

STUDENTS' COUNCIL LATE ADDITIONS

Tuesday October 12, 2010
Council Chambers 2-1 University Hall

LATE ADDITIONS (SC 2010-13)

- 2010-13/1 SPEAKER'S BUSINESS
- 2010-13/2 PRESENTATIONS
- 2010-13/3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
- 2010-13/4 BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS
- 2010-13/5 QUESTION PERIOD
- 2010-13/6 BOARD AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS
- 2010-13/6c **GORDON/ROSS MOVES THAT** Students' Council, upon the recommendation of the Grant Allocation Committee, approve Bill #20 in first reading based on the following principles:
- 1) That the current Awards Committee be dissolved.
 - 2) That all mandates and responsibilities of the current Awards Committee be transferred to the Grant Allocation Committee.
 - 3) That the Grant Allocation Committee may delegate this authority as it deems necessary.
- 2010-13/7 GENERAL ORDERS
- 2010-13/8 INFORMATION ITEMS
- 2010-13/8e Zach Fentiman, VP Operations and Finance- Report
Please see document LA 10-13.01
- 2010-13/8f Rory Tight, VP Student Life- Report
Please see document LA 10-13.02
- 2010-13/8g James Eastham, VP Academic- Report
Please see document LA 10-13.03
- 2010-13/8h Jaskaran Singh, CRO- Report

Please see document LA 10-13.04

October 12, 2010

To: Students' Council

Re: Report to Council

HCAG

On Tuesday, October 12, 2010 @ 8:00AM, the Health Centre Advisory Group will be meeting again. I expect there to be further discussion on UHC usage and the status on the changes to UHC's Student Counselling Services.

Access Fund Selection

On Thursday, October 14, 2010 @ 9:00AM, I will be participating in the Fall Access Fund Selection Committee.

Strategic Planning Committee

On Sunday, October 17, 2010 @ 11:00AM, another strategic planning committee will take place. At the last meeting we discussed mission, vision, and values. I expect that this discussion will be continued.

PAW Centre Design Committee

On Tuesday, October 19, 2010 @ 9:00AM, another PAW design meeting will take place. At the last meeting we discussed the building's impact on the corner of 87th avenue and 114th street—particularly the notion of creating a “gateway” into campus as per the long range development plan of the university.

SFAIC Awards Integration Meeting

On Tuesday, October 19, 2010 @ 12:00 PM, I'll be meeting with SFAIC/services management regarding the integration of SU Awards into the SFAIC portfolio.

Budget & Finance Committee

BFC met on Tuesday, October 5, 2010 @ 5:00PM and reviewed the programming and venues departmental units. The next Budget & Finance Committee meeting is on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 @ 5:00PM in 6-06 SUB.

Grant Allocation Committee Meeting

GAC met Thursday, October 7, 2010 @ 5:00PM. The committee discussed applying access fund bursaries automatically to overdue tuition accounts (much like it is applied the Emergency Student Loans). We also set a meeting schedule of on-council Thursdays at 5:00PM.

Yours,
Zach

Rory Tighe – VPSL Report to Council – October 9, 2010

AASHE Conference

I am currently attending the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) conference in Denver, Colorado. I hope to get an idea of what other campus across North America are doing in the way of Sustainability initiatives and how it compares to what we are doing. This conference will be particularly helpful in the light of our sustainability audit we are currently conducting. It will also be helpful when reviewing the Environmental Coordination Office of Students (ECOS) during the services review and getting ideas of how ECOS could work with the Office of Sustainability in the most effective way. I am at this conference with the Director of ECOS, Ian Moore, as well as some delegates from the Office of Sustainability. I will submit a detailed report upon my return and will answer any questions you have at that time.

Residences

We are finalizing the Community Standards Policy changes and very shortly I will have a report for you which will be a summary of what is happening. You can ask our VP Academic or President if you have any immediate questions or email me and I will respond upon my return later this week.

We also attended two Residence Budget Advisory Committee meetings and have been given a look at the preliminary budget for the upcoming year. This committee will also be a place to discuss the new Food Service Provider contract in the upcoming weeks.

Programming

We have been working on our programming plans for the rest of the year and I am very excited about the year's upcoming events. Brennan Murphy, our Student Programming Coordinator, will be giving a brief update to you regarding the plans for the Street Team. He can also field any questions regarding upcoming events. The next major event for you to look forward to is Campus Cup happening in late November. We are going to try and get around 50 teams to sign up and hopefully will have teams of University administration and professors again. Start spreading the word and get ready for a Council team!

U-Pass

We have collaborated with the Graduate Students' Association, and the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology to send out a joint letter to municipal candidates lobbying for more U-Pass cooperation. The purpose of the letter is to try and persuade candidates to bring currently non-participating municipalities into the U-Pass program. This would allow students who live in these communities, and attend the U of A, to use their U-Pass to get into Edmonton (instead of paying separately) and then to the University. You can ask our President if you have any immediate questions or feel free to email me and I will get back to you when I return. In the coming weeks we will also be looking into

expanding the service hours during exam periods and how to move forward on the Undergraduate spring/summer U-Pass.

Services

The Services Review is moving along nicely. We have most of the questionnaires returned from the Services and are expecting the rest shortly. As I mentioned earlier, we will also be conducting an Undergraduate Student Survey in late October, which will aid in this process.

We have been doing the hiring for our Centre for Student Development (CSD) staff over the past week. We have hired the new CSD Manager and will be interviewing for Assistant Manager in the coming weeks. We are also hiring the Co Curricular Record Coordinator (a brand new position), the Orientation Presentation Coordinator, and the Orientation Volunteer Coordinator in the coming weeks.

We have also been working hard on the Infolink proposal/review and are seeing some real progress on it. We are almost ready to go to our Marketing Department to start coming up with some design concepts. You will probably see major changes starting next summer.

Other

There is an Alcohol Policy Review Committee (APRC) happening this week. Since I am away, either the VP External or President will be attending in my place. I have asked for the committee to discuss its mandate and limitations as well as its' roll in recommending actual policy changes. I am hoping that this will be addressed over the course of this semester.

The VP Operations & Finance and myself will be meeting with the Registrars Office over the next couple of weeks to try and clean up the Fees Assessment page on Beartracks. We would like to see more detail in the explanations for the fees as well as information on contact and oversight for each fee line.

I have been investigating the problems with the microwaves on campus and trying to figure out who is responsible for their upkeep. I have contacted Facilities and Operations as well as ISSS to try and find out what the underlying issues are to regularly maintaining and replacing the microwaves in major buildings. I will be looking into this further upon my return.

As always, if you have any other questions feel free to drop by my office in 2-900 SUB or send me an email at vp.studentlife@su.ualberta.ca.

Cheers,

Rory Tighe
Vice President (Student Life)

Report to Council

10-09-28

Prepared by: Aden Murphy, VPX – September 23, 2010



To: Students' Council of the University of Alberta

Good evening Council,

Municipal Election Forum

Last week's municipal election forum, Candi{date}, went relatively well. Using a more informal, speed-dating format was an interesting innovation for the forum, which received good turnout from candidates. There was a relatively low student turnout, but sufficient to consider the event a success. Time permitting, I aim to do some classroom speaking in the lead-up to the election to inform students of the vote. This isn't the same level of get-out-the-vote campaign that's going on at the U of C, and this is a result of differing election environments and issues at stake.

New ECMA!

We have just hired our new External Communications and Media Advisor, Jon Taves. Veteran councillors may recognize his face from last year's Council meetings, which he often attended as The Gateway's Deputy News Editor. We are absolutely thrilled that he's working for us and we expect excellent work from him. Truly, his only disadvantage is the lack of Kehoe-esque facial hair.

Fun Fact Time!

While preparing for a Gateway interview with the aforementioned Jon Taves on Alberta's PSE participation rate in the 18-34 year old demographic (17% in case you were wondering, down from 19% in 2005), we came across some very revealing and troubling statistics.

In the Department of Education's annual report, there are statistics collected for the transition rate from highschool to post-secondary, measured six years after students enter grade 10 to allow for students taking time off before university. This transition rate for Alberta students is approximately 60%. This means that by the time they are 21- or 22-years old, two out of every five students in a grade 10 class will only have a highschool education or less. This is an atrocious statistic, and indicates the disregard for post-secondary in this province. Even more depressing, the number for Aboriginal students is 33%. 33%! Only one in three Aboriginal students in the province go into some kind of post-secondary within 6 years of entering grade 10. This kind of statistic shows that advocacy is necessary to improve how post-secondary works in our province.

Have a great weekend!

Aden



Preliminary Report of the September 2010 By-Election

**Prepared by Jaskaran Singh, Chief Returning Officer
University of Alberta Students' Union**

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1 Introduction

1.1 CRO's Message

Choice is a fundamental aspect of our every day lives. Do we take the bus in the morning, or do we drive? Do we bring a lunch, or spend our money at the SUB food courts? It is this aspect of choice that is fundamental to the democratic underpinnings of the Students' Union. As an organization our power is vested from the students who pay their dues and take the time to vote. Students choose those who can choose the best in return.

While striving for the best choice is never easy, it is something that is implicit in our ability to govern ourselves as students. As the Chief Returning Officer it is my job to ensure that each student has the ability to choose a representative in a fair and transparent manner. This is a goal that is easily stated on paper yet managed difficulty in practice.

The following report entails how I executed the September By-election with these ideals in mind. Generally speaking, the elections were off to a rocky start due to my late appointment; however, this does not mean that it was not successful in it's own right. While writing this report I attempted to be very critical as to provide advice for future CROs. There is always room for improvement.

Jaskaran Singh
Chief Returning Officer 2010/2011
University of Alberta Students' Union

2 Election-Specific Information

2.1 Important Dates

1. Close of Nominations – Monday, September 13 @ 17:00
2. Mandatory Candidates' Meeting – Monday, September 13 @ 18:00
3. Deadline for Slate/Name Changes – Wednesday, September 15 @ 09:00
4. Campaign Begins – Wednesday, September 15 @ 09:00
5. Budget Deadline – Wednesday, September 21 @ 09:00
6. Campaign Ends – Wednesday, September 22 @ 21:00
7. Voting – Thursday, September 23 & Friday, September 24 @ 09:00-17:00

2.2 Seats Available

Faculty	SU Council Seats	GFC Seats
Agriculture, Forestry & Home Economics	0	0
Arts	0	3
Augustana	1	1
Business	0	1
Education	2	3
Engineering	0	0
Law	0	0
Medicine and Dentistry	0	0
Native Studies	0	1
Nursing	0	2
Open Studies	1	0
Physical Education & Recreation	1	1
Pharmacy	0	0
Faculté St. Jean	0	0
Science	1*	0
Total Seats Available	6	12

***DIE board case 2010/11-01 is advocating for a second seat to be made available to the highest ranked councilor-in-waiting from the September by-election.**

3 Marketing

3.1 Posters

Posters from the 2009 By-election were reused for the 2010 by-election. This was predominantly due to the awkward timing of my appointment. By the time I took office, the SU marketing department was busy orchestrating week of welcome. The closest available time that I could book with the marketing department was on September 15th, two days after nominations closed. This meeting was used to discuss a marketing plan for the March elections.

As a result, all that could have been done for by-election promotional material was simply a substitution of old dates with new ones on last year's posters.

3.1.1 Recommendations

- Book time with SU marketing early in the summer. If this is not possible, peruse old promotional material to ensure that it is still valid.
- Ensure the Elections posters contain clear and concise messaging. Try to avoid verbose posters as they typically fade into the background.
- Continue to pay election staff to put up posters, and ensure that posters are put up in high-traffic areas as soon as possible.
- Talk to Facilities Management about postering guidelines for both SU Election Office posters and posters from candidates. Ask them to let their building staff know about SU election posters ahead of time. Contact building staff in large, and high traffic buildings independently to confirm that they are familiar with the appearances of the SU Election posters and timelines.

3.2 The Gateway

I purchased one Gateway advertisement on the September 9th issue. I feel this was fairly effective as six out of the nine participants in the candidates meeting stated that they were responding to the Gateway advertisement. Despite this, Gateway advertisements are fairly expensive, and, in the context of the By-election, may not be necessary.

Once again, SU marketing is responsible for producing Gateway advertisements. The advertisement that was used was a modest revision of previous year's advertisements.

3.2.1 Recommendations

- Consider the Gateway as a potential marketing source; however, keep in mind that it is better to maintain a stout budget for the March elections than it is to glamorize the by-elections.

3.3 Campus-Wide Email

A short e-mail was sent to all the faculties that had by-election candidates. This e-mail was very effective in bolstering voter turnout.

3.3.1 Recommendations

- Have more candidate information in the election e-mail. Include links to SU elections website and candidate pages. This was not available this year due to the lack of campaigning materials submitted by candidates.

3.4 Website

The elections website was primarily used to distribute nomination packages, as well as to indicate the elections timeline. The website is a great resource to distribute information; however, like the posters, limited manpower was available to edit the website.

3.4.1 Recommendations (Turner, 2007)

- Continue to use the SU Elections website as one of the primary means for keeping voters, candidates, and potential candidates informed. As you will see in Figure 2 of section six, the majority of voters cast their ballots from independent internet sources.
- Expand the website to include more user-friendly information for potential candidates, and further information on initiating plebiscites and referenda.

3.5 Facebook

For the by-election, Facebook control was limited to monitoring groups. The candidate required CRO approval prior to inviting people into their group. When I took office, I conversed with previous CROs (Turner, Huygen) and previous candidates about how to monitor Facebook in future elections. The discussion came down to a binary; either completely regulate Facebook, or do not regulate it at all. This will become a pertinent topic in the upcoming months as it will be something of discussion between Elections Review Committee and I.

3.5.1 Recommendations

- Explore the possibilities of using Facebook to advertise elections.
- Come to a definitive decision on how to monitor (or not monitor) facebook.

4 Nominations

4.1 Candidate Nominations

Unlike previous years, candidate packages were handed in a timely manner. There was ample time to verify candidacy. A recommendation for future CROs would be to request the Student/CCID list from the registrar early. This was the rate-limiting step for verifying nomination packages.

There was a mistake in the nomination package suggesting that there was one nursing councillor seat (SC) and no science councillor seats (SC) when the opposite was true. To remedy the situation I posted a correction on the elections website and amended all hardcopy packages that were still waiting to be distributed. I also extended the nomination pack deadline and booked a second candidates meeting exclusively for science candidates. This took place on Sept. 15/2010.

4.1.1 Recommendations

- Candidates should be encouraged to hand in their nomination packages in a timely manner prior to the day of the nomination deadline.
- Candidates should consider obtaining more than the required number of signatures in the event that a signature is invalid. One candidate provided insufficient signatures from his faculty and had to scramble to get signatures prior to the deadline.

5 Election Campaigns

5.1 Candidates' Meeting

The candidates meeting was very brief; it entailed going over the rules in the nomination package and the candidates meeting agenda. The meeting lasted half an hour.

5.1.1 Recommendations

- Anticipate questions that may be asked in advance of the meeting and consider their response.

6 Voting

6.1 Voting Days

Voting days were incredibly calm this year. There were adequate numbers of poll clerks available and all poll captains had available schedules and were able to troubleshoot on a roaming basis.

The use of electronic voting made the process very simple and easy to remedy in the case of problems. The occasional netbook crashed, this complicated the ability to collect statistics; however, the act of voting was not harmed as the netbooks were quickly replaced.

The walkie-talkies posed a bit of a concern as there was a considerable amount of feedback on the transmission. We ended up contacting each other on cell-phones as it was the easiest and quickest way to contact each other in the case of a problem. For the future I will collect consent from the poll captains/clerks as to whether or not I can contact them on the phone during the elections.

6.1.1 Recommendations

- Voting Station kits should be assembled a minimum of one day in advance of voting.
- A minimum of one additional Poll Clerk should be hired during the by-election and councilor elections.

6.2 Voters' List (from Turner's report, 2007)

The Students' Union and the Registrar's Office are both party to an Information Sharing Agreement, which allows the Elections Office to have access to students' names, student ID numbers, faculties, and email addresses to create the voter lists. Protecting the security and confidentiality of this information entrusted to the Students' Union is vital as it forms the backbone of our voting software.

6.3 Voter Turnout

Figure 1: Percent Participation By Faculty

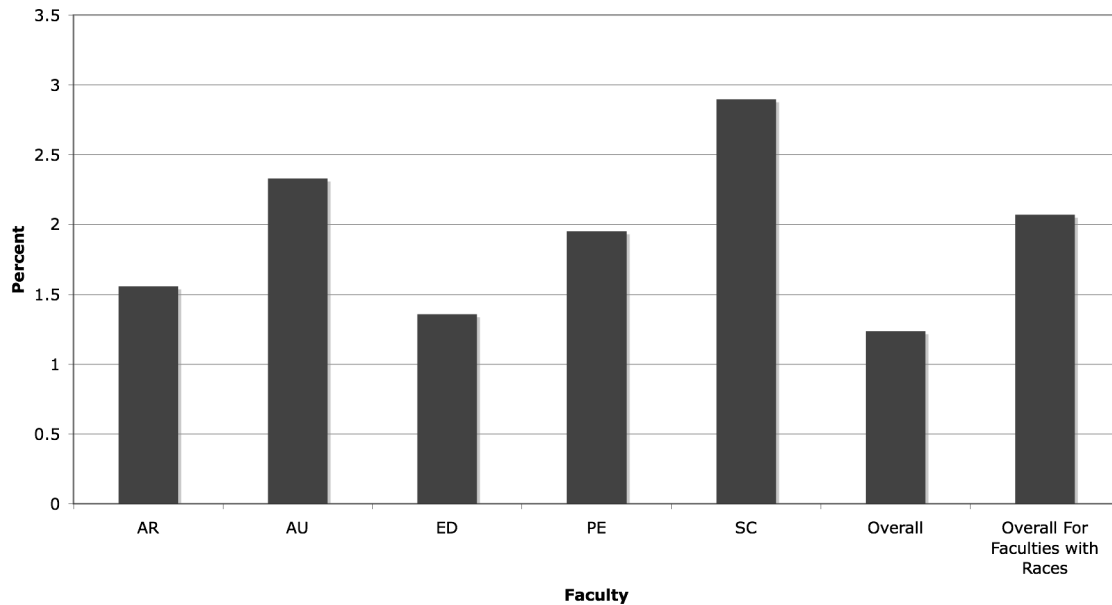


Figure 1: Percent Participation By Faculty. This bar-chart outlines the percentages of faculty participation in their respective ridings. The faculties that voted were Arts (AR) with 1.56%, Augustana (AU) with 2.33%, Education (ED) with 1.36%, Physical Education and Recreation (PE) with 1.95%, and Science (SC) with 2.90%. Graph composed by Jay Ward at Whitematter.

Figure 2: Cumulative Votes by Polling Station

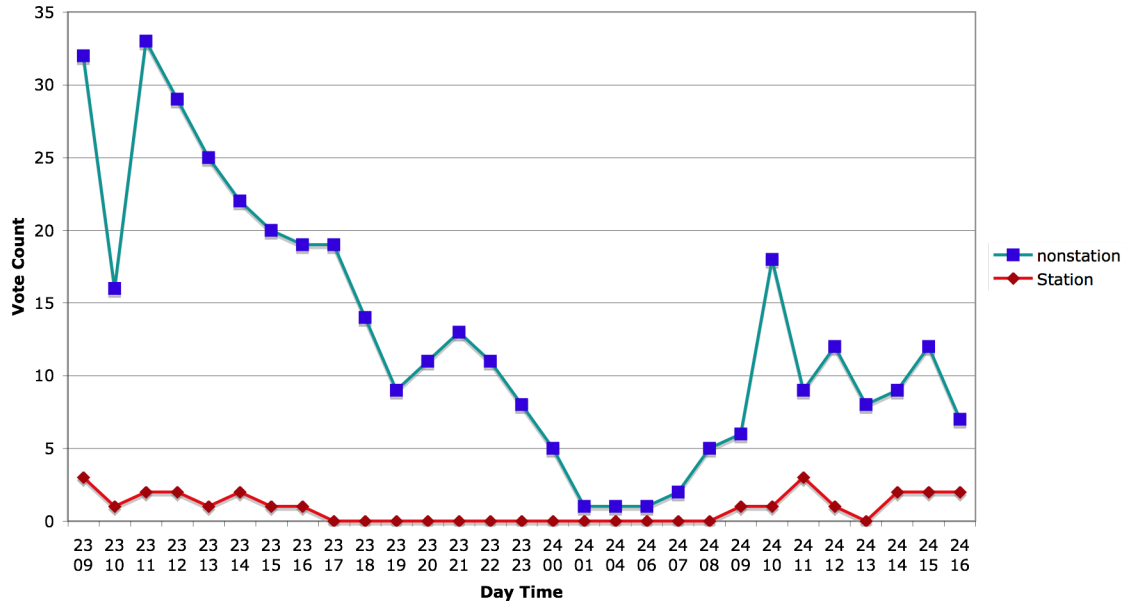


Figure 2: Cumulative Votes by Polling Station. This figure compares the vote counts made on polling stations versus those made independently over the Students' Union website (nonstation). The nonstation vote count consistently outnumbered the polling station vote count.

See www.su.ualberta.ca/vote for raw data.

7 Problems & Challenges

7.1 Vacant Science Councillor Seat

On September 5th former Councillor Douglas Cheung vacated a Science Councillor position. I ruled that the position could not be filled according to Bylaw 2000 section 76 (1) which states;

Where vacancies exist in positions filled under this bylaw on August 15 of any year, the C.R.O. shall call a by-election to take place in September or October of that year for all those positions vacant on August 15.

The ruling is being challenged by ALES Councillor Cox. Councillor Cox referenced Bylaw 100 section 5 (2) in a DIE board appeal;

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Councillor, the Chief Returning Officer of the Students' Union shall offer the position to the candidate who would have been elected had another Councillor been allocated to the resigning Councillor's

faculty during the last election before which nominations were open for that faculty.

The ruling is awaiting DIE board arbitration.

7.1.1 Recommendations

- To be declared.

7.2 Email Issues

Email messaging is the Elections Office's primary method of communication. It is how I communicate with candidates, managers, media, SU staff and other stakeholders.

On Monday, September 17 at about 5:00pm, the SU mail server went down. This meant that I was not receiving any emails, and I was unable to send any out. The server was down for about four days at a critical time in the election. Many candidates were attempting to send me materials to be approved and key questions needing answering, which I was not receiving. Subsequently, I was forced to send a message out to all candidates and staff informing them to send all correspondence to my personal email. While I did not like giving out my personal contact information and found it somewhat unprofessional, I felt I had no other choice.

Given that candidates may have been unaware their messages did not make it to me initially, I was quite lenient on deadlines such as the submission of a photo and biography. I felt it grossly unfair to penalize candidates for logistical errors within the SU.

I do not believe anything could have been done to prevent this situation, as the SU's computer system is obviously outside of this office's control. As such, there will be no recommendations issued in this section.

7.3 Ballots and Counting

Since voting was done exclusively online it is difficult for me to comment on the balloting and counting process. There is currently a DIE board application to review the voting process as there are concerns as to whether the online voting system is in accordance with Bylaw. See appendix

7.3.1 Recommendations

- AICT and Whitematter be contacted well in advance to ensure the problems are worked out beforehand.

was not calculated with the anticipation of an Recommendations

Appendix

1. DIE Board Application 2010/11-01
2. DIE Board Application 2010/11-02
3. Projected Seat Allocation for 2011 (Students' Council)

Projected Seat Distribution for 2011

Enrollment numbers current as of September 9, 2010.

Faculty Code	Faculty Name	Enrollment	Enrollment/Threshold	Seats by Minimum	Seats by Threshold	Remainder	Greatest Remainder	Total Seats 2009/2010	Total Seats 2008/2009	Change
AH	Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences	1410	1.48	0	1	0.48		1	1	0
AR	Arts	6125	6.42	0	6	0.42		6	6	0
AU	Augustana	940	0.99	1	0			1	1	0
BC	Business	2068	2.17	0	2	0.17		2	2	0
ED	Education	3316	3.48	0	3	0.48		3	3	0
EN	Engineering	3972	4.16	0	4	0.16		4	4	0
LA	Law	528	0.55	1	0			1	1	0
MH	Medicine & Dentistry	1138	1.19	0	1	0.19		1	1	0
NS	Native Studies	128	0.13	1	0			1	1	0
NU	Nursing	1362	1.43	0	1	0.43	1	2	2	0
OS	Open Studies	961	1.01	0	1	0.01		1	1	0
PE	Physical Education & Recreation	1027	1.08	0	1	0.08		1	1	0
PH	Pharmacy	509	0.53	1	0			1	1	0
SA	Faculté St. Jean	524	0.55	1	0			1	1	0
SC	Science	6515	6.83	0	6	0.83		6	6	0
TOTAL	Total Undergraduate Students	30523		5	26		1	32		

Students' Council Seats Available: 32 seats
 Threshold: 953.84 students/seat
 Minimum seats for each faculty: 1 seat

Seats distributed by Minimum: 5 seats
 Seats distributed by Threshold: 26 seats
 Seats distributed by Greatest Remainder: 1 seats

5% of undergraduate students: 1526 students
 15% of undergraduate students: 4578 students