

# DRAFT Report

Electoral Committee  
Students' Union of Vancouver Community College  
Local 16 British Columbia Federation of Students  
Wednesday, October 18, 2022

## 1. MEMBERS OF THE ELECTORAL COMMITTEE

Broadway Campus Representative .....	Matricia Kennedy
Chairperson.....	Airan Sahagun
Executive Director/CRO .....	Brynn Joyce
Women Students' Representative .....	Ravneet Kaur

## 2. MEETINGS OF THE ELECTORAL COMMITTEE

The Electoral Committee did not meet during the course of the election.

## 3. SCHEDULE OF THE ELECTION

The election was scheduled for October 3 starting at 9AM and closed October 5 5PM as per the Bylaws. The election was held online using ElectionBuddy software.

## 4. VACANT/EXPIRING POSITIONS

All 12 positions were vacant. No student ran for the Indigenous Students' Representative position

## 5. CANDIDATES

There following nominees met the following requirements to become candidates: Submit a complete and valid nomination form, attend an orientation session, and sign a candidate roles and responsibilities acknowledgment form.

### Accessibility Representative

Manjot Kaur

### Broadway Campus Representative (2)

Harneem Gidda  
Maheninder Lotey  
Parvinder Singh  
Sukhmanjeet Singh

### Chairperson

Damanpreet Singh (Disqualified)  
Ravneek Singh

### Director of College Affairs

Yuvraj Singh Bhinder  
Marcus Ng

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## **Director of Events**

Arpit Bhardwaj  
Gurnoor Gogia  
Harleen Kaur

## **Director of Internal Affairs**

Sukhpreet Kaur  
Mahakdeep Singh

## **Downtown Campus Representative (2)**

Sahil Arora  
Aditya Gupta  
Maria Francesca Leonardo  
Rishabh Pandey

## **Pride Representative**

Jessica Ligeralde  
Ryaine Yago

## **Women Students' Representative**

Rhidi Bhatia  
Gunjot Kaur

## **6. RESULTS**

**996 ballots submitted of 9177 eligible voters — 11%**

### **Accessibility Representative**

Manjot Kaur \*Successful Candidate\*  
Yes: 524 (86.16%)  
No: 81 (13.39%)

Votes Tallied: 605  
Abstentions: 391

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## **Broadway Campus Representative (2)**

Harneem Gidda \*Successful Candidate\*

Votes: 314 (39.95%)

Maheninder Lotey

Votes: 203 (25.83%)

Parvinder Singh

Votes: 45 (5.73%)

Sukhmanjeet Singh \*Successful Candidate\*

Votes: 224 (28.5%)

Votes tallied: 786

Abstentions: 364

## **Chairperson**

Ravneek Singh \*Successful Candidate\*

Yes: 467 (69.08%)

No: 209 (30.92%)

Votes tallied: 676

Abstentions: 320

## **Director of College Affairs**

Yuvraj Singh Bhinder

Votes: 305 (49.92%)

Marcus Ng \*Successful Candidate\*

Votes: 306 (50.08%)

Votes tallied: 611

Abstentions: 385

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## **Director of Events**

Arpit Bhardwaj

Votes: 105 (16.36%)

Gurnoor Gogia

Votes: 139 (21.65%)

Harleen Kaur \*Successful Candidate\*

Votes: 398 (61.99%)

Votes tallied: 642

Abstentions: 354

## **Director of Internal Affairs**

Sukhpreet Kaur

Votes: 209 (46.24%)

Mahakdeep Singh \*Successful Candidate\*

Votes: 243 (53.76%)

Votes tallied: 452

Abstentions: 544

## **Downtown Campus Representative (2)**

Sahil Arora

Votes: 193 (18.68%)

Aditya Gupta \*Successful Candidate\*

Votes: 291 (28.17%)

Maria Francesca Leonardo \*Successful Candidate\*

Votes: 370 (35.82%)

Rishabh Pandey

Vote: 179 (17.33%)

Votes tallied: 1033

Abstentions 197

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## Pride Representative

Jessica Ligeralde \*Successful Candidate\*

Votes: 413 (75.64%)

Ryaine Yago

Votes: 133 (24.36%)

Votes tallied: 546

Abstentions: 450

## Women Students' Representative

Rhidi Bhatia \*Successful Candidate\*

Vote: 547 (73.32%)

Gunjot Kaur

Vote: 199 (26.68%)

Votes tallied: 746

Abstentions: 250

## 7. COMPLAINTS

7 formal complaints were made this election period against 4 candidates. A number of other students (and faculty) submitted informal complaints, many of these could not be followed up on as they were not submitted appropriately. Complainants were informed how to submit a formal complaint but many did not. Most concerning of these informal complaints was an allegation that candidates were forcing students to vote for them. The CRO investigated this on his own but was unable to find sufficient evidence.

## 8. RULINGS

Minor Offences:

3 minor offences occurred during the election. The offences were;

- Posting on a non SUVCC poster boards
- Posting on a private Instagram account
- Altering other candidates campaign materials

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## Major Offences

4 Candidates committed major offences and were disqualified. 3 candidates provided sufficient evidence that the offence had not occurred and were allowed to continue running in the election.

### Candidate: Damanpreet Singh

Offence: Running on an apparent slate

Candidates poster appeared on the International Students' Unions Instagram account story followed immediately by Maheninder Lotey's poster.

Offence: Engaging in harassment of another candidate

While the candidate was disqualified due to the previous offence, the candidates friend Pardeep Singh called candidate Ravneek Singh and threatened him.

### Candidate: Maheninder Lotey

Offence: Running on an apparent slate

Candidates poster appeared on the International Students' Unions Instagram account immediately after Damanpreet Singh's poster was posted. The candidate provided sufficient evidence that he was not running on a slate with Damanpreet and was allowed to continue in the election

### Candidate: Parvinder Singh

Offence: Running on an apparent slate

Candidate appeared to be campaigning in a video with Candidate Sukhmanjeet Singh. The candidate was able to provide evidence that they were not engaging in campaigning together and was allowed to continue in the election.

Candidate: Sukhmanjeet Singh

Offence: Running on an apparent slate

Candidate appeared to be campaigning in a video with Candidate Parvinder Singh. The candidate was able to provide evidence that they were not engaging in campaigning together and was allowed to continue in the election.

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## 9. SUGGESTIONS

Issue #1:

The CRO believes that a number of the major complaints were connected with the International Students Union (ISU). The ISU has been involved in manipulating other students' association elections across the Lower Mainland and candidates associated with the ISU have been disqualified from those elections for violence against other candidates and students. The ISU appears to be actively attempting to influence elections in an unfair and often violent manner and the CRO believes this will be a larger problem next year.

Solution

The Electoral Policy should be amended to not allow outside organisations to support, promote or in anyway influence the elections at SUVCC. While this solution will not stop outside organisations from interfering with the SUVCC elections in secret, it will give the CRO the power to disqualify candidates who appear to be supported by an outside organisation.

Issue #2:

Candidates posted posters on non SUVCC poster boards. While in some cases it was obvious that the candidate had posted on a non SUVCC poster board, there were many situations where it was unclear if the poster board was managed by SUVCC or not.

Solution

Updating signage on all poster boards needs to be prioritized prior to the next election.

Issue #3:

A by-election cannot be called unless the number of Board of Directors members falls below three.

Solution

Amend Bylaw VI – Election of Board of Directors to allow a by-election for vacant positions to be called within the first five weeks of the College semester beginning in January.

Issue #4:

A candidate included the slogan “The throne or the coffin” and a number of students and faculty expressed discomfort with the phrase. The phrase did not break any policy or bylaws that the CRO is aware of so no action could be taken.

Solution

There is no proposed solution for this issue. However, the CRO felt it important to highlight as a discussion should be held on how to strike a balance between a candidates right to freedom of expression and members of the college communities right to feel safe on campus.

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## Issue #5:

Candidates are not required to provide a list of social media account they intend to use for campaigning.

## Solution

Amend the Election policy to require candidates to provide a list of social media accounts they intend to use for campaigning. This list should also include the social media accounts of volunteers. The CRO would review these accounts to ensure they are public and candidates could not post on any social media accounts that are not approved.

## Issue #6:

Candidates are not required to provide a list of volunteers. Members were sharing candidates Instagram posts and if that post was in violation of the Election policy it was difficult to determine if that member was a volunteer for that candidate.

## Solution

Candidates must submit a list of volunteers, with their social media accounts, to the CRO prior to the start of the campaign period. The CRO notes this may not address the possibility of a member deciding to share a candidates posts without being a volunteer of the candidate and without the direction of the candidate however it may ensure that some complaints and investigations can be resolved more quickly.

## Issue #7:

Candidates were confused about the [elections@suvcc.ca](mailto:elections@suvcc.ca) at [elections@vcc.ca](mailto:elections@vcc.ca) emails and often emailed the wrong one regarding the wrong organisations elections.

## Solution

The Electoral Committee should consider not using the [elections@suvcc.ca](mailto:elections@suvcc.ca) email and instead use the email of the CRO.