



# REPORT

*From the office of the...*

## Chief & Deputy Returning Officers

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TO: Members of the Executive Board  
FROM: Chloe Deraiche & Sarah Figueiredo  
SUBJECT: Elections Department Report #5  
DATE: Wednesday February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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### **UPDATE**

The elections committee has concluded presidential appeals at the Elections Committee level, and is now going through appeals process with the Electoral Appeal Board. We are also entering SRA Generals, the last large scale election for the 2017/18 elections committee.

### **SERVICE USAGE**

For SRA generals we saw good turnout, only requiring to extend engineering and humanities nominations. In the midst of promotions for SRA generals we also saw a spike in our Facebook likes, follows and shares.

### **PAST EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

We have finished our Elections Committee appeals period for presidentials, with appeals now going to the Electoral Appeal Board. These appeals meetings were very difficult for our committee, but we applaud the immense amount of thought and attention to detail they have put into their decisions, and the seriousness in which they take their responsibility to uphold the integrity of the election. This was no easy process for them.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS, PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES**

We are currently prepping for SRA Generals. Humanities and engineering nominations have been extended one day (closing 5pm on February 28<sup>th</sup>). Campaigning will start on March 1<sup>st</sup>, and polling is taking place on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>. The Elections Department will be holding no events during the campaign period.

The Elections Department will be presenting at Electoral Appeals Board. The EAB will arrive at their decision in early March, this decision cannot be appealed.

Files will be completed on a Sunday after SRA Generals are complete.

## **BUDGET**

200 dollars was used from the SRA Generals Promotions line to create a SRA Generals promo package, leaving the remaining balance at 0.

Due to the Underground's understandably busy time, as well as the power outage they experienced, we are still waiting on our final bill for Presidentials. We were given a rebate as some of the t-shirts were damaged, so the underground also is currently factoring this all into our bill as well.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Due to SRA Generals and increased academic commitments, we have had some Elections Committee members dropped their seats. Though, we currently have enough members to reach quorum for SRA Generals. As mentioned previously in this report, our volunteers have been so committed to their role and duty, going above and beyond to accommodate the lengthy meetings. The Department is lucky to have such fantastic people to work with.

After the SRA Generals appeals process is over the committee will dissolve, and members will be required to re-run if they wish to hold the seat again.

## **CURRENT CHALLENGES**

We have been investigating into the SimplyVoting email issue, as we have received a higher number of concerns than usual. From our end, we can see emails being sent out on SimplyVoting (as we get notified when bounce-backs happen), and we can see students vote. To us, this signifies that emails are being sent and received. We are aware that some students are receiving the emails later in the day. Unfortunately, nothing can be done to remedy this as SimplyVoting must stagger email in order to avoid getting throttles, as well as it takes time to send out over 25,000 emails.

Upon consultation with UTS, Pauline, there has been no throttling or blocking of emails. UTS is aware of the SimplyVoting IP address, email address and polling dates. This ensure that they are not blocking emails. This is the system that has been used in the past, and with no upgrade to SimplyVoting software, this system should preform at the same level it has in the past. We are still waiting to hear back from ITS.

Upon consultation with SimplyVoting, they have mentioned that a significant portion of electors have unsubscribed from email blasts in the past or marked them as "spam". When this happens, SimplyVoting can no longer send that individual an email, even for a new election. They are implementing a system at the end of this year that will allow the administrator (in our case, the CRO) to see which electors have unsubscribed, so that they can be notified separately if they wish to vote.

Though we still waiting to hear back from the ITS, we are somewhat at a loss as to where to continue searching for the root of the problem. We will continue to carefully monitor SimplyVoting during polling days and will advertise the SimplyVoting link so students without emails will be able to access their ballot.

## **SUCSESSES**

One major success that we had very recently was the sheer quantity of individuals running for SRA. There were 9 individuals running for Science, and 11 individuals running for Health Sciences. This shows not only how hard the department and our committee members have worked to publish the seats, but also the excellent job being done by these caucuses to have their students so eager to get involved.