

ELECTION REPORT

Spring 2014

GENERAL ELECTION



ELECTION AND DISPUTES COMMISSION

Greg Mercer, Chairman

Danny Lee, Associate Commissioner
Emily Daniel, Associate Commissioner
Riley May, Associate Commissioner
Jared Pelech, Associate Commissioner
Chloe Shreve, Associate Commissioner
Francis Aguisanda, Associate Commissioner

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Pre-Election Preparations

Advertising

The commission placed strong emphasis on advertising in this election period. In order to encourage a competitive election, members of the faculty were contacted by commissioners to provide mass e-mail blasts regarding the upcoming election. Further, we advertised on social media extensively. We reserved a kiosk for the first four out of five days of voting to increase voter turnout and complement the extended voting period. We also included an incentive to vote by introducing two prizes: an iPad Mini, and a Spirit Pack purchased at the George Mason Bookstore. The commissioners were also made available for any questions concerning the election by providing office hours that took place in the Office of Student Involvement.

Campaign Procedures

Timeline

- Candidacy packets available: Monday, February 17 2014 at 12 noon in the Office of Student Involvement
- Completed Candidacy Packets due: Friday, February 28 2014 at 12 noon in the Office of Student Involvement
- Candidacy Notifications emailed: Wednesday, March 5 2014
- Mandatory Candidate Meeting: Thursday, March 6 2014 at 3pm in the JC Gold Room
- Campaign Period begins: Monday, March 17 2013 at 12:01am
- Executive Debate and Candidate Forum: Thursday, March 27 2014 at 7:30pm in the JC Atrium
- Voting Period begins: Tuesday, March 31 2014 at 12:00am

- Voting Period ends: Friday, April 4 2013 at 12:00am
- Public Announcement and Certification of Results: Monday, April 7 2013 at 12noon in the JC Atrium

Candidate Meeting

The EDC held the Candidate Meeting on March 6, 2014 at 3 PM. The chairman reviewed the election code with the candidates and the ballot order was announced. All of the candidates' names were input into a website that randomized the list and the random output was used for the ballot. All of the candidates who were unable to attend provided documentation for their reason and were able to speak with an EDC commissioner.

Candidate Debate

During the 2014 Spring Elections the EDC hosted an Executive Debate. The 4 Presidential tickets all opted in to participate in the executive debate. The EDC appointed Frank Murica who is the editor and chief of the Fourth Estate Online edition to moderate the debate, in order to expose the debate to the media and allow a bigger promotion of the debate to the general campus. The EDC solicited questions from the the four campaigns and then used those questions to come up with 4 questions to open the debate. Each ticket was allowed a 2min opening and closing statement, and the audience through social media and in person was able to ask questions. After the Debate the EDC allowed senate candidates the opportunity to speak for one minute and only a few senate candidates took advantage of this opportunity. The EDC felt like the debate went very well and really appreciated the moderator's willingness to moderate. This was the first time the EDC sought after a moderator that was not a part of the Commission.

Grievance

No grievances were filed during this election cycle.

Finance and Executive spending chart

The money spent by the Student Body Presidential candidates varied greatly. The Abbruscato/Wickrema ticket spent most of their \$1000 allowed by the EDC in this election. The other candidates did not approach their limits. The EDC suggests the continuation of the spending limits at the current amount (\$1000 for Presidential Tickets). There were only two Senators that submitted financial reports. One spent \$221.51 while the other spent \$15 and an unknown third candidate spent \$54. The EDC will propose the continuation of spending limits for Senate at \$300 per candidate.

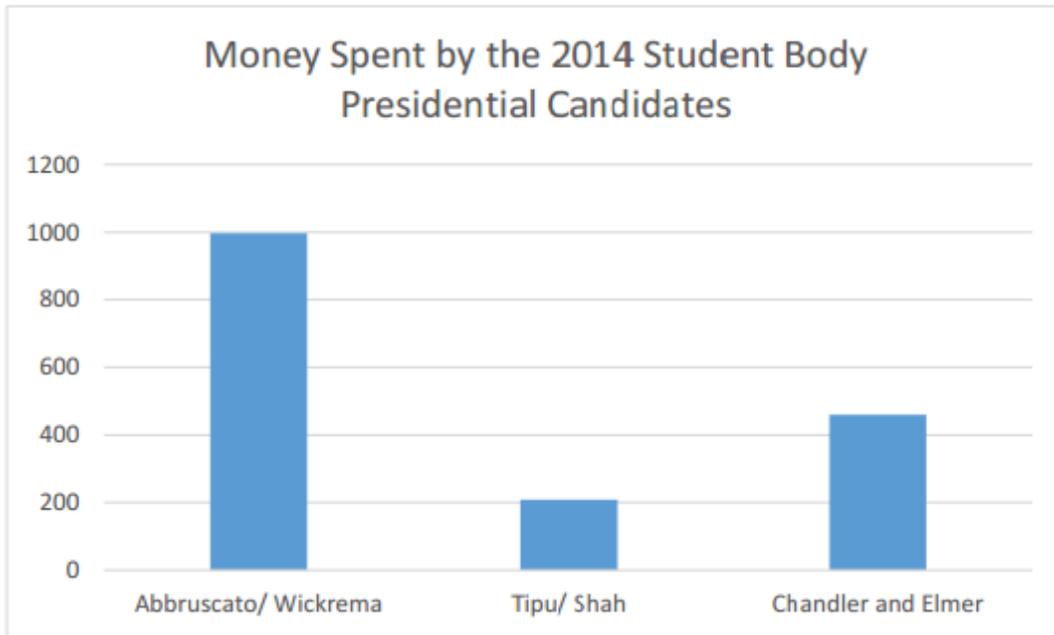


Figure 1: Money spent by the 2014 student body presidential candidates. Y-axis is in dollars.

The Elections and Disputes Commission plans to continue week long voting for the Spring elections. The EDC will have two days for elections in the Fall cycle. The EDC found that the prizes used as incentives were successful and will continue the spirit packs and electronic giveaways.