

FRESHMAN AND TRANSFER ELECTION



ELECTION AND DISPUTES COMMISSION

David J. Bier, Chairman
Greg Mercer, Commissioner
Emily Daniel, Commissioner
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Daniel Santiago, Commissioner
Rhoda Al Hothali, Commissioner
Chloe Shreve, Commissioner

Summary of Events

Pre-Election Preparation

The Commission decided to utilize the same candidacy packets as the previous election. A new flyer to encourage voting was designed, and copies were posted at various locations around campus (we have subsequently decided that we are not satisfied with how effective the posters and fliers were, as mentioned in the Notes section). The Student Government advisor utilized social media to reach out to potential candidates and voters. Additionally, the EDC planned to encourage voting through a voting kiosk in the Johnson Center, which was conducted during the voting period on Wednesday, October 10 from 11 AM to 2 PM. As usual, there were 10 Senate seats to fill in this election, and we were pleased with the turnout of candidates. We had a final total of 20 candidates.

Election Procedures and Timeline

The front desk of the Office of Student Involvement distributed packets. When potential candidates came in, the front desk asked students if they were free for Senate meetings on Thursdays at 4:30pm. If they responded affirmatively, they were allowed to sign out a packet. This year's sign-out sheet included name, email address, and G-Number.

The packets became available on Monday, September 10 at 12:00pm and were due back to the drop-box in the office by noon on Tuesday, September 18 at 5:00pm, a period of eight calendar days. After the completed candidate packets were turned in, the Student Government Advisor verified them. On Friday September 21 at 5:00pm candidate notifications were sent out. On Monday, September 24 at 5:00pm in the Student Union I building, the Commission hosted a candidate meeting to explain the process, entertain any questions the candidates may have regarding campaigning. The campaign period began on Tuesday September 25 at 12:01am. During the campaign period, Commissioners held office hours every day. Candidates did utilize these office hours in order to ask questions and turn in election forms.

Voting took place on Collegiate Link between October 9th at 12:15am and October 11th at 12:15am. On the 11th of October at 12:00 noon, the Commission publicly announced and certified the results. The candidates were sent an email notifying them as to whether they had won or lost. Additionally, results were posted on a white board at the entrance of the Student Involvement office.

Through the course of this election cycle, there were no official grievances filed. However, one of the candidates requested to be removed from the ballot during the election period. The Commission was unable to remove the candidates name from the ballot as voting had

already commenced, and thus was left on the ballot. The Commission notified the candidate as to why their request could not be met.

Notes for the Next Cycle

The Election and Disputes Commission has taken a serious look at the freshman election and while participation on the ballot grew tremendously compared to last year, the participation in the poll was a low turnout. We are not satisfied with this turnout we received, and have resolved to boost participation in subsequent elections. The EDC will have each commissioner handle a specific aspect of election advertisement. The EDC plans to print more posters in general and increase advertisement presence in freshman living areas, especially during subsequent freshman elections. The EDC plans to create more quality posters that encourage students to vote. The EDC plans to partner with other student organization to encourage voter turnout. The commission wants to organize a Voter Rally to encourage students to vote. We plan to reach out to candidates and allow them to speak for an allotted time, and encourage remarks from current sitting members of the Student Government who are not seeking re-election. The commission has also asked the Student Government advisor to explore other means of handling voting, as we noticed that the process to vote via Collegiatelink required many complicated steps and we fear that students may have been discouraged based on the complexity of the voting process.