SAGBC BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION 2020

VOTE

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REPORT OF THE CHEIF RETURNING OFFICER ON THE 2020 FALL ELECTIONS

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STUDENTASSOCIATION
GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Cheif Returning Officer wish to acknowledge this land on which George Brown College operates.

For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. This territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. This territory is also covered by the Toronto Purchase.

Today, Tkaronto is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

PART I -
THE ELECTION RESULTS

THE REPORT OF THE CHEIF RETURNING OFFICER

The 2020 Fall Elections of the Student Association of George Brown College was held from November 23–27, 2020.

ELECTION OFFICIALS

Chief Returning Officer	Charles Wilson
Deputy Returning Officer	Venessa Douse
Elections Committee	Rosalyn Miller Urvish M Patel Dishant Patel
Legal Advisor to the CRO	William Reid, LLB Ben Millard, LLB

IMPORTANT DATES

Nominations Open	November 5, 2020
Nominations Close	November 12, 2020
All Candidates Meeting	November 13, 2020
Campaigning begins	November 16, 2020
Voting Opens	November 23, 2020
Voting Closed	November 27, 2020
Validation of results	November 27, 2002

NOMINATED CANDIDATES

Director of Communications and Internal
Taranjeet Singh Manchanda
Vishali Sitharthan

Director of Operations
Sagar Sharma

Community Services and Early Childhood Educational Centre Representative
Stefan Enrique Joseph Kallikaden
Victoria Villanueva

ELECTION DISCIPLINE AND OTHER RULINGS
In the course of the election, the Chief Returning Officer did not issue any demerit points. There was one consent order made regarding the vacation pay of a candidate.

ELECTIONS EXPENSES
The following are the results of the election expenses form returned to the Chief Returning Officer. I had not conducted any audit of the costs and have only undertaken a review for approval when a cheque request form had to be issued.

Director of Communications and Internal

Taranjeet Singh Manchanda	$0.00
Vishali Sitharthan	$0.00

Director of Operations

Sagar Sharma	$15.00

Community Services and Early Childhood Educational Centre Representative

Stefan Enrique Joseph Kallikaden	$15.00
Victoria Villanueva	$0.00

RESULTS AT VAILDATION

Voter turnout

Community Services and Early Childhood Education Educational Centre	3.0%
Overall	6.8%

Director of Communication and Internal

Candidate	Poll 99	Total Votes
Taranjeet Singh MANCHANDA	566	566
Vishali SITHARTHAN	223	223
blank ballots	80	80
Total	**869**	**869**

Director of Operations
Should Sagar SHARMA be elected as Director of Operations?

Answer	Poll 99	Total Votes
YES	679	679
NO	104	104
blank ballots	86	86
Total	869	869

Community Services and Early Childhood Educational Centre Representative

Candidate	Poll 99	Total Votes
Stefan Enrique Joseph KALLIKADEN	35	35
Victoria VILLANUEVA	61	61
blank ballots	4	4
Total	100	100

Poll location	Poll 99	Online vote

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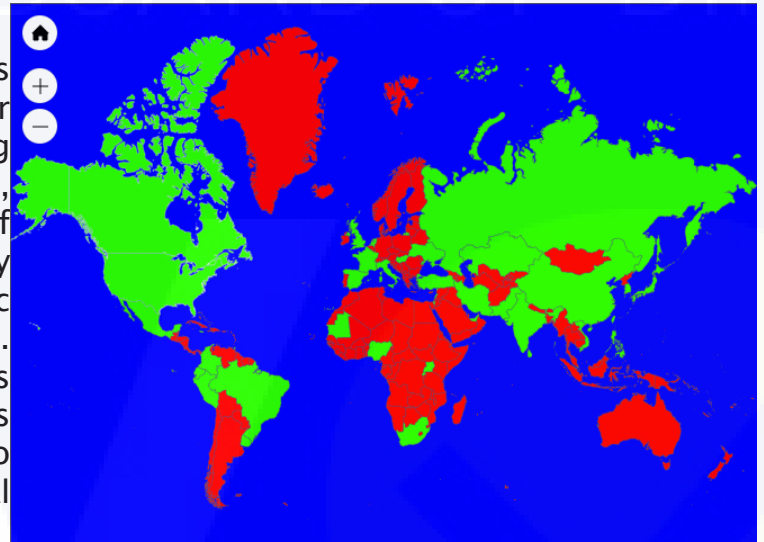
PART I -
THE RETROSPECTIVE REPORT

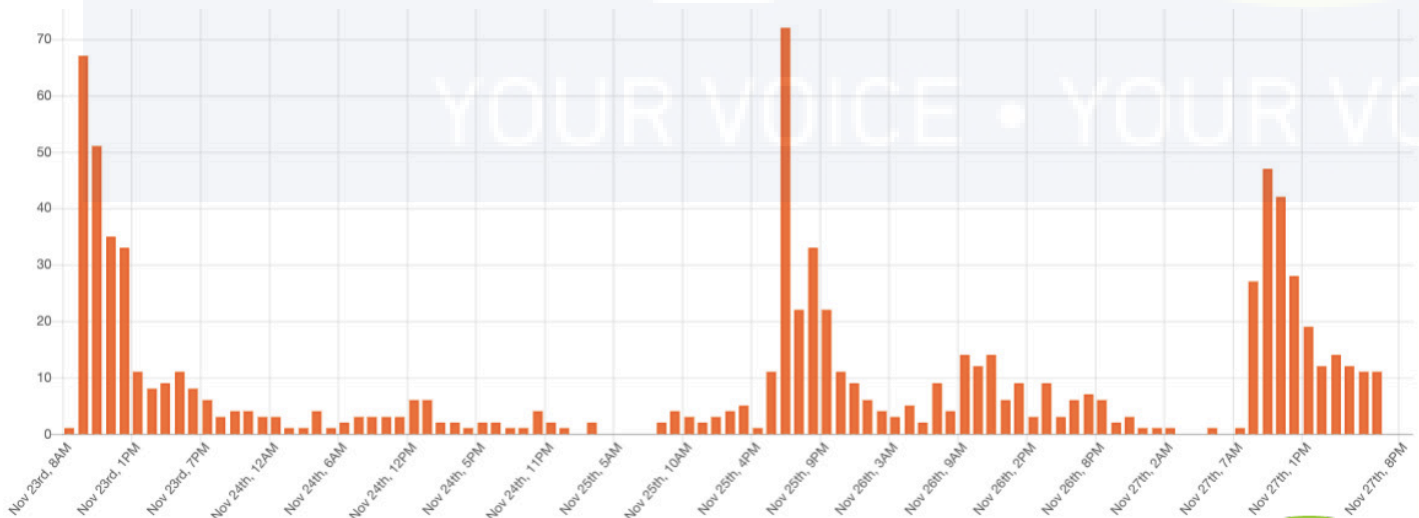# INTRODUCTION TO THE RETROSPECTIVE REPORT

While other student associations have been attempting to figure out how to run elections in an online environment, we have run two elections. We have not seen amazing voting turnout, but it should be noted that the number of candidates who ran for office during the fall election may have been insufficient to gather the widespread interest of the electorate. We are in unprecedented times, and we are adapting.

I am grateful for the Student Association team's support, in ways too numerous to count and to mention here. However, I will single out both the work of Wafa Ulliyan and her communications team headed by William Brown for their work in the promotion of this election on campus, including the .

The one truly remarkable thing about this election is that votes were cast all over the world. According to the Simply Voting software, as determined by IP addresses, votes were cast in 40 countries in five out of the six inhabited continents, including many countries with less developed democratic intuitions and lacking universal franchise. The following map of the world shows which countries George Brown Students cast their votes for this election. Due to the circumstances, this was a truly global election.

Another fact which I noticed during the election is the impact the email reminders had on the voting. The following charts show voter turn out by time. Email blasts went out at the following times: November 23, 2020 at 09:02 AM; November 25, 2020 at 6:17 PM; and November 27, 2020, at 09:21 AM.

The vast majority of the vote took place within three hours of an email blast. While a causal relationship cannot be proven by the data provided, it is in line with previous election cycles that once a blast occurred, the majority of votes took place within three hours after an email blast had occurred. However, it should be noted that when more than three email blasts occur during an election period, negative replies are often received. The use of three email blasts seems to be a good number of emails, which balances the need to inform students and does not spam students with too much information.

During the nominations process, the process of gathering electronic signatures was done through the Simply Voting system. This was done after a discussion with the Elections Committee. I am unsure if this was the ideal solution for the 2020 fall election, but it worked to such a degree that it remains workable for the 2021 winter election.

This election was also unique since one candidate asked to withdraw from the race after the start of the voting period. The previous practice has been when a candidate requested to withdraw from the race after the deadline for withdrawing from the race and before the start of voting, that a consent order disqualifying the candidate from the race would be made. This consent order is signed by both the CRO and the candidate wherein the candidate asks to be disqualified from the race and agrees not to appeal the disqualification. The then CRO issues an order to disqualify. Since the candidate requests to withdraw from the race after voting, this was not possible. As a result, the CRO has agreed to make a statement that the candidate suspended their campaign available publicly.

I am ever grateful for all who are involved in election services, especially during this difficult time. As we adapt to a new reality globally, we must adjust to a new reality in elections. In the words of noted Canadian humanitarian Michael Peers, "For many, things are being shaken, and it feels like chaos. But we stand up and raise our heads; and are led us into something new." Let's build that something new together.

Wilson, C.R.O.

RECOMMENDATIONS

During the ordinary course of affairs, I would provide several recommendations regarding the delivery of both procedure and policies regarding the election. This year will be much shorter than previous years. I will focus on three recommendations.

Recommendation #1 – The Role of the Director of Communications and Internal and Director of Operations

I recommend reviewing both the duties and responsibilities of the Director of Communications and Internal and the Director of Operations. These positions have many specialized responsibilities within them, which often causes candidates not to seek these roles. In short, I find that the job discerptions of these roles need to be reviewed, especially following the precepts of Wilson's Politics Administration Dichotomy and generally accepted administrative principles. I further recommend that a review of the eligibility period of these positions. For example, I recommend a limited period of eligibility after graduation for students running for these positions.

Recommendation #2 – The Electoral System

Over the last few elections, we have seen more candidates running for less position; a discussion needs to be taken to determine if the first past the post system most appropriate system to use for the Student Association elections going forward. To this end, I recommend that Ranked Ballots be used going forward.

To fully understand this recommendation, here is a quick overview of the two options:

FIRST PAST THE POST (the current system is defined as follows:

> The First Past The Post system is the simplest form of plurality/majority system, using single member districts and candidate–centred voting. The voter is presented with the names of the nominated candidates and votes by choosing one, and only one, of them. The winning candidate is simply the person who wins the most votes; in theory he or she could be elected with two votes, if every other candidate only secured a single vote.

AN RANKED BALLOT (the proposed system – for review and discussion)

> Elections under Ranked ballots are usually held in single–member districts, like FPTP elections. However, RB gives voters considerably more options than FPTP when marking their ballot paper. Rather than simply

indicating their favoured candidate, under RB electors rank the candidates in the order of their choice, by marking a '1' for their favourite, '2' for their second choice, '3' for their third choice and so on. The system thus enables voters to express their preferences between candidates rather than simply their first choice.

RB also differs from FPTP in the way votes are counted. Like FPTP, a candidate who has won an absolute majority of the votes (50 percent plus one) is immediately elected. However, if no candidate has an absolute majority, under RB the candidate with the lowest number of first preferences is 'eliminated' from the count, and his or her ballots are examined for their second preferences. Each ballot is then transferred to whichever remaining candidate has the highest preference in the order as marked on the ballot paper. This process is repeated until one candidate has an absolute majority, and is declared duly elected. RB is thus a majoritarian system.

These definitions are adapted from the ACE Electoral Knowledge Network.

Recommendation #3 – the Elections Committee

I am recommending a review of the composition of the Election Committee. In a board of 12, and an election committee of three can be composed solely of the board can easily create accusations of conflicts of interest. Further, since the Elections Appeals Committee and the Elections Committee merger, the potential impact of a potential conflict of interest is magnified. I can envision two ways in which the elections committee could be expanded (1) by expanding the membership to one alumni of the college who previously served on the Board of Directors; or (2) adding members of the college community to the elections committee to provide an external view.