years. The campaigning went very smooth and candidates respected each others private space as well. Overall, the elections went very smooth this time. Even though there were some complaints during the elections, but they were resolved quickly via emails or talking to the candidates in person.

- Khushneet, Chief Election Commissioner

General Manager Review:

I am very proud of everyone involved in this election, Candidates, Election Staff, and Communication Team. Not only did we achieve the highest voter turnout in over 20 years, but the EAB never had to meet since candidate complaints were able to be handled between Election Managers, and candidates. I am very happy with how the election went and hope this is the start of smooth elections with a clearer process.

- Thomas Hanan, Acting General Manager

Table 1. 2023 UWSA BOD Vacancies

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

Science Director	Y
Accessibility Director	Y
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* Students' (2SLGBTQ*) Director	Y
Women, Trans, and Non-Binary Students' (WTNB) Director	N
UWSA Regent	Y
UWSA Senator	Y
Emerging Leader Director – 2 year term	Y
Emerging Leader Director – 2 year term	Y

ii) Vote Tabulation & Breakdown for the 2023 UWSA General Election

Table 2. Results of the 2023 UWSA General Election

President
Tomiris Kaliyeva 486(34.7%) -Elected
Kiratveer(Kirt) Hayer 450(32.1%)
Parul Chauhan 301(21.5%)
Zekaria Salahadin. 124(8.9%)
Quinton Vander Aa. 39(2.8%)

Abstain: 142 (9.2%)

Vice-President Student Affairs (VPSA)
Christine Quiah - Elected
594 (43.6%)
Patrick Trudeau

405 (29.7%)
Manav Narang
205 (15.0%)
Anjali Soni
159 (11.7%)

Abstain: 179 (11.6%)

Accessibility Director
Patel Devanshi Alpeshkumar - Elected
Yes: 918(89.3%)
No: 110 (10.7%)

Abstain: 514 (33.3%)

Arts Director
Ethan Redekop- Elected
Yes: 899(91.4%)
No: 85 (8.6%)

Abstain: 558 (36.2%)

Business and Economics Director
Sahil Lekhi- Elected
Yes: 851 (88.9%)
No: 106 (11.1%)

Abstain: 585 (37.9%)

Community Liaison Director
Shanza Waheed khan - Elected
Yes: 763 (87.4%)
No: 110 (12.6%)

Abstain: 669 (43.4%)

Education Director
Sarah Anderson - Elected
814 (86.0%)
Evan Gordon
132 (14.0%)

Abstain: 596 (38.7%)

Emerging leader Director
Karamjeet Singh - Elected
646 (75.4%)

Gabriel Lourer – Elected
118 (13.8%)

Clay Mykietowich
93 (10.9%)

Abstain: 685 (44.4%)

Racialized Students' Director
Oyin Akinboye - Elected
Yes: 838 (92.7%)
No: 66 (7.3%)

Abstain: 638 (41.4%)

Graduate Students Director
Dhruv Gupta - Elected
Yes: 838 (92.7%)
No: 66 (7.3%)

Abstain: 676 (43.8%)

International Studnets' Director
Ishita Wadhwa & Ravpreet Singh Saluja- Elected
Yes 821 (88.4%)
No: 108 (11.6%)

Abstain: 613 (39.8%)

2SLGBTQ* Students' Director
Brie Villeneuve- Elected
Yes: 748 (84.0%)
No: 143 (16.0%)

Abstain: 651 (42.2%)

Part-Time/ mature students' Director
Walter Dyck- Elected
Yes: 727(89.4%)
No: 86 (10.6%)

Absatin: 729 (47.3%)

Professional, Applied, and Continuing Education(PACE) Students' Director
Sanchit Shangari- Elected
408(50.4%)

J Krish
402(49.6%)

Abstain: 732(47.5%)

Recreation and Athletics Director
<u>Eniola Soetan-Elected</u>
449(48.5%)

Afrasiyaab Khan
220(23.8%)
Mubarak Owolabi
153(16.5%)
Vandan Khunt
104(11.2%)

Science Director
<u>Vrutti Gabani-Elected</u>

Yes: 793(91.3%)
No: 76(8.7%)

Abstain: 673(43.6%)

Student Living Director
<u>Anshul Pathania- Elected</u>

Yes: 696(87.0%)
No: 104(13.0%)
Abstain: 742(48.1%)
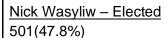
UWSA Regent
<u>Karaninder Singh Delow-Elected</u>

Yes: 782(89.2%)
No: 95(10.8%)

Abstain: 665(43.1%)

UWSA Senator
<u>Rahul Kanwal Brar- Elected</u>
547(52.2%)

Nick Wasyliw – Elected
501(47.8%)

Abstain: 623(40.4%)

iii)   <u>Voting Statistics</u>

<u>Table 3. Voter Turnout</u>

Monday March 13	No. of Voters	Tuesday March 14	No. of Voters	Wednesday March 15	No. of Voters
Online voting	646	Online voting	343	Online voting	390
Telephone voting	0	Telephone voting	0	Telephone voting	0
In-Person: Riddel	38	In-Person: Riddel	30	In-Person: Riddel	45
In-Person: Richardson	14	In-Person: Richardson	6	In-Person: Richardson	30
Total	698	**Total**	379	**Total**	465

<u>Table 5. Voters by Years Enrolled at the University of Winnipeg</u>

Year	No. of Voters
1st	426 (31.5%)
2nd	365 (27.0%)
3rd	310 (22.9%)
4th	149 (11.0%)
5+	104 (7.7%)
Total Votes	1354 (87.8% of voters)

<u>Table 6. Voters by Faculty</u>

Program	No. of Voters
Science	442 (34.4%)
Arts	356 (27.7%)
Business & Economics	203 (15.8%)
Education	138 (10.7%)
PACE	57 (4.4%)

Kinesiology	43 (3.3%)
Other	24 (1.9%)
Graduate Studies	23 (1.8%)
Total Votes	1286 (83.3% of voters)

Table 7. Historical Voter Turnout for UWSA Elections

Year	General Election	By-Election	Rank
2007	8	2	13
2008	7	2.4	15
2009	13.3	2.9	9
2010	9.1	4.3	11
2011	10.5	6.2	8
2012	11.5	10.1	3
2013	11.5	7.2	5
2014	9	13.6	2
2015	13.5	3.7	7
2016	8.2	1.6	14
2017	13.8	3.8	6
2018	6.8	4.15	12
2019	3.74	4.5	16
2020	15.3	8.8	1
2021	8.6	6.4	10
2022	8.3	11.0	4
2023	16.8		

Table 8. Voter Turnout by Country for UWSA Elections

Canada	1369 (88.85)
Not Captured	163 (10.6%)
United States	4 (0.3%)
India	3 (0.2%)

Kazakhstan	1 (0.1%)
United Kingdom	1 (0.1%)
South Korea	1 (0.1%)

iv) <u>Chief Election Commissioner Recommendations</u>

The recommendations we provided during last elections were acted upon in the General Elections. But there are a few things I would recommend in the next elections. To improve the engagement of students for the Candidates speeches, we can hand over students some refreshments as this time there were a few students attending the event in person. However, more engagement was observed in the online sessions. Therefore, I would recommend we can just keep those sections online or include refreshments to involve more students.

As mentioned in the by- laws, candidates could only be reimbursed $100 for their election expenses during campaigning. Still there was some confusion among candidates and they spent more than $100, further demanding reimbursement. I think we can also announce it in person so there is not any sort of confusion.

There must be atleast 3 polling stations at each time during the voting period. This time we didn't had the staff to cover all those shifts. Last time, we were able to manage three polling stations at each time. So, I would recommend hiring the students as polling officers for three days. It would minimize the stress on the General manager and they can help resolving the complaints by the candidates.

v) <u>General Manager Recommendations</u>

<u>Election List:</u> On the Wednesday Morning of Voting week it came to the attention of the General Manager that a class section of PACE Students were not included on the list of students that Uwinnipeg provided. The General Manager, with assistance from the Communication Manager, input all the students who were omitted manually and got the PACE department to email all their students about voting online. There were 313 Students omitted from the initial voting list and were added and notified to the best of our ability.

Future steps to prevent this will be getting a separate PACE list from that department and cross referencing it with the list from the University to confirm there are no omittions. Also contact Technology Solutions Centre (TSC) to confirm how they are receiving this student list information when it comes to PACE students.

<u>Candidate Campaign Opportunities:</u> There were 3 events arranged; 2 candidate speeches (For President Candidates and then for Vice President Student Affairs

Candidates). Then there was a candidate drop in with refreshments. The speeches were live streamed on Instagram and received about 900 views, but in person engagement was not very high. The Candidate Drop in was not well attended at all and would recommend coming up with another event idea that would bring more people in.

Candidate Tabling: I offered candidates an opportunity to book an hour slot to table in Riddel during Campaign week. Many candidates took the opportunity, but it did create a few complaints as candidates were forced to interact, but nothing that moved past me talking to parties of the complaint.

Candidate Complaints: All complaints sent to me were forwarded to the CEC as well. Received a few complaints that were interpersonal issues that we handled without the need for the EAB to get involved. I spoke to the parties involved in the complaints and kept an eye out for repeated offences. Many complaints were centered around irritating behaviour between candidates campaigning in the same spaces. I think it is important for candidates to let me know when anything happens to I can keep an eye on patterns, but many candidates were looking for bigger consequences. Unfortunately, I did not receive any complaints that were by-law or policy violations, with the exception of some poster complaints that were amended after notification. My recommendation: is clearer training around different types of complaints and what to expect. A measure could be created for repeated incidents, and when it will be brought to the EAB. Have it clear that By-Law Violations that cannot be managed by election managers, or are out of scope, is when the EAB gets involved.

Training Week: Host more drop-in training sessions during reading week so that the week has more opportunities for candidates to learn and prepare. Training around speeches, graphics ect.

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. This year had 44 bad emails, and the cause of this issue is unknown as they have been confirmed as valid University of Winnipeg student emails, but it shows "Unsubscribed" as a reason. These students can be contacted from the CEC email (using the "Blind carbon copy" option in Outlook) with instructions on how to vote by phone.

Election Staff/Polling Stations:
This election we attempted to only use in-house staff for Polling Officer Shifts. This worked fine but we were only able to cover the shifts enough to have 2 polls open all three voting days: Riddel and Richardson. Recommendation: We hire 2 Polling Officers

who are available all 3 days, as well as have the CEC available all 3 days or at least can help open and close each day. There should be at least 3 polling booths open each day for General Elections; Riddel, Buhler and Richardson. One of these can change daily to other locations, Richardson was very slow for in-person polls and one day should have been at Buhler. For By-Elections I would recommend having Riddel open, and then have a second one that changes locations each day. Location should be informed by which positions are up in the election.

vi) Communications Manager Recommendations

Extra Week for Prep:
This additional week greatly helped the communications team on preparation for campaign week and helping any candidates with their campaign materials. We were able to finish all materials on time without any issues. This week also let the candidates ask any questions about campaign materials or campaigning without losing a day of campaigning.

Email Blasts:
In the past we had only sent an email in the morning of each voting day. Each email would only be sent to students who have not voted. This year we sent 2 emails on the last day, with the second one being 2 hours before voting closed. We then gained an influx of voters with 60 in 30 minutes after the email was sent.

Pushed/paid Advertising 1085 clicks

Deadlines:
Having hard deadlines greatly helped the communications team especially the Graphic Designer in completing tasks on time. More than the majority of candidates met each deadline and only a few candidates were not able to. I would highly recommend having deadlines again as this will keep the candidates, and the communications team prepared for the campaign week and voting.

Voters guide:
The voter's guide is not a mandatory material, but is still created by the communications team. Students were using the Voter's Guide to learn about each of the candidates and what they are running for. This helped voters to make an educated decision. I would recommend that we always make voter's guide. I would recommend only printing two voter's guide per voting station and not more unless requested by students.

Recommended By-Law Changes: Comms being notified of posters
- Changing for comms to poster
- Instead of having the communications team poster for all candidates we should allow the candidates to poster themselves as they know where their audiences better than we know. The communications team can assist in poster for accessibility needs.

- I would recommend that candidates show a screenshot of their Campaign Materials to the communications team to ensure they have the right information. Some posters had the wrong voting dates.

Candidate still using handbills to poster.