



REPORT

From the office of the...

Election Department

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly

FROM: Brenda Lin, Chief Returning Officer & Dalia Zubashev, Deputy Returning Officer

SUBJECT: First Year Council (FYC) Elections Report

DATE: Oct. 10 2023

Hello Members of the Assembly,

We are excited to present our report on the results of the First Year Council Election. As per Bylaw 10 - Elections 2.1.5, the elections department is required to relay to the SRA the results of each electoral period, including recommendations of the Elections Committee.

We are pleased to say that the FYC elections ran successfully without any major issues. Coming out of the pandemic, we were very pleased with the voter turnout as well as candidate campaigns. We hope to carry on this trend with our future elections this year and years to come.

Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out.

Best,

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Results

KEY:

Listed below are the results of the First Year Council Election ratified by the Elections Committee. Those acclaimed and voted upon via a vote of confidence have an asterisk (*) marked by their name. Some positions had an extended nomination period due to lack of candidates. Those positions are **highlighted**.

Each election that is not acclaimed has a screenshot of the elected person for transparency and evidence of the elected. Those acclaimed simply had more YES votes than NO. Data for these can be found in the link, located at the end of this section.

Chair: Maxwell Huang

ROUND4	
Maxwell Huang	272 (+63) votes
Alizah Ali	176 (+36) votes
Exhausted votes	153 (+29) votes
Eliminated Alizah Ali due to: lowest 1st preference	
ROUND5	
Maxwell Huang	410 (+138) votes
Exhausted votes	191 (+38) votes
Elected Maxwell Huang due to: highest 1st preference	
ROUND6	
Maxwell Huang	Elected 410 votes
Exhausted votes	191 votes

VOTER SUMMARY

Total	791
Abstain	190 (24.0%)

Vice-Chair Events: Amanda Jerjis

ROUND3		
Amanda Jerjis		106 (+31) votes
Justin Huschilt		104 (+13) votes
Exhausted votes		32 (+24) votes
Eliminated Justin Huschilt due to: lowest 1st preference		
ROUND4		
Amanda Jerjis		176 (+70) votes
Exhausted votes		66 (+34) votes
Elected Amanda Jerjis due to: highest 1st preference		
ROUND5		
Amanda Jerjis		Elected 176 votes
Exhausted votes		66 votes

VOTER SUMMARY

Total	266
Abstain	24 (9.0%)

Vice-Chair Internal: Richelle Antonyhasan

ROUND4		
Richelle Antonyhasan		Elected 292 votes
Zaina Gohar		149 votes
Exhausted votes		77 votes

VOTER SUMMARY

Total	791
Abstain	273 (34.5%)

Vice-Chair External: Zachary McKay

ROUND4		
Zachary McKay		205 (+35) votes
Aliyah Rennie		201 (+49) votes
Exhausted votes		119 (+37) votes
Eliminated Aliyah Rennie due to: lowest 1st preference		
ROUND5		
Zachary McKay		371 (+166) votes
Exhausted votes		154 (+35) votes
Elected Zachary McKay due to: highest 1st preference		
ROUND6		
Zachary McKay		Elected 371 votes
Exhausted votes		154 votes

VOTER SUMMARY

Total	791
Abstain	266 (33.6%)

Brandon Residence Chair: Rohan Sunder Prabakaran Kalaiaras*

Bates Residence Chair: Joshua Zhang*

Edwards Residence Chair: Anh Nguyen*

Hedden Residence Chair: Logan McLean*

Les Prince Residence Chair: Henry Cole

ROUND2		
Henry Cole		Elected 19 votes
Lauren Gadbois		18 votes
Exhausted votes		0 votes

VOTER SUMMARY

Total	38
Abstain	1 (2.6%)

Mary E. Keyes Residence Chair: Harleen Kaur*

Matthews Residence Chair: Gio Moon

ROUND2		
	Gio Moon	Elected 47 votes
	Noah Ross	26 votes
	Exhausted votes	0 votes

VOTER SUMMARY

Total	74
Abstain	1 (1.4%)

McKay Residence Chair: Tyler Poirier

ROUNDS		
	Tyler Poirier	Elected 63 votes
	Olivia Hutchinson	41 votes
	Exhausted votes	13 votes

VOTER SUMMARY

Total	121
Abstain	4 (3.3%)

Moulton Residence Chair: Buddhisha Amarakoom

Peter George Centre for Living and Learning Residence Chair: Elizaveta Kirichek*

Wallingford Residence Chair: Jessica Ricafort*

Whidden Residence Chair: Sean Adams*

Woodstock Residence Chair: Simran Ram

ROUND2		
Simran Ram		Elected 33 votes
Savannah Rose		30 votes
Exhausted votes		0 votes

VOTER SUMMARY

Total	69
Abstain	6 (8.7%)

Off-Campus/Commuting Rep 1: Nabiha Bari*

Off-Campus/Commuting Rep 2: Emilia Berg

ROUND3		
Emilia Berg		Elected 43 votes
Timothy Zheng		20 votes
Exhausted votes		5 votes

VOTER SUMMARY

Total	75
Abstain	7 (9.3%)

Please see this link for more detailed stats:

<https://mcmaster.simplyvoting.com/index.php>

Nominations Submitted and Candidates*

Position	# of Nominations
Chair	6
Vice-Chair Events	4
Vice-Chair Internal	4
Vice-Chair External	5
Bates Residence Chair:	1
Brandon Residence Chair:	1
Edwards Residence Chair	1
Hedden Residence Chair:	1
Les Prince Residence Chair:	2
Mary Keyes Residence Chair:	1
Matthews Residence Chair:	2
McKay Residence Chair:	5
Moulton Residence Chair:	2
Off-Campus/Commuting Rep:	4
Peter George Centre for Living and Learning Residence Chair:	1

Wallingford Residence Chair:	1
Whidden Residence Chair:	1
Woodstock Residence Chair:	2
TOTAL	44

*counts are not including candidates who rescinded their nomination

Faculty Breakdown of Candidates*

Faculty	# of Candidates
Arts and Science	1
Business	3
Engineering	6
Health Sciences	4
Humanities	6
Science	19
Social Science	5
TOTAL	44

*counts are not including candidates who rescinded their nomination

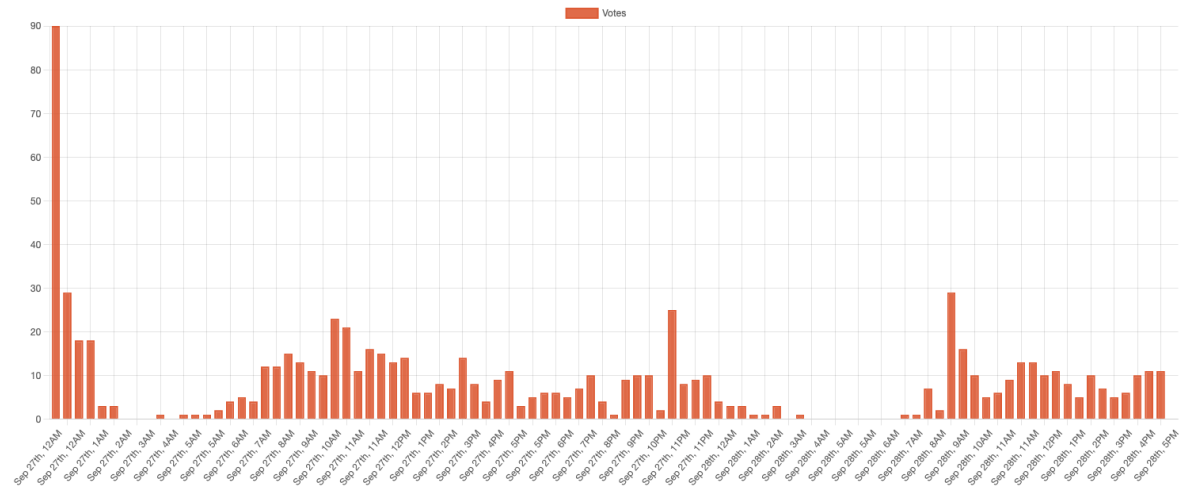
Voter Turnout

Voter turnout for the 2023 FYC election is as follows:

For normal nomination period:

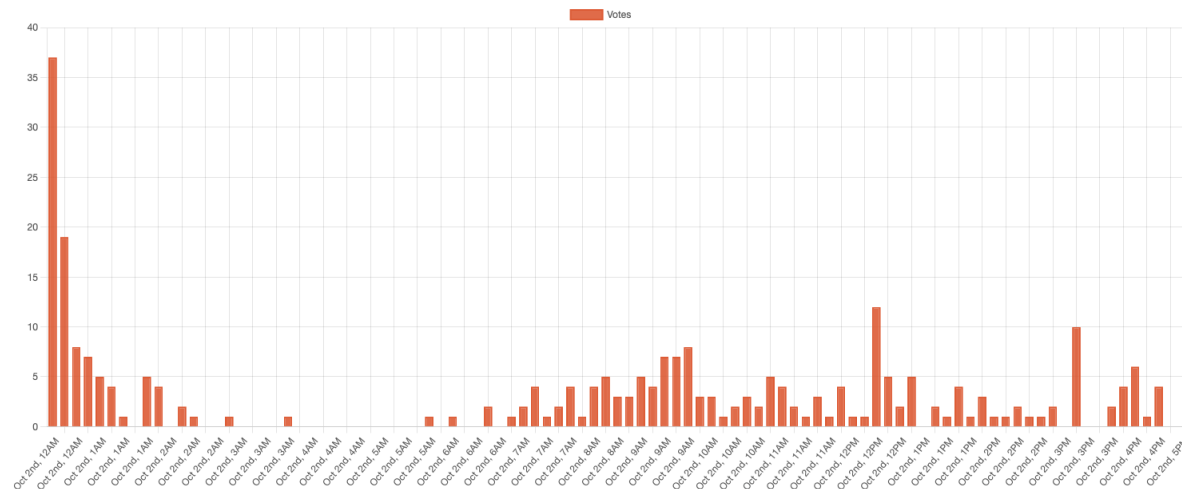
Chair Positions: 791 (12.1%) of 6555

Turnout Chart (791 electors voted)



Vice-Chair Events Re-Election: 266 (4.1%) of 6555

Turnout Chart (266 electors voted)



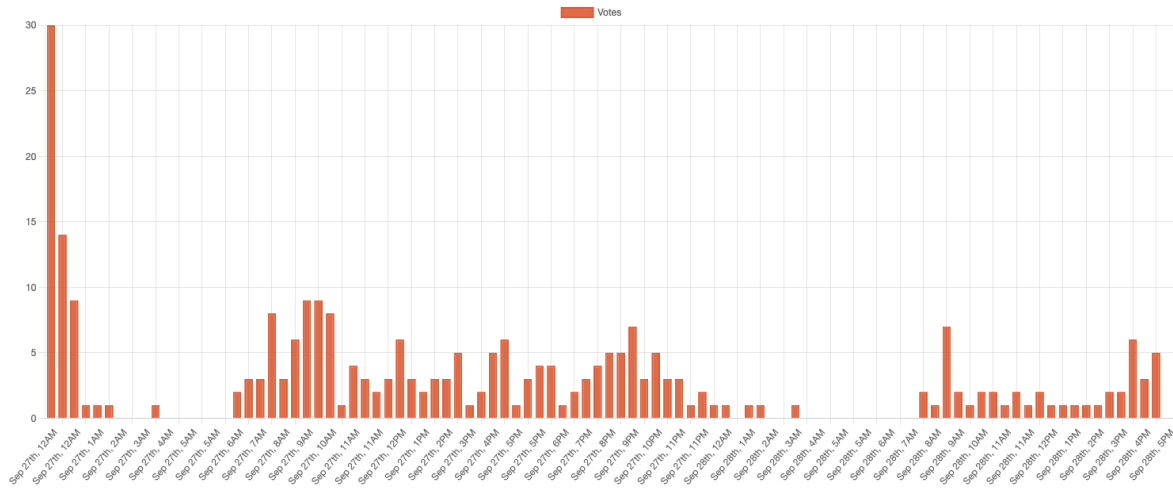
Residence Chairs:

Matthews Hall: 74 (30.7%) of 241

McKay Hall: 121 (44.3%) of 273

Woodstock Hall: 69 (25.7%) of 269

Turnout Chart (264 electors voted)



Vote of Confidence Positions: 193 (5.1%) of 3748

Brandon Hall: 40 (7.9%) of 509

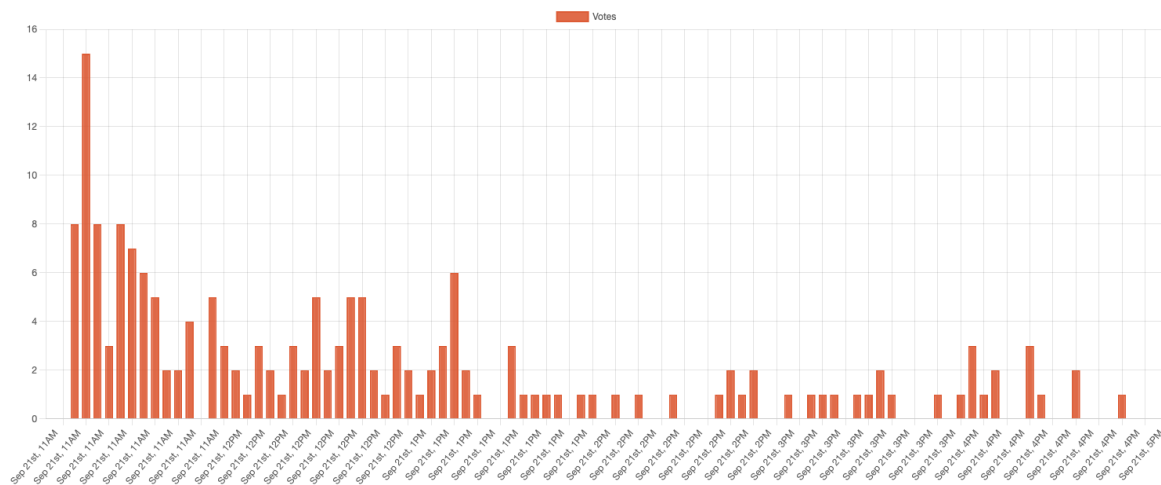
Edwards Hall: 12 (12.9%) of 93

Mary E. Keyes Residence: 18 (7.1%) of 253

Wallingford Hall: 21 (30.9%) of 68

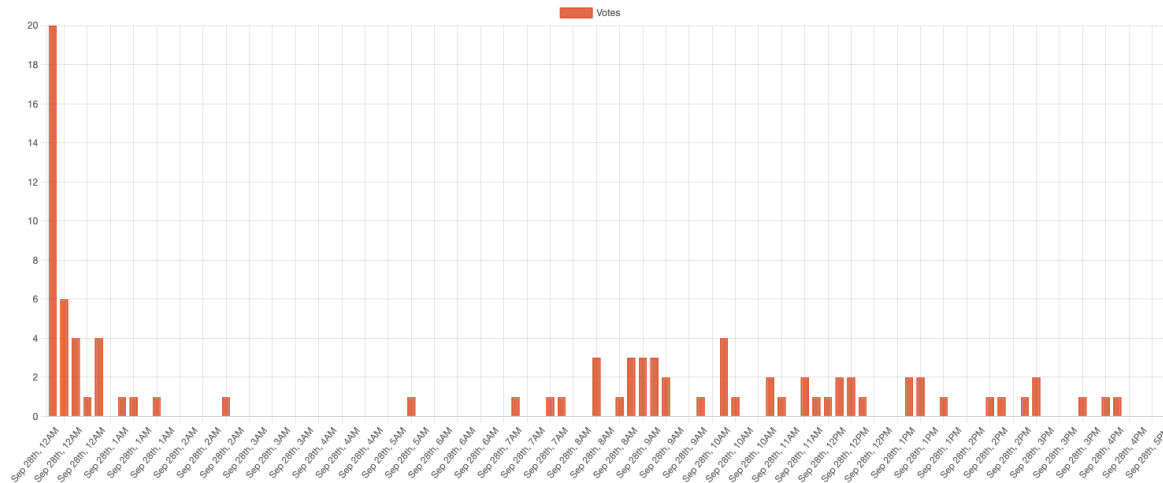
Off-campus Rep 1: 175 (4.8%) of 2825

Turnout Chart (175 electors voted)



For EXTENDED nomination period:

Turnout Chart (89 electors voted)



Promotional Events & Strategies

Nominations Promotion

This year, the nomination period for the MSU FYC Election ran from September 5th, 2023 until September 18th, 2023.

We ordered a Digital + Print package to promote through online and on campus channels, including a window banner and MUSC banner. On Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter, graphics detailing the positions available and important nomination/voting dates were circulated during the first week of nominations. In the second week, social media stories and emails were used to communicate the upcoming deadline and encourage the submission of nomination forms. Printed posters were put up around campus, primarily in MUSC. Rave cards were also distributed. Finally, campus media screens also displayed information about the FYC elections.

In addition, a variety of on-campus resources were utilized to promote the election. Several events were held on campus throughout the nomination period. Elections and FYC both had a table at ClubsFest. Another event, the FYC Meet and Greet, was held in collaboration with FYC, where first-year students had the opportunity to ask questions about how to run as well as the experience of being on FYC. Chips and juice were provided at this event. Lastly, Elections 1A03 was held by the Elections Department on two days, where prospective candidates could learn more about strategies for running a

successful campaign and how to get involved in the school. Snacks were also provided at this event. Rave cards were distributed at all of the events.

Due to unfilled positions for Bates, Hedden, Les Prince, Moulton, PGCLL, Whidden, and Off-Campus/Commuting Student representatives, nominations for these specific positions were extended one additional week. Promotional efforts for these reaching these students included additional emailing, and specific targeting of certain demographics. For example, we contacted CAs for these residences to promote the election.

Overall, by working with the MSU Communications Team to develop a hybrid promotional strategy, we were content with the awareness and interest generated in the MSU FYC Elections.

Updates

Rule Changes/Clarifications

Election rules for posters were added to the bylaws to accommodate transition back to in person.

Challenges

A challenge we had was regarding voter and event turnout. Despite our best efforts to promote this election through several in-person events, some events had low attendance and voter turnout was lower than last year for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions.

Additionally, the Vice-Chair Events election was re-run due to a mistake during election set-up.

Success

No Voting/Email Issues

Throughout the FYC election we received no emails or technical complaints submitted regarding any voting issues occurring for constituents.

Next Steps

Appeals Process In Progress

The appeals process for this election is ongoing. Two candidates running for Chair and McKay Hall Residence Chair were disqualified from the initial

election. Three candidates chose to appeal their violations and fines from the first elections committee fines night meeting.

One of the disqualified candidates' appeals were resolved at the extended nominations fines night meeting due to a mistake on our department and was reinstated in the election.

The other two candidates who chose to appeal must submit their appeal documents by October 17 and will be appealing their fines to the Elections Committee on October 20. Following this meeting, a second decision will be made about their fines and violations. Candidates can then decide to appeal again to the Electoral Appeal Board.

Candidate Reimbursement

Our department will contact the accounting office to begin reimbursing all candidates their originally deposit minus any fines accrued during the election.