



REPORT

From the office of the...

Election Department

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly

FROM: Sinead Gono, Chief Returning Officer & Owen Quann, Deputy Returning Officer

SUBJECT: First Year Council (FYC) Elections Report

DATE: Oct 22nd, 2024

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 that we couldn't handle. We did have to extend nominations for certain seats but they all successfully got filled in the end and we are happy to now have successfully elected a full First Year Council. We were pleased with the voter turnout, which was around 16% for the executive positions and varied throughout the residence buildings with nothing less than 10%. This is an increase from the previous year. We hope to carry on this trend of increased turnout with our future elections this year and the elections in the years to come.

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

Best,

Sinead Gono (she/her)

Chief Returning Officer (CRO)

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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 did not go to a Vote of Confidence has a screenshot of the elected person for transparency and evidence of the elected. Those won the seat through a vote of confidence simply had more YES votes than NO. Data for these can be found in the link, located at the end of this section.

Chair: Lubna Ismail

Chair	
Votes required to elect an option: 403	
ROUND 1	
Lubna Ismail	504 votes
Darcy Lynn Boyd	202 votes
Joshua Kushner	98 votes
Elected Lubna Ismail due to: highest 1st preference	
ROUND 2	
Lubna Ismail	Elected 504 votes
Darcy Lynn Boyd	202 votes
Joshua Kushner	98 votes
Exhausted votes	0 votes
VOTER SUMMARY	
Total	1096
Abstain	292 (26.6%)

Vice-Chair Events: Alice Liang

Vice Chair Events

Votes required to elect an option: 407

ROUND 1

Alice Liang 530 votes

Sambhavi Dubey 282 votes

Elected Alice Liang due to: highest 1st preference

ROUND 2

Alice Liang Elected 530 votes

Sambhavi Dubey 282 votes

Exhausted votes 0 votes

VOTER SUMMARY

Total 1096

Abstain 284 (25.9%)

Vice-Chair Internal: Ausaf Mirza

Vice Chair Internal

Votes required to elect an option: 443

ROUND 1

Ausaf Mirza 356 votes

Kobe Li 268 votes

Krish Arora 261 votes

Eliminated Krish Arora due to: lowest 1st preference

ROUND 2

Ausaf Mirza 520 (+164) votes

Kobe Li 340 (+72) votes

Exhausted votes 25 (+25) votes

Elected Ausaf Mirza due to: highest 1st preference

ROUND 3

Ausaf Mirza Elected 520 votes

Kobe Li 340 votes

Exhausted votes 25 votes

Vice-Chair External: Kuda Sithole

Vice-Chair External

/votes required to elect an option: 379

ROUND 1

Kuda Sithole 496 votes

Cianne Coutinho 260 votes

Elected Kuda Sithole due to: highest 1st preference

ROUND 2

Kuda Sithole Elected 496 votes

Cianne Coutinho 260 votes

Exhausted votes 0 votes

VOTER SUMMARY

Total 1096

Abstain 340 (31.0%)

Off-Campus/Commuting Rep 1: Ameera Ali Khan

Off-Campus/Commuting Rep 2: Emma Baglione

ROUND 1	
Ameera Ali Khan	106 votes
Emma Baglione	73 votes
Khaled Hajmoussa	15 votes
Arsh Khalid	10 votes
Elected Ameera Ali Khan due to: highest 1st preference	
ROUND 2	
Ameera Ali Khan	Elected 106 votes
Emma Baglione	73 votes
Khaled Hajmoussa	15 votes
Arsh Khalid	10 votes
Exhausted votes	0 votes
Elected Emma Baglione due to: highest 1st preference	
ROUND 3	
Ameera Ali Khan	Elected 106 votes
Emma Baglione	Elected 73 votes
Khaled Hajmoussa	15 votes
Arsh Khalid	10 votes
Exhausted votes	0 votes
VOTER SUMMARY	
Total	241
Abstain	37 (15.4%)

Hedden Residence Chair: Lucas Kozij

ROUND 1

Lucas Kozij	75 votes
Areej Bhajikhara	38 votes
Elected Lucas Kozij due to: highest 1st preference	

ROUND 2

Lucas Kozij	Elected 75 votes
Areej Bhajikhara	38 votes
Exhausted votes	0 votes

VOTER SUMMARY

Total	122
Abstain	9 (7.4%)

Bates Residence Chair: Patience Kieswetter*

Mary E. Keyes Residence Chair: Snehal Jain*

Matthews Residence Chair: Saad Hussain*

McKay Residence Chair: Aditya Sharma*

Wallingford Residence Chair: Shayla Kharghosian*

Whidden Residence Chair: Detavia Henry*

Woodstock Residence Chair: Colin Pyne*

Nominations During the Primary Extension

Peter George Centre for Living and Learning Residence Chair: Maliaka Chaudry

PGCLL Residence Chair

Restricted to **PETER GEORGE CTR**

Option	Votes
Maliaka Chaudry	25 (53.2%)
Shreya Subramanian	22 (46.8%)

VOTER SUMMARY

Total	53
Abstain	6 (11.3%)

Edwards Residence Chair: Ruaridh Dobson

Edwards Residence Chair

Restricted to **EDWARDS HALL**

Option *Madeline Taylor* has been withdrawn from this ballot.

Option	Votes
Ruaridh Dobson	18 (54.5%)

VOTER SUMMARY

Total	34
Abstain	1 (2.9%)

Les Prince Residence Chair: Omar Fouda

Les Prince Residence Chair

Restricted to LES PRINCE HALL

Option	Votes
Omar Fouda	35 (66.0%)
Radin Raesisi Sistani	18 (34.0%)
VOTER SUMMARY	
Total	57
Abstain	4 (7.0%)

Nominations During the Secondary Extension

Brandon Residence Chair: Brady Sullivan*

Moulton Residence Chair: Mustafa Qadeer*

Please see this link for more detailed stats:

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

Nomination Timelines

This year, the initial nomination period for the MSU FYC Election ran from September 3rd, 2024 until September 16th, 2024.

- The primary extension nomination period ran from September 17th to September 23rd
- The secondary extension nomination period ran from September 23rd to September 30th.

Nominations Submitted and Candidates*

Position	# of Nominations
Chair	3
Vice-Chair Events	2
Vice-Chair Internal	3
Vice-Chair External	2
Bates Residence Chair:	1
Brandon Residence Chair:	1
Edwards Residence Chair	2
Hedden Residence Chair:	2
Les Prince Residence Chair:	2
Mary Keyes Residence Chair:	1
Matthews Residence Chair:	1
McKay Residence Chair:	1
Moulton Residence Chair:	1
Off-Campus/Commuting Rep:	4
Peter George Centre for Living and Learning Residence Chair:	2
Wallingford Residence Chair:	1
Whidden Residence Chair:	1
Woodstock Residence Chair:	1
TOTAL	

*counts are not including candidates who rescinded their nomination.

Faculty Breakdown of Candidates*

Faculty	# of Candidates
Arts and Science	0
Business	2
Engineering	3
Heath Sciences	5
Humanities	0
Science	13
Social Science	9
TOTAL	32

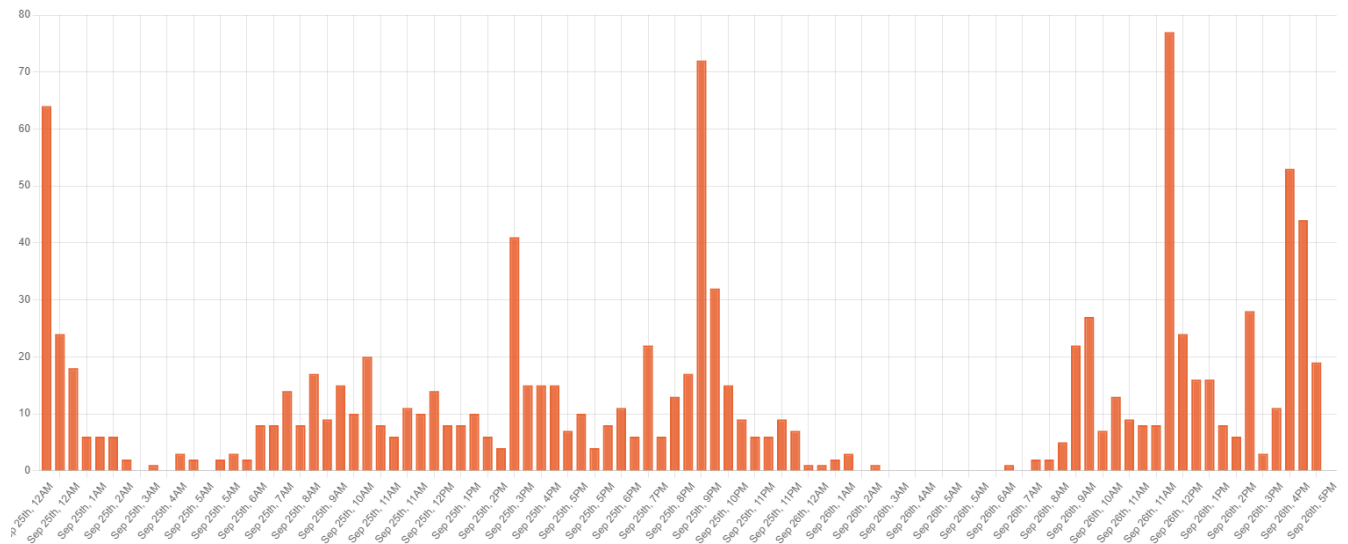
*counts are not including candidates who rescinded their nomination

Voter Turnout

Voter turnout for the 2024 FYC election is as follows:

For normal nomination period:

Executive Positions: (Chair, Vice Chair Events, Internal and External): **1096 (15.9%)**
 of **6876**



Residence Chair positions

Hedden Hall: **122 (35.0%) of 349**

Off-campus/commuter students: **241 (7.6%) of 3186**

*Bates Residence: **58 (13.5%) of 430**

*Mary E. Keyes Residence: **40 (17.7%) of 226**

*Matthews Hall: **35 (14.6%) of 239**

*McKay Hall: **28 (10.2%) of 275**

*Woodstock Hall: **52 (19.0%) of 273**

*Whidden Hall: **33 (14.3%) of 231**

*Wallingford Hall: **37 (53.6%) of 69**

(*) indicates a vote of confidence

For EXTENDED nomination period:

Primary extension

Les Prince Hall: **57 (15.2%) of 375**

Edwards Hall: **34 (36.2%) of 94**

Peter George Centre for Living and Learning: **53 (10.8%) of 490**

Secondary extension

*Brandon Hall: **67 (13.7%) of 490**

*Moulton Hall: **27 (18.0%) of 150**

(*) indicates a vote of confidence

Promotional Events & Strategies

Nominations Promotion

We ordered a Digital + Print package to promote the election online, primarily through our social media, Facebook, X, and Instagram. We had physical posters posted throughout campus as well as a MUSC banner and a Mills Plaza window banner. The package included important information such as the seats available and all key dates for the election such as the nomination period and polling/votes of confidence dates. Aside from this package, we utilized the EDL to email students' reminders of upcoming deadlines and to encourage them to stand for election. We shared many social media stories (primarily through Instagram) to engage with students. Lastly, we also utilized the campus media screens and the large MUSC screen to ensure maximal exposure to the student body.

The department hosted several events to engage with students and educate them about FYC and the upcoming election. Our first events were Faculty Fest and ClubsFest where we had a table set up and spoke to students regarding the Elections Department and the elections we hold throughout the year, with particular focus on FYC. We also hosted, in collaboration with FYC, the FYC Meet and Greet where we saw a very high level of engagement: we interacted with almost 80 first year students and distributed 42 nomination forms. The students got the opportunity to meet with the CRO, DRO, FYC Coordinator as well as some BoD members. Our last event was the Elections 1A03 event which gave students the opportunity to learn more about the elections process as well as other ways to become involved in the MSU. Snacks and beverages were provided at the event. We booked Campus Connect for multiple days in efforts to connect with students and provide information about the elections process and to educate them about FYC.

Due to the unfilled seats, we re-released our promotional package with the primary and secondary extension information. We utilized the EDL to email students belonging to the constituencies of open seats, reminding them of the extension dates and encouraging them to run.

Overall, we are satisfied with the promotional strategy that we employed and are content with the awareness and interest generated in the MSU FYC election.

Updates

Challenges

We had a candidate that was automatically disqualified due to the accumulation of enough severe/standard violations to warrant an automatic disqualification. However, we were successfully navigated through this process to the best of our abilities.

Success

No Voting/Email Issues

We had no complications with the SimplyVoting process and the email blasts proved quite successful.

We had no appeals from any of the candidates, so the FYC Election period is officially over.

I would like to shoutout the Elections Committee for their support with this first election

Next Steps

Candidate Reimbursement

The Elections Department did not receive any appeals therefore, we have started the reimbursement process for all FYC candidates regardless of which nomination period they nominated themselves within.