

Spring 2015 Election Report

The Elections And Disputes Commission



Riley May, Co-Chairman
Chloe Shreve, Co-Chairman
Emily Daniel, Commissioner
Saber Chowdhury, Commissioner
Michael Essiaw, Commissioner
Christal Jackson, Commissioner
Roger Dean, Commissioner
Jesse Muzzy, Commissioner
Colin Sapko, Commissioner



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Election Procedures and Timeline

The front desk of Student Involvement distributed packets for candidacy. As potential candidates arrived, the front desk made sure to ask whether they were available for the senate meetings on Thursdays. If they stated that they were available, the potential candidates were allowed to sign out a packet. This year's sign-out sheet included name, email address, and G-Number.

February 16th at 12pm Election packets became available in Student Involvement, located in The HUB, Suite 2300 and were due back on February 27th at 12pm. After the completed candidate packets were turned in, the Student Government Advisor verified them. On March 3rd, candidates were officially notified of their candidacy status. The following day, the Commission hosted a mandatory Candidate meeting to explain the process, entertain any questions the candidates may have regarding campaigning at 5pm in the JC Meeting Room C. The campaigning period began on March 16th at 12:01am. March 30th at 12:00am Elections opened on getconnected.gmu.edu and then on April 3rd at 5:00pm Elections closed on getconnected.gmu.edu. During the campaign period, Commissioners held publicly available office hours every day. Candidates utilized these office hours in order to ask questions and turn in election forms.

There were no grievances during the election cycle, although there was one attempted to be filed against the Elections and Disputes Commission, which was rejected.

The Commission publicly announced and certified the results on April 6th at 12:00pm in the Johnson Center Atrium. The candidates were then informed on whether they had been elected or not via email. Additionally, results were posted on the student government website.



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Advertising

The commission strongly highlighted advertising during the Spring Election. We submitted a marquee advertisement in the JC while also attempting to produce napkin advertisements as Southside, although we were unsuccessful with the latter. We also kiosk in the JC during high traffic hours; there were problems with campus wide Wi-Fi outages. We instead wrote "Vote @ getconnected.gmu.edu" on the "I voted," stickers to encourage people to do so. The commission also started doing Pop Up Polls where we showed up randomly on campus to encourage people to vote so that we were not contained only to the JC, and saw good success with this. We increased our social media presence with the help of Lexi Baker. Furthermore, we passed out pen/highlighters with the EDC logo and slogan on them. We also sent out an e-mail blast reminding people to vote halfway through the voting period.

Debate

We changed the Debate format this year, as compared to last year. We asked candidates to submit three questions directed specifically to other campaigns. Then the commission picked one addressed to each ticket to be asked. We also included social media and audience participation questions. The former were addressed only to the Vice Presidential candidates, and the latter were addressed to Presidential candidates. We encountered technical problems where our microphones were not loud enough, which set back the debate around ten or fifteen minutes. Once this was resolved the debate was continued without any other problems. We also changed the order in which Senators participated, and we plan to keep this change in place. We felt it gave the Senators more importance, especially since putting them at the end of the executive debate last year drowned their speeches out.

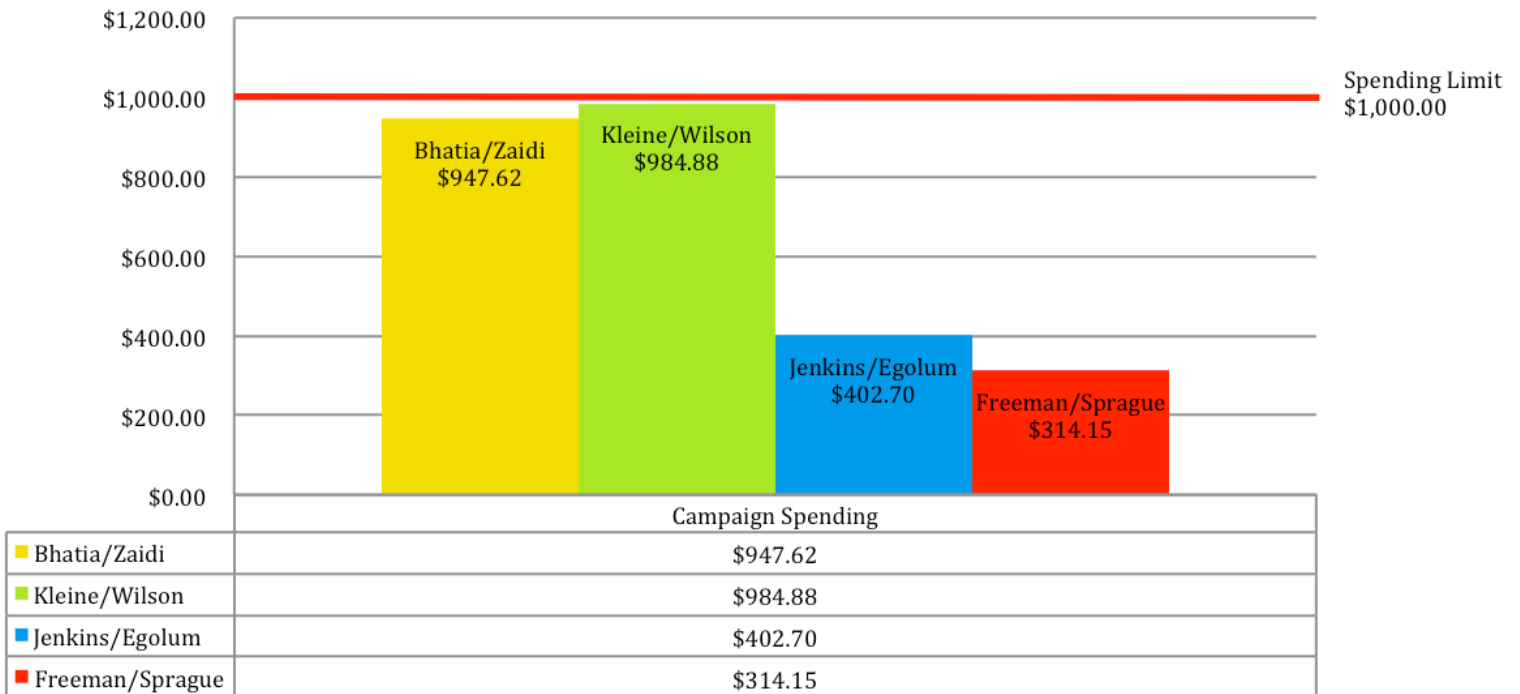


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Campaign Spending

This year both the Bhatia/Zaidi Campaign and the Kleine/Wilson campaign approached the spending limit of \$1,000.00 however, no campaign exceeded the set spending limits. The EDC plans to continue the current spending limits into the next election cycle.

2015 Spring Executive Ticket Spending Chart



Concerning the Future

The Election and Disputes Commission plans to make changes they deem necessary to the Election Code, including clarifying language that we felt was unclear. Furthermore, we are going to add a section that addresses elections that result in a tie. We also feel it is important to clarify what constitutes campaign expenses, including meal swipes. We also wish to include a communication clause that requires grievance issues or questions to be sent to the Elections and Disputes Commission from a Masonlive account. The commission is also considering restricting campaigning in the spring to one week, as opposed to two.

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Demographics of the Voting Population

Q1. What is the student's sex?

Percent

| | |
|--------|-------------|
| 58.71% | Female |
| 41.25% | Male |
| 0.04% | No Response |
| 0.00% | Missing |

Q2. What is the student's race?

Percent

| | |
|--------|------------------------------------|
| 0.04% | American Indian |
| 14.15% | Asian |
| 0.21% | Pacific Islander |
| 14.82% | Black |
| 8.67% | Hispanic |
| 49.66% | White |
| 3.39% | Unknown |
| 5.57% | Two or More |
| 3.48% | Non-Resident Alien (International) |
| 0.00% | FFC |

Q3. Is the student new or returning?

Percent

| | |
|--------|-----------|
| 2.85% | New |
| 97.15% | Returning |

Q4. What is the student type?

Percent

| | |
|--------|---|
| 0.25% | First-time attending Mason |
| 96.36% | Continuing Mason student |
| 2.47% | Transfer (Includes all students who have ever transferred to Mason) |
| 0.00% | New-to-program |
| 0.17% | Re-enrolled |
| 0.00% | Non-credit |
| 0.63% | Non-degree |
| 0.00% | Guest Matriculant |
| 0.00% | From Washington Consortium |



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Q4. What is the student type?

Percent

| | |
|-------|------------------|
| 0.00% | Law |
| 0.00% | Unclassified |
| 0.00% | Other |
| 0.13% | Transfer readmit |

Q5. What is the student's year in school?

Percent

| | |
|--------|------------------------------------|
| 0.04% | First-time Freshmen |
| 23.20% | Returning Freshmen |
| 26.13% | Sophomore |
| 27.01% | Junior |
| 20.98% | Senior |
| 0.00% | Undergraduate Certificate (CERB) |
| 0.04% | ACCESS |
| 0.00% | Undergraduate Non-Degree |
| 0.54% | Undergraduate Pathway (INTO-Mason) |
| 0.00% | Law |
| 0.00% | Graduate Certificate (CERG) |
| 1.59% | Master's |
| 0.38% | Doctorate |
| 0.04% | Graduate Non-Degree |
| 0.04% | Graduate Pathway (INTO-Mason) |

Q6. What is the student's primary college affiliation?

Percent

| | |
|--------|---|
| 3.81% | College of Education and Human Development |
| 7.87% | College of Health and Human Services |
| 32.71% | College of Humanities and Social Sciences |
| 11.47% | College of Science |
| 3.81% | College of Visual and Performing Arts |
| 0.00% | Consortium |
| 0.00% | English Language Institute |
| 7.37% | Provost Office (Undeclared) |
| 1.55% | School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution |
| 0.00% | School of Law |
| 9.21% | School of Business |
| 6.99% | School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs |
| 0.63% | The Krasnow Institute for Advanced Study |
| 14.57% | Volgenau School of Engineering |



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Q7. Is the student an in-state or out-of-state resident?

Percent

76.97% In-State

23.03% Out-of-State

Q8. What is the student's current course-load?

Percent

96.02% Full Time

3.98% Part Time

Q9. Does the student live on-campus or off-campus?

Percent

40.37% Off-Campus

59.63% On-Campus