



Report of the Chief Returning Officer regarding the 2017 Fall By-Election for the Student Association of George Brown College which was held October 30<sup>th</sup> to November 30, 2017

Part I – The Electoral Event

Building on the foundation:  
A more perfect Electoral System

# Introduction

The 2017 Fall By-Election for the Student Association of George Brown College was held October 30 to November 30, 2017. The election was called by resolution of the board on September 18, 2017.

## The Elections Officer were:

Charles Wilson, B.A. (Hons), M.P.A. Chief Returning Officer  
Clara Pasieka, B.A., MPPAL Deputy Returning Officer  
Acting Chief Returning Officer (November 14-16, 2017)

## The Elections Committee was:

Faris Lehn (Chair until September 28, 2017)  
Charles Wilson (Chair after September 28, 2017)  
Tiffany White  
Francis Torres (until September 25, 2017)

The Chief Returning Officer is grateful for the wise counsel and assistance of the Deputy Returning Officer. I speak on behalf of the entire Election Services division when I say that I am grateful for support and oversight of the Elections Committee.

## The timeline of the elections is as follows:

August 10, 2017	Appointment of the Chief Returning Officer
August 22, 2017	Appointment of the Deputy Returning Officer
September 28, 2017	Pre-Elections Session
October 2, 2017	Nominations Open
October 6, 2017	Nominations Close
October 10, 2017	All Candidates Meeting
October 10, 2017	Extended Nominations period begins
October 12, 2017	Extended Nominations period end
October 12, 2017	Campaigning Opens
October 16, 2017	Ontario Public Service Employees Union begins a strike on the College Employers Council
October 17, 2017	Nibbles and Drinks in King's Lounge
October 18, 2017	Pizza with the Candidates in the George
October 30, 2017	Online voting begins
November 19, 2017	<i>The Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Labour Dispute Act (S.O 2017, c.21)</i> receives Royal Assent
November 28, 2017	In Person Elections Days begin
November 30, 2017	Last day for in person and online voting
December 1, 2017	Ballot Count

## **Nominated Candidates**

### Director of Operations

Brenda Agyei  
Kushagra Manchanda

### St. James Campus Director

Calvin Bartholomew Soto (acclaimed)

### Waterfront Campus Director

Jolie Taros (acclaimed)

### Arts, Design and Information Technology Educational Centre Representative

Supitcha Thadi (disqualified by the Chief Returning Officer at her request)

Jeremy Worrall (acclaimed)

### Business Educational Centre Representative

Kevin Yu (acclaimed)

### Construction, Engineering Technology Educational Centre Representative

Matthew Mokedanz (acclaimed)

### Black Students' Representative

Hearmela Alemu (withdrew)

Arnel Fleurant (acclaimed)

### Women and Trans Students Representative

Jimberly Cotoner (acclaimed)

### Board of Governors of George Brown College of Applied Arts and Technology

Nureisse Khan (acclaimed)

# Campaigning

Campaigning commenced on October 12, 2017 and continued until the end of the election, November 30, 2017.

The official events to meet and know the candidates were by choice not traditional and adversarial debate formats, but were open house/drop in style events. This was done to foster more participation in the elections process from electors.

The Chief Returning Officer issued the following disciplinary actions:

November 3, 2017	Kushagra Manchanda Five demerit points	Campaigning in restricted areas
November 3, 2017	Supitcha Thadi Warning	Illegal tape
November 9, 2017	Kushagra Manchanda Three demerit points Four demerit points	unauthorized use of corporate resources breach of social media rules
December 1, 2017	Kushagra Manchanda Seven demerit points Seven demerit points	Fair play violation campaigning in restricted area
December 8, 2017	Kushagra Manchanda five demerit points	campaigning in restricted area

In total Kushagra Manchanda received 31 demerit points.

## Counting and Results

The ballots were counted on December 1, 2017 at the Boardroom at Casa Loma Campus.

Agyei, Brenda	674
Manchanda, Kushagra	837
Rejected	7
Unmarked	19
Total voted	1537

Election statistics	
Eligible voters	21253
Total votes casted	1537
Voter turnout	7.23%
Spring General Election 2017	6.54%
Fall by-election 2016	7.72%
Online votes	1215 (79% of votes casted)

### Acclaimed positions

St. James Campus Director  
Calvin Bartholomew Soto

Waterfront Campus Director  
Jolie Taros

Arts, Design and Information Technology Educational Centre Representative  
Jeremy Worrall

Business Educational Centre Representative  
Kevin Yu

Construction, Engineering Technology Educational Centre Representative  
Matthew Mokedanz

Black Students' Representative  
Arnel Fleurant

Women and Trans Students Representative  
Jimberly Cotoner

## Election Expenses

This cycle, all elections posters were printed in house and the student association were billed for the posters. This was done to fulfill a recommendation of the Chief Returning Officer from the Spring 2017 election and to ensure better transparency in the money spent on the campaign. Each candidate was also given a supply of approved tape so that there would be no issues surrounding the use of incorrect tape.

The following is the expenses of the candidates:

### Director of Operations

Brenda Agyei	84.15
Kushagra Manchanda	156.15

### Arts, Design and Information Technology Educational Centre Representative

Supitcha Thadi	16.05
Jeremy Worrall	64.10

The Chief Returning Officer agreed not to pursue Supitcha Thadi's expenses after she withdrew due to the circumstances of the election cycle.

## Directives, Advisory Opinions, and other documents

The Chief Returning Officer issued the following directives

<b>October 2, 2017</b>	Directive to create regulations regarding the conduct of candidate during the election process
<b>October 2, 2017</b>	Directive regarding Election Cost
<b>October 3, 2017</b>	Directive regarding polling stations
<b>October 6, 2017</b>	Directive regarding the extension of nominations.
<b>October 17, 2017</b>	Clarification of Social Media Rules
<b>October 25, 2017</b>	Directive changing the election dates due to unforeseen and unusual circumstances
<b>November 9, 2017</b>	Directive changing the election dates due to unforeseen and unusual circumstances

The Chief Returning Officer issued the following advisory opinions:

<b>October 24, 2017</b>	Advisory Opinion on establishing the legal basis for changing election dates
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Letters

<b>October 4, 2017</b>	Letter to departments heads at George Brown College regarding the election.
<b>October 12, 2017</b>	Communications to the Executive Committee from the Chief Returning Officer regarding questions regarding the election
<b>October 31, 2017</b>	Communications to the Library regarding campaigning in the Library

The Chief Returning Officer published a voter's manual, candidate's manual and a comprehensive elections proceedings manual both of which contained key and vital information regarding how this election was ran, and both of which are left in the format of a digital file with the chair of the elections committee and the internal coordinator.

## **Unusual and unforeseen circumstances**

To say that this election cycle had unusual and unforeseen circumstances is a great understatement. The election took place in the shadow of failed collective negotiations between the College Employers Council and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU), which led to a strike on October 16, 2017 that continued until *the Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Labour Dispute Resolution Act (S.O. 2017, C.21)* received Royal Assent on November 19, 2017. To say that this created logistical issues for the election is an understatement. The Elections Services Department and the Elections Committee took seriously the prospect that a prolonged strike would affect voter turnout and membership participation, in addition to fatigue for the candidates.

The Elections Committee met formally and informally several times regarding the unusual and unforeseen circumstances regarding the strike. The strike caused major difficulties and election fatigue for both the candidates and elections officials.

The Chief Returning Officer and Deputy Returning Officer decided to limit their in office hours during the strike in order to ensure that the elections staffing budget was not stretched beyond the point at which the spring election would be effected. Due to this limitation of hours and the reduction in the number and days of in person voting we were able finish this election on budget.



## **By-laws and recommendations from the previous election cycle**

In my previous report, I laid out 18 recommendations regarding how the elections at the Student Association should be administered.

During this election cycle:

- 11 of these recommendations were implemented;
- 4 of these recommendations had no operational impact;
- 1 of these recommendation the Chief Returning Officer decided not to pursuit; and
- 2 of these recommendation was not implemented.

Both of the recommendations that were not implemented, the Chief Returning Officer is of the opinion that there is no need to pursuit further, however those recommendations are still ideal for the organization to adopt.

The Chief Returning Officer worked with the Elections Committee to make recommendations regarding changes to the existing by-law and will make further recommendations in this report.

### Poll by Poll Results

<b>Poll Number</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>
Brenda Agyei	5	5	30	0	10	4
Kushagra Manchanda	5	9	26	1	17	6
Rejected by Tabulation Officer due to improper marking	2	2	1	0	1	0
Unmarked for any candidate	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total votes casted</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>10</b>

<b>Poll Number</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>99</b>
Brenda Agyei	20	29	27	21	14	509
Kushagra Manchanda	12	18	27	15	10	690
Rejected by Tabulation Officer due to improper marking	0	0	0	1	0	0
Unmarked for any candidate	1	1	0	0	1	16
<b>Total votes casted</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1215</b>

<b>Poll Number</b>	C2V	Total
Brenda Agyei	0	<b>674</b>
Kushagra Manchanda	1	<b>837</b>
Rejected by Tabulation Officer due to improper marking	0	<b>7</b>
Unmarked for any candidate	0	<b>19</b>
<b>Total votes casted</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1537</b>

### Poll numbers

Poll Number 12	Kings Lounge Tuesday November 28 10-4
Poll Number 13	Kings Lounge Wednesday November 29 10-4
Poll Number 14	Kings Lounge Thursday, November 30 10-4
Poll Number 52	Student Centre Tuesday, November 28 10-4
Poll Number 53	Student Centre Wednesday, November 29 10-4
Poll Number 54	Student Centre Thursday, November 30 10-4
Poll Number 32	Waterfront Main Lobby Tuesday, November 28 9:30-3:30
Poll Number 33	Waterfront Main Lobby Wednesday, November 29 9:30-3:30
Poll Number 34	Waterfront Main Lobby Thursday, November 30 9:30-3:30
Poll Number 44	Ryerson 5th Floor Thursday, November 30 10:30-3:00
Poll Number 73	The George Main lobby Wednesday November 29 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Poll Number 99	Online
Poll Number C2V	Certificate to votes not processed at time of count