

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS' ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

ELECTIONS REPORT

Fall 2023

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Table of Acronyms	5
Introduction	6
Executive Summary	7
Election Information	8
Technical Information	8
Timeline	8
Neutral Parties As of the 1st of September, 2023	10
Position and Candidate Information	14
Voting Information	15
Election Process	17
Nominations Period	17
All Candidates Meeting	18
Campaign Period	18
Town Hall	20
Ballots and the Voting Period	20
Silent Period	22
Publishing of Results and the Election Ratification Meeting	22
Results	24
Simply Voting Election Manager Results for Councillors	24
Round 1	24
Round 2	24
Round 3	25
Round 4	26
Round 5	27
Round 6	27
Round 7	28
Round 8	29
Round 9	29
Round 10	30
Round 11	30
Round 12	31
Round 13	32
Round 14	32
Voter Summary	33
Simply Voting Election Manager Results for the International Councillor	33
Round 1	33
Round 2	33
Voter Summary	34

VUSAC Results.....	34
Councillors.....	34
International Councillor.....	35
Penalties and Appeals.....	36
Penalties.....	36
Penalty 1.....	36
Penalty 2.....	36
Penalty 3.....	37
Penalty 4.....	37
Penalty 5.....	37
Penalty 6.....	38
Penalty 7.....	38
Penalty 8.....	39
Penalty 9.....	39
Penalty 10.....	40
Penalty 11.....	40
Penalty 12.....	41
Penalty 13.....	41
Appeals.....	42
Appeal 1.....	42
Appeal 2.....	42
Appeal 3.....	43
The Case of Candidate Y versus the Chief Returning Officer (CRO).....	43
Breaches of the ERC (Revised July 2023).....	45
Chapter 4, Article 4, Section 1.....	45
Chapter 11, Article 21, Section 3.....	46
Chapter 12, Article 22, Section 7.....	46
Data and Statistics on Election Engagement.....	48
Councillor Candidates.....	48
Basic Statistics on the Annual Total Number of Councillor Candidates.....	48
Basic Statistics on the Annual Total Number of First Year versus Upper Year Councillor Candidates.....	49
International Councillor Candidates.....	50
Basic Statistics on the Annual Total Number of International Councillor Candidates.....	50
Voter Turnout.....	51
Basic Stats.....	52
Election Forum - Fall 2023.....	52
Basic Statistics on the Per Day Forum Views.....	52
Basic Statistics on the Per Day Unique Visitors.....	53
Basic Statistics on the Per Day Forum Posts.....	54
Correlation Coefficients.....	55

Conclusions and Recommendations.....	56
Recommendations for Future Elections.....	56
Appendix.....	58

Table of Acronyms

ACRO:	Assistant Chief Returning Officer
CRO:	Chief Returning Officer
EAC:	Elections and Appeals Committee
ERC:	Elections and Referenda Code
GSC:	Goldring Students' Centre
IRV:	Instant Runoff Voting
VCC:	Victoria College Council
VCU:	Victoria College Union
VPI:	Vice President - Internal
VUSAC:	Victoria University Students' Administrative Council

Introduction

To the Victoria College Union (VCU),

This report has been prepared to provide an in-depth account of the VUSAC elections held during the fall term of 2023.

As the CRO of the VUSAC for the 2023 / 2024 Victoria University and University of Toronto academic year, I, Dhir Shah, bear the responsibility of overseeing the integrity, fairness, and transparency of VUSAC elections.

The fall 2023 election period spanned from the 1st day of September to the 29th day of September in the year 2023.

The purpose of this document is to relay the methodology, candidates, results, notable events, and any associated details from the said elections, ensuring that all stakeholders have a comprehensive understanding of the proceedings.

This report aims to uphold the transparency and credibility of the VUSAC election process, recognizing the importance of student representation and leadership within the Victoria University community.

Warm Regards,

Dhir Shah (he / him)

Chief Returning Officer (CRO) 2023 / 2024

Victoria University Students' Administrative Council (VUSAC)

Executive Summary

The VUSAC Fall 2023 Elections, which spanned from the 1st to the 29th of September, 2023, aimed at filling vacancies for Councillors, International Councillor, and a seat on the VCC. Out of the available positions, eight were for Councillors - consisting of specific reservations based on academic years, one for International Councillor, and one for the VCC, considering nine seats were filled earlier in the Spring elections.

The nominations period initiated on the 1st of September, 2023 and encountered a brief technical hitch concerning access to the nomination forms, which was swiftly resolved. A total of 15 valid nominations were received, encompassing positions for Councillors and the International Councillor, while none were received for the VCC. Two candidates subsequently withdrew their nominations, and penalties were administered for certain rule violations.

To aid in understanding the electoral process and to offer clarifications, two information sessions were organised, both of which saw a commendable turnout. An All Candidates Meeting was held on the 14th of September, 2023, facilitated by an ACRO in my absence.

The campaign period, which ran from the 14th to the 25th of September, 2023, presented various challenges, prompting the issuance of penalties for specific campaign rule breaches. An educational session intended to elucidate the ranked-voting system was conducted on the 19th of September, albeit with limited participation. During the campaign, candidates were required to submit their profiles and budgets, leading to a Town Hall where they presented their platforms to the VCU.

Voting took place from the 21st to the 25th of September, 2023, with a participation of 11.46% from the VCU. The silent period following the voting witnessed a significant rule breach by a candidate, details of which are elaborated upon in subsequent sections. Notwithstanding, the results were published on the 28th of September, with due adjustments made to adhere to the VUSAC's reservation guidelines.

The election's culmination was marked by a ratification meeting on the 29th of September, 2023, where the newly elected candidates were proposed for formal recognition. This comprehensive report on the elections was officially released on the 14th of November, 2023, albeit delayed due to personal contingencies.

Throughout the election period, earnest efforts were made to maintain the integrity and transparency of the process. Acknowledging the technical challenges and certain oversights, I extend my apologies to the VCU and assure of continued diligence in upcoming election cycles.

Election Information

Technical Information

Election ID:	VUSAC F23E 212963
Election Cycle:	Fall 2023
Chief Returning Officer:	Dhir Shah
Assistant Chief Returning Officer(s):	Lara Athena Reyes Shane Joy
Chair (Non-Voting Member) of the Elections and Appeals Committee (EAC):	Shane Joy
Start Date and Time	01st of September, 2023 00:00:00 hrs (12:00:00 am)
End Date and Time	29th of September, 2023 23:59:59 hrs (11:59:59 pm)

Timeline

Date	Event	Scheduled Commence Time / Scheduled Time	Scheduled End Time / Deadline	Location
01/09/2023	Nominations Open	00:00:00 hrs 12:00:00 am		
12/09/2023	Elections Info and Q/A Session 1	17:30:00 hrs 05:30:00 pm	18:30:00 hrs 06:30:00 pm	VUSAC Office
13/09/2023	Elections Info and Q/A Session 2	18:30:00 hrs 06:30:00 pm	19:30:00 hrs 07:30:00 pm	VUSAC Office
14/09/2023	Nominations Close		12:00:00 hrs 12:00:00 pm	

14/09/2023	All Candidates Meeting	18:00:00 hrs 06:00:00 pm	20:00:00 hrs 08:00:00 pm	VUSAC Office
14/09/2023	Campaign Period Commences	20:00:00 hrs 08:00:00 pm		
19/09/2023	Voters' Ed Session	18:00:00 hrs 06:00:00 pm	19:30:00 hrs 07:30:00 pm	Copper Room
20/09/2023	Candidate Profiles and Budgets Due		17:00:00 hrs 05:00:00 pm	
20/09/2023	Town Hall	17:30:00 hrs 05:30:00 pm	19:30:00 hrs 07:30:00 pm	Wymilwood Lounge
21/09/2023	Voting Period Commences	00:00:00 hrs 12:00:00 am		
22/09/2023	VUSAC Meeting	17:30:00 hrs 05:30:00 pm	20:30:00 hrs 08:30:00 pm	Copper Room
25/09/2023	Campaign Period Ends		23:59:59 hrs 11:59:59 pm	
25/09/2023	Voting Period Ends		23:59:59 hrs 11:59:59 pm	
26/09/2023	Candidates Notified of Individual Results	00:00:00 hrs 12:00:00 am	12:00:00hrs 12:00:00 pm	
26/09/2023	Silent Period Commences	00:00:00 hrs 12:00:00 am		
27/09/2023	Silent Period Ends		23:59:59 hrs 11:59:59 pm	
28/09/2023	Results Published	00:00:00 hrs 12:00:00 am		
29/09/2023	Elections Ratification Meeting	17:30:00 hrs 05:30:00 pm	20:30:00 hrs 08:30:00 pm	Copper Room
13/10/2023	Elections Report Published	00:00:00 hrs 12:00:00 am		

Neutral Parties As of the 1st of September, 2023

Full Name	Neutral Party Type	Role
VUSAC		
Aimee Surendra	Commissioner / Co-Chair	Commuter Co-Chair
Atlas Changulani	Commissioner / Co-Chair	Sustainability Commissioner
Caitriona Federico	Commissioner / Co-Chair	Equity Co-Chair
Callan Murphy	Staff	Finance Chair
Cam Miranda-Radbord	Executive	Vice President – External
Charlie Sun	Commissioner / Co-Chair	Mental Wellness Commissioner
Dhir Shah	Staff	Chief Returning Officer (CRO)
Diana Vink	Commissioner / Co-Chair	Equity Commissioner
Jackie Ko	Staff	Chair
Juhyung Yun	Commissioner / Co-Chair	Commuter Commissioner
Kate Mochina	Commissioner / Co-Chair	Arts and Culture Commissioner
Krystyn Kalloo	Commissioner / Co-Chair	Scarlet and Gold Commissioner
Lara Athena Reyes	Executive	Vice President – Internal Assistant Chief Returning Officer (CRO)
Leah McKinney	Commissioner / Co-Chair	Sustainability Co-Chair
Medha Barath	Commissioner / Co-Chair	Academic Commissioner
Muskaan Aggarwal	Executive	Vice President – Student Organizations
Shane Joy	Executive	President Assistant Chief Returning Officer (CRO)
Stephanie Cui	Commissioner / Co-Chair	Academic Co-Chair

Tanya Kor	Staff	Communications Coordinator
Teresa Kristina Wijaya	Commissioner / Co-Chair	Mental Wellness Co-Chair
Yuna Lee	Staff	Office Manager
Ex-Officio Members		
Amanda Meng	Ex-Officio	Member – Victoria College Council
Amy Mann	Ex-Officio	Two Years Member – Board of Regents (BOR)
Ariza Hossain	Ex-Officio	Member – Victoria College Council
Boomba Nishikawa	Ex-Officio	One Year Member – Board of Regents (BOR)
Callan Murphy	Ex-Officio	One Year Member – Board of Regents (BOR)
Cam Miranda-Radbord	Ex-Officio	Member – Victoria College Council
Carter Ponce	Ex-Officio	Member – Victoria College Council
Dhir Shah	Ex-Officio	Member – Victoria College Council Executive – Victoria University Senate
Juhyung Yun	Ex-Officio	Executive – Victoria University Senate
Krishna Kumar	Ex-Officio	Member – Victoria College Council
Medha Barath	Ex-Officio	Member – Victoria College Council
Rebecca Muscant	Ex-Officio	Member – Victoria College Council
Tariq Harney	Ex-Officio	One Year Member – Board of Regents (BOR)
Zach Groves	Ex-Officio	Member – Victoria College Council

Elections and Appeals Committee (EAC)		
Ali Kehl	Elections and Appeals Committee	Voting Member
	Elections and Appeals Committee	Voting Member
Anna XiangZeNing Li	Elections and Appeals Committee	Voting Member
Butool Abedi	Elections and Appeals Committee	Voting Member
Kira Sun	Elections and Appeals Committee	Voting Member
Malcolm Alan Francis Standing	Elections and Appeals Committee	Voting Member
Marie Kinderman	Elections and Appeals Committee	Voting Member
Olivia Lee	Elections and Appeals Committee	Voting Member
Sarah Charisma Pittiman	Elections and Appeals Committee	Voting Member
Riley Moorman	Elections and Appeals Committee	Voting Member
Shane Joy	Elections and Appeals Committee	Chair and Non-Voting Member
Dons		
Adriana Goraieb	Don	Commuter Don
Anisha Huq	Don	Residence Don
Anne Huynh	Don	Commuter Don
Cagla Akgul	Don	Residence Don
Daniela Gatti	Don	Residence Don
David Zhang	Don	Commuter Don
Diana Lam	Don	Residence Don
Dixshant Shree Shreemal	Don	Residence Don
Emilie Nero	Don	Commuter Don
Emily Zurcher	Don	Commuter Don

Jackson Lesley	Don	Residence Don
Jessica Kok	Don	Residence Don
Julia Hu	Don	Residence Don
Julie Seeger	Don	Residence Don
Landon See	Don	Residence Don
Laura DiNunzio	Don	Residence Don
Maarib Haseeb	Don	Commuter Don
Madeline Szabo	Don	Residence Don
Maeve Kelly	Don	Residence Don
Mridula Sathyanarayanan	Don	Commuter Don
Nicole Berezyuk	Don	Residence Don
Noah Rudder	Don	Residence Don
Pasley Merritt	Don	Residence Don
Ria Bakshi	Don	Residence Don
Sakura Ariga	Don	Residence Don
Seavey van Walsum	Don	Residence Don
Steven Fenn	Don	Residence Don
Tanga Ndongmi	Don	Commuter Don
Tariq Harney	Don	Residence Don
Vedant Iyer	Don	Residence Don
Zahra Ahmadi	Don	Commuter Don
Building Presidents		
Glen Hung	Building President	President – Burwash
Joanna Narkiewicz	Building President	President – Rowell Jackman Building
Nina Yue	Building President	President – Annesley Hall
Peter James	Building President	President – Burwash
[More coming soon]	[More coming soon]	[More coming soon]
Victoria College Orientation Stakeholders		
Ali Kehl	Orientation Executive	Staff Co-Chair

Jocelyn Mattka	Orientation Executive	Student Co-Chair
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Position and Candidate Information

Total Number of Available Positions: 3

Available Positions: Councillors
International Councillor
Victoria College Council (VCC)

Total Number of Nominated Candidates: 15

Total Number of Nominated Councillor Candidates: 14

Nominated Councillor Candidates: Aiko Hashimoto Reis
Albert Deok-Hyun Ahn
Amoly Agarwal
Andriy Shkvorets
Erin Timur
Frederick Karol Sulowski
Isha Mathur
John (Jack) Cochrane
Justin Liou
Liren Abeyratne
Logan William Kliewer
Maria Francesca Policarpio
Richelle Furtado
Sophie Isabelle Mutch

Total Number of Nominated International Councillor Candidates: 1

Nominated International Councillor Candidates: Andrew Fan

Total Number of Nominated Victoria College Council (VCC) Candidates: 0

Nominated Victoria College Council (VCC) Candidates: None

Total Number of Withdrawn Candidates: 2

Withdrawn Candidates: Liren Abeyratne
Maria Francesca Policarpio

Total Number of Contestant Candidates: 13

Voting Information

Voting Start Date and Time: 21st day of September in the year 2023 at 00:00:00 hrs (12:00:00 am)

Voting End Date and Time: 25th day of September in the year 2023 at 23:59:59 hrs (11:59:59 pm)

Total Number of Eligible Electors (Voters): 3,971

Total Number of Votes Cast: 455

Election Process

Nominations Period

The Nominations Period for the fall 2023 elections began at the stroke of midnight on the 1st of September, 2023, and concluded at noon on the 14th of September, 2023.

Concurrent with the opening of the nominations, the official Nominations Package was made available on the VUSAC website. Additionally, Tanya Kor, the Communications Coordinator, executed a well-timed communication strategy, issuing announcements about the elections both in advance and on the first day of the nomination period to ensure maximum awareness and participation.

The period witnessed an active participation, with a total of 15 nominations being received. These nominations were for two distinct positions within the council: Councillors and International Councillor. Despite the active participation, there were no nominees for the open seat on the VCC. After consultation with Shane Joy, Chair of the EAC, it was decided not to extend the nomination period for this specific seat.

There were initial technical difficulties encountered with the online nomination portal, specifically with its compatibility with the Safari web browser. This issue was promptly identified and rectified by Tanya Kor, the Communications Coordinator.

Additionally, access issues to the alternate nomination forms via Google Forms were reported. This problem, initially overlooked by me as a potential user error, was later identified as a restriction setting issue that inadvertently limited access to VUSAC and its trusted organisations. Upon realisation, this issue was immediately corrected. As the CRO, I extend my apologies for these oversights and affirm my commitment to preventing such occurrences in future elections.

During this period, 3 candidates - Erin Timur, and Andrew Fan (with the third individual's name redacted at their request) - were penalised for exceeding the permissible number of nominators. This decision was based on the evidence provided by the nominators' lists.

Two informational and Q&A sessions were conducted to assist and guide potential candidates and interested parties. The first session was held on the 12th of September, 2023, from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm, and the second on 13th of September, 2023, from 18:30:00 hrs (06:30:00 pm) to 19:30:00 hrs (07:30:00 pm). Both sessions recorded impressive attendance, surpassing the previous year's turnout, as noted by Shane Joy, the President of the Council.

Following the closure of the nomination period, I, as the CRO, communicated via email to all candidates who met the nomination requirements, confirming their candidacy for the respective positions in the VUSAC elections.

All Candidates Meeting

The All Candidates Meeting for the elections was held on 14th of September, 2023. Scheduled from 18:00:00 hrs (06:00:00 pm) to 20:00:00 hrs (08:00:00 pm), this critical meeting took place

at the VUSAC Office, serving as a foundational event for all candidates participating in the election.

In my absence due to an academic commitment, the meeting was chaired by one of the ACROs, Shane Joy. His leadership ensured the meeting progressed seamlessly and all pertinent information was effectively communicated to the candidates.

The following candidates were unable to attend the meeting:

1. Albert Deok-Hyun Ahn
2. Logan William Kliwer
3. Amoly Agarwal
4. Aiko Hashimoto Reis

In compliance with Chapter 9, Article 16, Section 1c) and 1d) of the [ERC](#), some absent candidates had designated proxies to represent them at the meeting. For those who were unable to assign proxies, the VUSAC took the initiative to assign proxies on their behalf, ensuring that all candidates were represented and could receive the necessary information.

The meeting was conducted with remarkable smoothness and efficiency, a testament to the meticulous planning and organisation by the VUSAC.

Key aspects covered in the meeting included detailed campaigning guidelines and further procedural steps in the election process. This information is crucial for maintaining a fair and transparent electoral process.

Candidates were also given ample opportunity to raise questions and seek clarifications. This interactive segment ensured that all candidates had a clear understanding of the rules, expectations, and their responsibilities during the remainder of the elections period.

The All Candidates Meeting marked an essential milestone in the VUSAC electoral process, setting the stage for a well-informed and structured campaign period.

The success of the meeting, marked by effective communication and active participation, highlighted the commitment of the VUSAC and the candidates to a fair and democratic election process.

Campaign Period

The campaign period for the elections, a pivotal phase in the electoral process, spanned from 14th of September at 20:00:00 hrs (08:00:00 pm) to 25th of September at 23:59:59 hrs (11:59:59 pm). This period was characterised by a mix of adherence to regulations, technological engagements, educational efforts, candidate withdrawals, and the need for disciplinary actions.

As the candidates launched their campaigns, they displayed posters in alignment with the guidelines set forth in Chapter 9 of the [ERC](#). However, an exception occurred with candidate Richelle Furtado. I received an email from the latter seeking approval for an incomplete poster, intended to be finalised with a QR code. After rejecting the request and advising them to submit the completed poster, no further correspondence was received.

During this period, the VUSAC website's election forum was activated, offering a digital space for interaction between the Victoria College Union (VCU) and the candidates. Despite its availability, the forum witnessed subdued participation. The highest level of activity was recorded on September 18th, with 208 views, 27 unique visitors, and only 4 posts, indicating a relatively low engagement level.

A significant event was the Voter Education Session held on September 19th. Aimed at explaining the newly introduced ranked voting system, the session unfortunately attracted only 2 of the 3,971 eligible electors, translating to a meagre 0.05% turnout. The session faced challenges, partly due to my initial lack of familiarity with the ranked voting process, leading to some mistakes in its explanation. I extend my apologies for these shortcomings and am committed to enhancing my understanding for improved delivery in future sessions.

The campaign also saw the withdrawal of two candidates: Liren Abeyratne on the 19th of September, 2023 and Maria Francesca Policarpio on the 20th of September, 2023. These withdrawals altered the election dynamics mid-campaign.

A crucial deadline during this phase was the submission of candidate profiles and budgets by the 20th of September, 2023. All profiles were submitted on time, but only 10 candidates met the extended budget submission deadline. I acknowledge a communication gap regarding the need to submit a nil budget for candidates with no expenditures, for which I take full responsibility.

A significant incident occurred on the 24th of September, 2023 when a particular candidate reported their campaign posters had been tampered with. Despite efforts to investigate, including a physical inspection of the poster sites and an email appeal to candidates and resident and commuter dons, the investigation faced challenges due to limited resources and access. As compensation, I advised the candidate that they could print additional posters.

The campaign period also necessitated several penalty issues. Warnings were issued to several candidates for various infractions, including improper poster placements and inactivity on the election forum. Additionally, Candidate X received a strike for inappropriate ballot ranking suggestions, and another candidate, hereafter referred to as Y, was disqualified for slanderous comments against another candidate (Refer to [The Case of Candidate Y versus the Chief Returning Officer \(CRO\)](#)).

In summary, the campaign period was a dynamic and multifaceted phase of the elections, marked by a commitment to uphold the electoral code, address technological and educational challenges, and enforce disciplinary measures to ensure a fair and transparent election process.

Town Hall

On the 20th of September, 2023, VUSAC held a Town Hall from 17:30:00 hrs (05:30:00 pm) to 19:30:00 hrs (07:30:00 pm), providing a vital platform for candidates to present their ideas and interact with the electorate.

The event saw adjustments to accommodate academic commitments of several candidates. Aiko Hashimoto Reis departed early, while Erin Timur, unable to attend, sent a video of their

speech, which I presented during the First Year Councillor segment. Andrew Fan arrived late due to similar commitments. Richelle Furtado, also absent for academic reasons, forwarded a copy of their speech, which Shane Joy, the ACRO, read on their behalf. Apart from these candidates, the rest were present, ensuring robust participation.

The Town Hall included an anonymous question submission form, which received a total of 9 questions, predominantly from council members. This allowed for a diverse range of inquiries, reflecting the concerns and curiosities of both the council and the student body.

Following the presentations by candidates for a particular position, a live question and answer session was conducted, offering a direct and interactive platform for candidates and the VCU. This format facilitated a dynamic exchange between the candidates and the audience, contributing to a more engaging and informative session.

The entire Town Hall was recorded, ensuring that those who could not attend could still access the discussions and presentations. This was in line with our commitment to transparency and inclusivity.

In adherence to Chapter 9, Article 16, Section 2 of the [ERC](#), all guidelines were meticulously followed. This ensured a structured and fair environment for all candidates to present their platforms and engage with electors.

Despite these efforts, the turnout at the Town Hall was moderate, with approximately 40 members of the VCU, including VUSAC members and candidates, in attendance. While this number was not as high as hoped, it still represented a significant portion of the engaged electorate.

Overall, the Town Hall ran smoothly, marked by effective coordination, respectful discourse, and adherence to the established electoral guidelines. It served as an essential component of the democratic process, offering a comprehensive view of the candidates and their visions for the VUSAC.

Ballots and the Voting Period

The voting period for the elections spanned from midnight on the 21st of September, 2023 to 23:59:59 hrs (11:59:59 pm) on the 25th of September, 2023 a critical phase where the electorate voiced their choices.

Significantly, the campaign period overlapped with the voting period, allowing candidates to continue their campaigning efforts throughout the voting duration. This provided a unique opportunity for candidates to engage with electors up until the last moment, potentially influencing final voting decisions.

For the execution of the voting process, VUSAC collaborated with Simply Voting, marking a shift from previous elections where the voting system was managed by the UTSU's Simply Voting system. This change granted me, as the CRO, full control over the voting system, enhancing the efficiency and responsiveness of the electoral process.

Two voting options were available to the electors: online voting, which could be accessed anywhere with internet connectivity, and physical voting kiosks situated within the VUSAC office

during office hours. This dual approach aimed to maximise accessibility and convenience for all electors.

To accommodate the diverse linguistic background of the electorate, technical information on the ballot was provided in 18 different languages, reflecting VUSAC's commitment to inclusivity.

A notable feature of this election was the flexibility allowed in vote changes. Electors had the liberty to change their votes multiple times during the voting period, with only the final submission being recorded. This feature was a departure from previous elections and was designed to provide electors with greater flexibility in their decision-making process.

The election employed a ranked voting system. However, due to compatibility issues with Simply Voting's Election Manager and the counting method prescribed in Chapter 11 of the electoral code, a slightly modified counting method was used. After thorough discussions with Simply Voting's support team and testing various counting methods, it was assured that this adaptation did not impact the election results.

The turnout, however, was notably low. Of the 3,971 eligible electors, only 455 cast their votes, resulting in an 11.5% turnout. To encourage higher participation, I initiated a series of reminder email blasts. Initially, these reminders were sent to all electors, but later we targeted only those who had not yet voted.

During the voting period, an average of 91 electors voted per day. The data showed a surge in activity at the commencement of the voting period, with the highest number of votes, 169, recorded on the first day, particularly in the first 1.5 hours. Thereafter, there was a noticeable decline in daily votes.

Despite the low turnout, the voting process itself was remarkably smooth. There were no reported technical issues with the Simply Voting system, which marked a significant improvement from previous elections.

In summary, the voting period of the Fall 2023 VUSAC elections was characterised by an overlap with the campaign period, a flexible voting system, linguistic inclusivity, a modified yet effective counting method, a concerted effort to boost turnout, and a smooth technical execution, culminating in a critical phase of the democratic process.

Silent Period

The Silent Period for the elections, a crucial time for reflection and decision-making, commenced at midnight on the 26th of September, 2023 and concluded on the 27th of September, 2023 at 23:59:59 hrs (11:59:59 pm).

As soon as the election results became available on the Simply Voting Election Manager, I engaged in a meeting with Shane Joy, the chair of the EAC, to review and adjust the results, ensuring they met VUSAC's councillor reserve requirements. Following this, I updated the individual unconfirmed result pages for all candidates and notified them via email to review their respective results.

A significant development during this period involved the disqualification of candidate Y due to slander, which was under appeal. This situation created uncertainty regarding the results for two

councillor positions: Y's and the next candidate in line for election if Y's appeal was rejected. Initially, their results were displayed as 'Pending Review.' However, after further discussion with Shane Joy, we decided to adjust the display to 'Elected (Pending Review)' for Y and 'Not Elected (Pending Review)' for the other candidate. This decision was informed by the understanding that candidates were aware these results were provisional and subject to change post-Silent Period.

Complicating matters, Y violated the rules of the Silent Period by discussing their disqualification penalty with a VUSAC member and another candidate. We had concrete evidence of this breach, leading to the issuance of another disqualification penalty to Y. This second disqualification was also appealed and under review by the EAC.

While the EAC rejected Y's appeal against the first disqualification (slander), the second appeal (Silent Period violation) was not resolved promptly. Consequently, I decided to withdraw the second penalty. This decision, and the reasoning behind it, will be elaborated in the case analysis section. Both the penalty and the appeal were subsequently omitted from the penalties and appeals page on the VUSAC website.

After final decisions on both appeals were made, I updated the individual unconfirmed results for Y and the other candidate once more and notified them via email about the updates.

The Silent Period, typically a time of calm before the finalisation of results, was marked by significant challenges due to the issues surrounding Y. While most candidates adhered to the rules of the Silent Period, Y's actions led to complications that disrupted the otherwise smooth flow of this crucial phase in the electoral process.

Publishing of Results and the Election Ratification Meeting

On the 28th of September, 2023, at the stroke of midnight, I transmitted the final confirmed results of the VUSAC elections to Tanya Kor, the Communications Coordinator, marking the culmination of a meticulous electoral process. Adhering to the guidelines outlined in Chapter 13, Article 23, Section 2 of the [ERC](#), this timing was critical to avoid breaching the Silent Period rules. The first disclosure of these results occurred on VUSAC's Instagram page, followed by a hard copy display outside the VUSAC office on the same day. Simultaneously, Tanya and I began the task of updating the VUSAC website with the final results, a process that required meticulous updating of various databases, taking a few days to complete.

With the results now public, I proceeded to prepare the Certificates of Election, ensuring timely access for candidates via their individual results pages. This part of the process encountered no delays and was executed as planned.

In preparation for the election ratification meeting scheduled for the 29th of September, 2023, I prepared the official Certificate of Results. This document was to be presented to the VUSAC and accepted by the President of the Council, Shane Joy, as an official acknowledgment and an invitation for the council to consider ratifying the newly elected candidates. This preparation phase proceeded smoothly, with all necessary documents ready for the upcoming meeting.

The election ratification meeting was a significant event, marking the final stage in the electoral process. Unaware that attendance was optional for unelected candidates, I informed all

candidates to be present. This oversight highlighted a need for me to deepen my understanding of the [ERC](#) for future elections.

During the meeting, President Shane Joy, initiated a motion to ratify the newly elected council members which was seconded by VPI Lara Athena Reyes. Following this proposal, I presented the election results and the Certificate of Results to the council. President Joy accepted these on behalf of the council, and I invited them to proceed with the ratification.

A notable moment arose when candidate Y, one of the candidates, expressed concerns about the election process and its impact on their health. They also informed the council and the VCU of a complaint filed with the Victoria College Office of the Dean of Students, a development of which I was previously unaware. Following Y's statement, there were no further comments, and the council moved to ratify the elected candidates with a majority vote. However, I intend to account for Y's distress and I will ensure that electoral processes are followed more accurately and a variety of support systems are available during future elections.

The publishing of the election results and the subsequent ratification meeting encapsulated the final steps of the VUSAC elections. From the careful release of results to the formal ratification of elected members, each step was carried out with attention to detail and adherence to electoral guidelines. The meeting not only served as a formal conclusion to the electoral process but also as a forum for reflection and feedback, pivotal for the continuous improvement of future VUSAC elections.

Results

Simply Voting Election Manager Results for Councillors

- **Votes required to elect a candidate: 217**

Round 1

Aiko Hashimoto Reis:	66 votes
Albert Deok-Hyun Ahn:	52 votes
Amoly Agarwal:	48 votes
Logan Kliewer:	46 votes
Erin Timur:	41 votes
Frederick Karol Sulowski:	38 votes
Isha Mathur:	35 votes
Sophie Mutch:	30 votes
Jack Cochrane:	27 votes
Justin Liou:	19 votes
Andriy Yaroslavych Shkvorets:	12 votes
Richelle Furtado:	12 votes
Declare Vacant:	7 votes

Eliminated Declare Vacant due to: lowest 1st preference

Round 2

Aiko Hashimoto Reis:	66 votes
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Albert Deok-Hyun Ahn:	52 votes
Amoly Agarwal:	49 (+1) votes
Logan Kliewer:	48 (+2) votes
Erin Timur:	41 votes
Frederick Karol Sulowski:	38 votes
Isha Mathur:	36 (+1) votes
Sophie Mutch:	30 votes
Jack Cochrane:	27 votes
Justin Liou:	20 (+1) votes
Andriy Yaroslavych Shkvorets:	14 (+2) votes
Richelle Furtado:	12 votes
Exhausted Votes:	0 votes

Eliminated Richelle Furtado due to: lowest 1st preference

Round 3

Aiko Hashimoto Reis:	67 (+1) votes
Albert Deok-Hyun Ahn:	53 (+1) votes
Amoly Agarwal:	49 votes
Logan Kliewer:	48 votes
Erin Timur:	43 (+2) votes
Frederick Karol Sulowski:	38 votes

Isha Mathur:	36 votes
Sophie Mutch:	35 (+5) votes
Jack Cochrane:	28 (+1) votes
Justin Liou:	22 (+2) votes
Andriy Yaroslavych Shkvorets:	14 votes
Exhausted Votes:	0 votes

Eliminated Andriy Yaroslavych Shkvorets due to: lowest 1st preference

Round 4

Aiko Hashimoto Reis:	69 (+2) votes
Albert Deok-Hyun Ahn:	54 (+1) votes
Amoly Agarwal:	49 votes
Logan Kliewer:	48 votes
Erin Timur:	47 (+4) votes
Frederick Karol Sulowski:	41 (+3) votes
Isha Mathur:	36 votes
Sophie Mutch:	35 votes
Jack Cochrane:	29 (+1) votes
Justin Liou:	25 (+3) votes
Exhausted Votes:	0 votes

Eliminated Justin Liou due to: lowest 1st preference

Round 5

Aiko Hashimoto Reis:	70 (+1) votes
Albert Deok-Hyun Ahn:	68 (+14) votes
Amoly Agarwal:	51 (+2) votes
Logan Kliewer:	51 (+3) votes
Erin Timur:	48 (+1) votes
Frederick Karol Sulowski:	43 (+2) votes
Isha Mathur:	36 votes
Sophie Mutch:	36 (+1) votes
Jack Cochrane:	30 (+1) votes
Exhausted Votes:	0 votes

Eliminated Jack Cochrane due to: lowest 1st preference

Round 6

Aiko Hashimoto Reis:	77 (+7) votes
Albert Deok-Hyun Ahn:	70 (+2) votes
Amoly Agarwal:	59 (+8) votes
Erin Timur:	52 (+4) votes
Logan Kliewer:	52 (+1) votes
Frederick Karol Sulowski:	44 (+1) votes

Sophie Mutch: 42 (+6) votes

Isha Mathur: 37 (+1) votes

Exhausted Votes: 0 votes

Elected Aiko Hashimoto Reis due to: number of options equals number of winners, highest 1st preference

Round 7

Aiko Hashimoto Reis: Elected 77 votes

Albert Deok-Hyun Ahn: 70 votes

Amoly Agarwal: 59 votes

Erin Timur: 52 votes

Logan Kliewer: 52 votes

Frederick Karol Sulowski: 44 votes

Sophie Mutch: 42 votes

Isha Mathur: 37 votes

Exhausted Votes: 0 votes

Elected Albert Deok-Hyun Ahn due to: number of options equals number of winners, highest 1st preference

Round 8

Aiko Hashimoto Reis: Elected 77 votes

Albert Deok-Hyun Ahn: Elected 70 votes

Amoly Agarwal:	59 votes
Erin Timur:	52 votes
Logan Kliewer:	52 votes
Frederick Karol Sulowski:	44 votes
Sophie Mutch:	42 votes
Isha Mathur:	37 votes
Exhausted Votes:	0 votes

Elected Amoly Agarwal due to: number of options equals number of winners, highest 1st preference

Round 9

Aiko Hashimoto Reis:	Elected 77 votes
Albert Deok-Hyun Ahn:	Elected 70 votes
Amoly Agarwal:	Elected 59 votes
Erin Timur:	52 votes
Logan Kliewer:	52 votes
Frederick Karol Sulowski:	44 votes
Sophie Mutch:	42 votes
Isha Mathur:	37 votes
Exhausted Votes:	0 votes

Elected Logan Kliewer due to: number of options equals number of winners, random draw

Round 10

Aiko Hashimoto Reis:	Elected 77 votes
Albert Deok-Hyun Ahn:	Elected 70 votes
Amoly Agarwal:	Elected 59 votes
Erin Timur:	52 votes
Logan Kliewer:	Elected 52 votes
Frederick Karol Sulowski:	44 votes
Sophie Mutch:	42 votes
Isha Mathur:	37 votes
Exhausted Votes:	0 votes

Elected Erin Timur due to: number of options equals number of winners, highest 1st preference

Round 11

Aiko Hashimoto Reis:	Elected 77 votes
Albert Deok-Hyun Ahn:	Elected 70 votes
Amoly Agarwal:	Elected 59 votes
Erin Timur:	Elected 52 votes
Logan Kliewer:	Elected 52 votes
Frederick Karol Sulowski:	44 votes
Sophie Mutch:	42 votes

Isha Mathur: 37 votes

Exhausted Votes: 0 votes

Elected Frederick Karol Sulowski due to: number of options equals number of winners, highest 1st preference

Round 12

Aiko Hashimoto Reis: Elected 77 votes

Albert Deok-Hyun Ahn: Elected 70 votes

Amoly Agarwal: Elected 59 votes

Erin Timur: Elected 52 votes

Logan Kliewer: Elected 52 votes

Frederick Karol Sulowski: Elected 44 votes

Sophie Mutch: 42 votes

Isha Mathur: 37 votes

Exhausted Votes: 0 votes

Elected Sophie Mutch due to: number of options equals number of winners, highest 1st preference

Round 13

Aiko Hashimoto Reis: Elected 77 votes

Albert Deok-Hyun Ahn: Elected 70 votes

Amoly Agarwal: Elected 59 votes

Erin Timur:	Elected 52 votes
Logan Kliewer:	Elected 52 votes
Frederick Karol Sulowski:	Elected 44 votes
Sophie Mutch:	Elected 42 votes
Isha Mathur:	37 votes
Exhausted Votes:	0 votes

Elected Isha Mathur due to: number of options equals number of winners, highest 1st preference

Round 14

Aiko Hashimoto Reis:	Elected 77 votes
Albert Deok-Hyun Ahn:	Elected 70 votes
Amoly Agarwal:	Elected 59 votes
Erin Timur:	Elected 52 votes
Logan Kliewer:	Elected 52 votes
Frederick Karol Sulowski:	Elected 44 votes
Sophie Mutch:	Elected 42 votes
Isha Mathur:	Elected 37 votes
Exhausted Votes:	0 votes

Voter Summary

Total:	455
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Abstain	22 (4.8%)
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Simply Voting Election Manager Results for the International Councillor

- **Votes required to elect a candidate: 217**

Round 1

Andrew Fan:	343 votes
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Declare Vacant:	90 votes
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Elected Andrew Fan due to: highest 1st preference

Round 2

Andrew Fan:	Elected 343 votes
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Declare Vacant:	90 votes
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Exhausted Votes:	0 votes
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Voter Summary

Total:	455
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Abstain	22 (4.8%)
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VUSAC Results

The VUSAC results for Councillors are not the same as the results reported above by the Simply Voting Election Manager since VUSAC has a reserve requirement in [Chapter VI: The Council, Section 2c\) of the VUSAC Constitution \(Revised July 2023\)](#) which mandates that 3 seats must be occupied by upper year Councillors, 3 seats must be occupied by first year Councillors and 2 seats must be left open for any member of the VCU to occupy. The VUSAC results are the confirmed results.

Councillors

Aiko Hashimoto Reis:	Elected
Albert Deok-Hyun Ahn:	Elected
Amoly Agarwal:	Elected
Logan Kliewer:	Disqualified
Erin Timur:	Elected
Frederick Karol Sulowski:	Elected
Isha Mathur:	Elected
Sophie Mutch:	Elected
Jack Cochrane:	Elected
Justin Liou:	Eliminated
Andriy Yaroslavych Shkvorets:	Eliminated
Richelle Furtado:	Eliminated
 <u>International Councillor</u>	
Andrew Fan:	Elected

Penalties and Appeals

Penalties

Penalty 1

Issued to:	Erin Timur
Penalty:	Strike
Date and Time Issued:	12th of September, 2023
	15:51:00 hrs (03:51:00 pm)
Reason:	Obtained more than the required number of nominators
Evidence:	Candidate's nominator's list

Penalty 2

Issued to:	Redacted
Penalty:	Strike
Date and Time Issued:	12th of September, 2023
	15:54:00 hrs (03:54:00 pm)
Reason:	Obtained more than the required number of nominators
Evidence:	Candidate's nominator's list

Penalty 3

Issued to:	Andrew Fan
Penalty:	Strike
Date and Time Issued:	14th of September, 2023
	13:15:00 hrs (01:15:00 pm)
Reason:	Obtained more than the required number of nominators
Evidence:	Candidate's nominator's list

Penalty 4

Issued to:	Redacted
Penalty:	Warning
Date and Time Issued:	15th of September, 2023
	15:27:00 hrs (03:27:00 pm)
Reason:	Placing posters in disapproved spaces inside the Goldring Students' Centre
Evidence:	Photos and videos

Penalty 5

Issued to:	Richelle Furtado
Penalty:	Warning
Date and Time Issued:	18th of September, 2023

16:01:00 hrs (04:01:00 pm)

Reason: Inactivity on the elections forum for a period of more than 24 hours

Evidence: Forum logs

Penalty 6

Issued to: Aiko Hashimoto Reis

Penalty: Warning

Date and Time Issued: 18th of September, 2023

16:05:00 hrs (04:05:00 pm)

Reason: Inactivity on the elections forum for a period of more than 24 hours

Evidence: Forum logs

Penalty 7

Issued to: Redacted

Penalty: Warning

Date and Time Issued: 18th of September, 2023

16:06:00 hrs (04:06:00 pm)

Reason: Inactivity on the elections forum for a period of more than 24 hours

Evidence: Forum logs

Penalty 8

Issued to: Maria Francesca Policarpio

Penalty: Warning

Date and Time Issued: 18th of September, 2023

16:09:00 hrs (04:09:00 pm)

Reason: Inactivity on the elections forum for a period of more than 24 hours

Evidence: Forum logs

Penalty 9

Issued to: Redacted

Penalty: Warning

Date and Time Issued: 18th of September, 2023

16:10:00 hrs (04:10:00 pm)

Reason: Inactivity on the elections forum for a period of more than 24 hours

Evidence: Forum logs

Penalty 10

Issued to:	Frederick Karol Sulowski
Penalty:	Warning
Date and Time Issued:	18th of September, 2023
	16:20:00 hrs (04:20:00 pm)
Reason:	Inactivity on the elections forum for a period of more than 24 hours
Evidence:	Forum logs

Penalty 11

Issued to:	Redacted
Penalty:	Warning
Date and Time Issued:	19th of September, 2023
	15:36:00 hrs (03:36:00 pm)
Reason:	Placing posters in disapproved spaces inside the Goldring Students' Centre
Evidence:	Photos and videos

Penalty 12

Issued to:	Redacted
Penalty:	Disqualification
Date and Time Issued:	25th of September, 2023

22:43:00 hrs (10:43:00 pm)

Reason: Slanderous comments against another candidate

Evidence: Social networking (media) chat screenshots

Penalty 13

Issued to: Redacted

Penalty: Strike

Date and Time Issued: 25th of September, 2023

23:53:00 hrs (11:53:00 pm)

Reason: Suggesting to the VCU on how to rank oneself and another candidate on the ballot

Evidence: Social networking (media) chat screenshots

Appeals

Appeal 1

Appellant: Andrew Fan

Infraction Being Appealed: Strike

Date of Appeal: 15th of September, 2023

02:09:00 hrs (02:09:00 am)

Details of the Appeal: Appeal against the decision of the CRO to issue a strike for obtaining more than the

required number of nominators

EAC's Decision:

Rejected

Appeal 2

Appellant:

Redacted

Infraction Being Appealed:

Warning

Date of Appeal:

15th of September, 2023

16:00:00 hrs (04:00:00 pm)

Details of the Appeal:

Appeal against the decision of the CRO to issue a warning for placing posters in disapproved spaces inside the GSC

EAC's Decision:

Rejected

Appeal 3

Appellant:

Redacted

Infraction Being Appealed:

Disqualification

Date of Appeal:

26th of September, 2023

17:41:00 hrs (05:41:00 pm)

Details of the Appeal:

Appeal against the decision of the CRO to disqualify the candidate for slanderous comments against another candidate

The Case of Candidate Y versus the Chief Returning Officer (CRO)

This report examines a complex case involving a candidate in the Fall 2023 VUSAC elections. The candidate in question, referred to herein as "Candidate Y," was involved in a series of events that led to accusations, investigations, penalties, and appeals, ultimately influencing the election's outcome. The narrative details the sequence of these events, the procedural actions taken, and the resolutions reached.

On 25th of September, 2023, allegations emerged against Candidate Y regarding slanderous comments made against another candidate via social media. This information, reported by a member of the VCU to a VUSAC member, triggered a preliminary investigation. During this phase, there was a procedural misstep as I, the CRO, consulted with the VUSAC member, deviating from standard protocols.

Further evidence was sought from the VCU member and the victim candidate, who wished to remain anonymous. In the process, assurances were given to maintain confidentiality, with an understanding that VUSAC could not control disclosures by non-members.

After careful consideration, a disqualification notice was issued to Candidate Y for violating Chapter 9, Article 19, Section 1 of the ERC. During this process, I engaged in a conversation with Candidate Y, inadvertently breaching procedural guidelines. This discussion led Candidate Y to highlight perceived procedural flaws and request a reconsideration of the decision.

Simultaneously, another candidate, found in violation of Chapter 11, Article 21, Section 5 of the [ERC](#), was issued a strike. Meanwhile, Candidate Y was found to have communicated about their disqualification with other VUSAC and VCU members, infringing upon the silent period rules as outlined in Chapter 13, Article 23, Section 2 of the [ERC](#), resulting in an additional disqualification penalty.

Candidate Y lodged appeals against both penalties. The first appeal, related to the slanderous comments, was dismissed by the EAC through a majority vote. The second appeal, pertaining to the silent period violation, faced a deadlock within the EAC. In consideration of fairness, the second penalty was subsequently withdrawn, despite the evidence supporting it.

These events led to a proposal by the EAC Chair, Shane Joy, and myself, for a review of the EAC's structure and procedures to enhance the committee's effectiveness.

The decision to uphold Candidate Y's disqualification for the slanderous comments was cemented by the EAC's rejection of the first appeal. This outcome allowed for the election of the next eligible candidate in line. During the election ratification meeting on September 29, 2023, concerns were raised by Candidate Y about the electoral process's impact on their well-being. These concerns were escalated to the Office of the Dean of Students and subsequently addressed by the EAC Chair.

This case, while challenging, underscores the VUSAC's dedication to maintaining due process, transparency, and fairness in its electoral framework. It also highlights the need for continual

procedural refinement and improvement, ensuring that future elections are conducted with the utmost integrity and respect for all participants.

Breaches of the ERC (Revised July 2023)

Chapter 4, Article 4, Section 1

During the elections, a notable breach occurred with respect to Chapter 4, Article 4, Section 1, of the [ERC](#). This section outlines the requirement for the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), in

collaboration with the Chair, to ensure that at least one regular VUSAC meeting is held during the nomination period. The intent behind this stipulation is to maintain the continuity of VUSAC's operations during election periods.

However, during the Fall 2023 elections, this requirement was inadvertently breached. The pre-set schedule of VUSAC meetings, which was established well in advance, did not align with the nominations period. Adjusting this fixed schedule proved challenging, leading to the decision not to hold a meeting within the nomination period.

Several factors contributed to this breach:

1. **Scheduling Conflicts:** The established VUSAC meeting dates conflicted with the nomination period, and logistical challenges prevented their rescheduling.
2. **Orientation Activities Overlap:** The overlap of Victoria College's Incoming Student Orientation with the nomination period further complicated the scheduling. Many VUSAC members were actively involved in these orientation activities, making it difficult to organise a meeting during this time.
3. **Historical Context:** Historically, the requirement for a meeting during the nomination period was designed to ensure uninterrupted council operations during election times. However, VUSAC's practice of regular bi-weekly meetings, irrespective of election cycles, already fulfils this objective.

Despite the breach, VUSAC convened for its scheduled fall 2023 budget ratification meeting immediately following the conclusion of the nomination period. This meeting underscored the council's commitment to maintaining regular operations and decision-making processes, even during election cycles.

Given the practical challenges and the existing practice of regular council meetings, it is proposed that this specific requirement in the [ERC](#) be reconsidered. Removing the mandate for a meeting specifically during the nomination period could align the [ERC](#) with the operational realities of VUSAC while ensuring that council activities continue uninterrupted.

The breach of Chapter 4, Article 4, Section 1 of the [ERC](#) during the Fall 2023 VUSAC elections was a result of scheduling conflicts and was not intentional. It highlights the need for a re-evaluation of certain [ERC](#) stipulations to better align them with the practical and logistical realities of council operations. The proposed amendment aims to provide flexibility while ensuring the continuity and effectiveness of VUSAC's governance structure.

Chapter 11, Article 21, Section 3

During the elections, a notable breach occurred concerning the counting process stipulated in the [ERC](#), specifically Chapter 11, Article 21, Section 3. This section mandates the use of IRV to determine election results, outlining a detailed procedure for ranking candidates and the conditions for declaring a position vacant.

The [ERC](#) guidelines for IRV include a sequential elimination of candidates with the fewest first-preference votes, reallocating these votes to next preferences until a candidate achieves more than 50% of the total votes, or 'Declare Vacant' reaches the same threshold. This method is iterative and responsive to each round of vote redistribution.

In contrast, the Simply Voting Election Manager utilised a different method - the Enforced "50% + 1" quota. This system calculates a fixed threshold for winning based on the number of valid votes cast, adjusted for any fractional part. Unlike the [ERC](#)-specified IRV method, this approach maintains a constant quota and does not adapt based on vote redistribution in successive rounds.

While this deviation from the [ERC](#) guidelines represents a technical breach, it is crucial to underscore that the integrity and fairness of the election were maintained. The Simply Voting system, despite its different counting method, ensured a transparent and objective determination of election outcomes. The deviation did not favour and / or disadvantage any candidate unduly.

The discrepancy was a result of technological limitations rather than any intent to deviate from established protocols. Efforts are being made to address this issue, with a commitment to ensuring closer alignment with the [ERC](#) in future elections and maintaining the highest standards of electoral integrity.

Chapter 12. Article 22. Section 7

Another breach occurred in relation to Chapter 12, Article 22, Section 7 of the [ERC](#). This section dictates the procedural requirements for handling appeals during the Silent Period, specifically the conduct of virtual meetings and report preparations by the EAC.

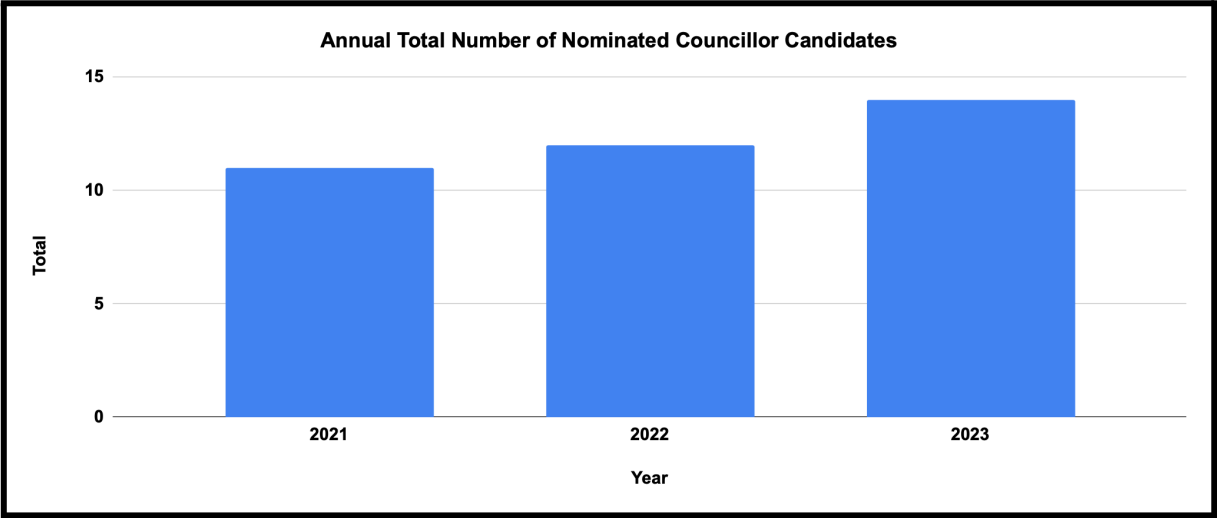
The [ERC](#) mandates that upon receipt of an appeal, the EAC Chair is responsible for organising a virtual meeting involving the appellant, the CRO, and the EAC members. This meeting must occur within the 48-hour Silent Period, allowing for the presentation of cases by the appellant and the CRO. The proceedings are required to be recorded and stored, with a subsequent report of the outcome prepared and published within a week.

The breach was not a result of intentional oversight or disregard for the [ERC](#). This process was not followed due to scheduling conflicts arising from the academic commitments of the EAC members, who are primarily students. The demanding nature of these commitments made it challenging to coordinate a meeting that was mutually convenient for all involved parties. As a result, the EAC Chair opted for an alternative approach using email voting to resolve appeals. Additionally, the preparation of a formal report post-proceedings became infeasible under these constraints.

Despite the breach, the EAC remained committed to a fair and just review of all appeals. Decisions were made with careful consideration of each case's merits, ensuring that the spirit of the [ERC](#) was upheld.

While the stipulated procedures for handling appeals were not followed in their entirety, alternative measures were put in place to ensure the appeals were handled fairly and efficiently. Going forward, a reevaluation of the [ERC](#) procedures is necessary to better align with the practical realities of student-led election committees.

Data and Statistics on Election Engagement
Councillor Candidates



Basic Statistics on the Annual Total Number of Councillor Candidates

Number of Years Analysed: 3

2021 to 2023

Average: 12.33

Standard Deviation: 1.53

Minimum: 11

2021

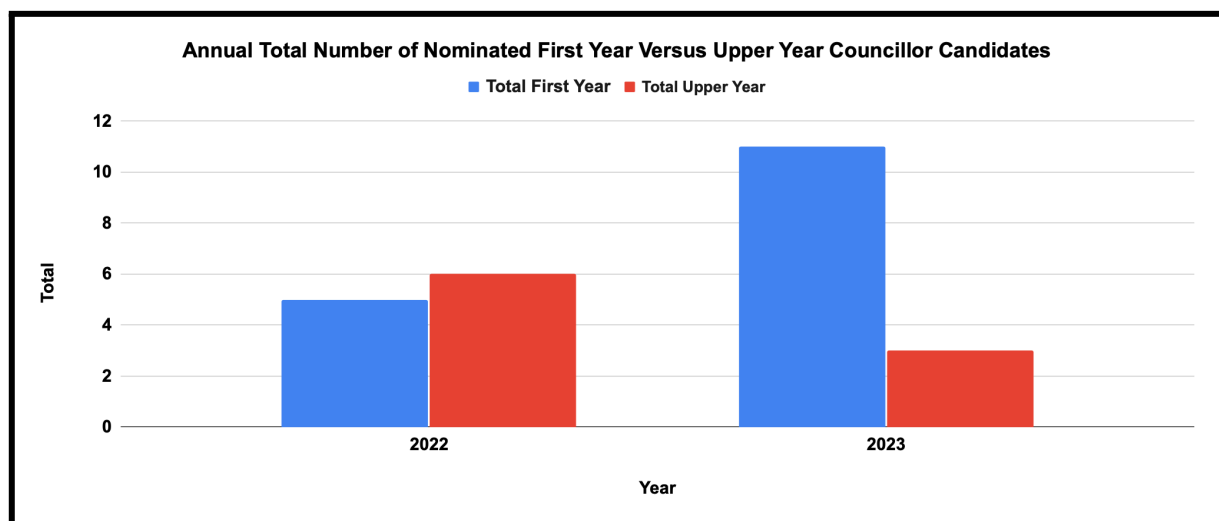
Maximum: 14

2023

25th Percentile: 11.50 candidates

Median (50th Percentile): 12 candidates

75th Percentile: 13 candidates



Basic Statistics on the Annual Total Number of First Year versus Upper Year Councillor Candidates

Number of Years Analysed: 2

2022 to 2023

Average Number of First Year Candidates: 8.00

Average Number of Upper Year Candidates: 4.50

Standard Deviation for First Year Candidates: 4.24

Standard Deviation for Upper Year Candidates: 2.12

Minimum Number of First Year Candidates: 5

2022

Maximum Number of First Year Candidates: 11

2023

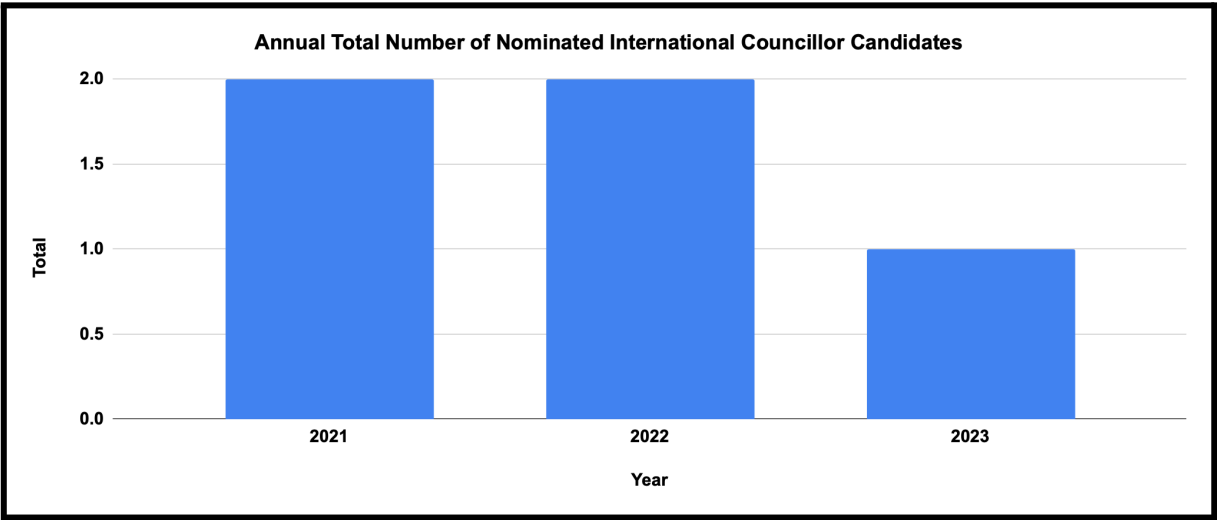
Minimum Number of Upper Year Candidates: 3

2023

Maximum Number of Upper Year Candidates: 6

2022

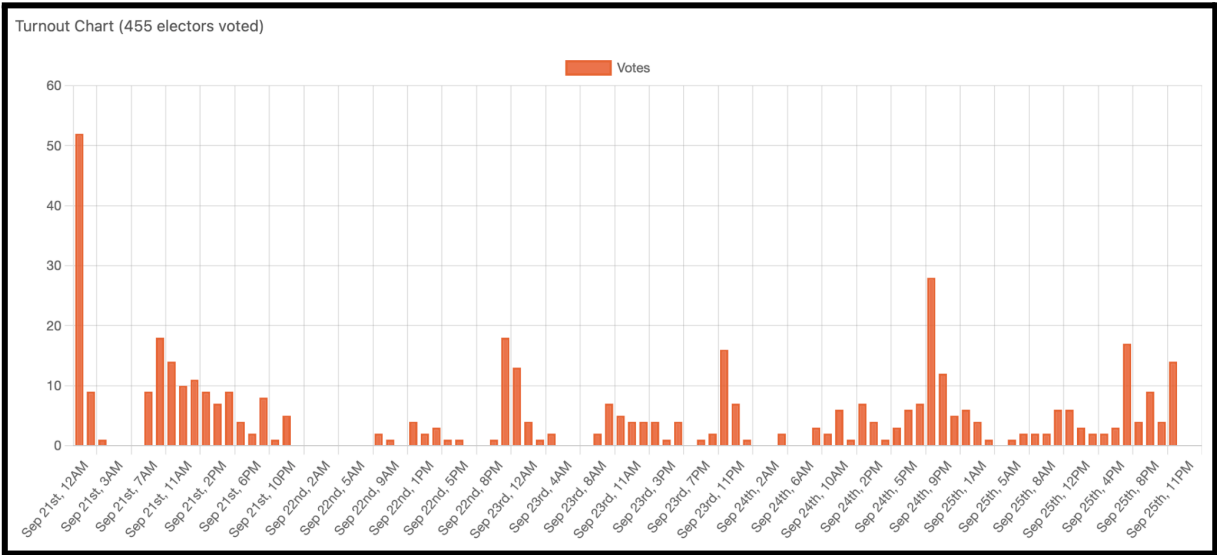
International Councillor Candidates



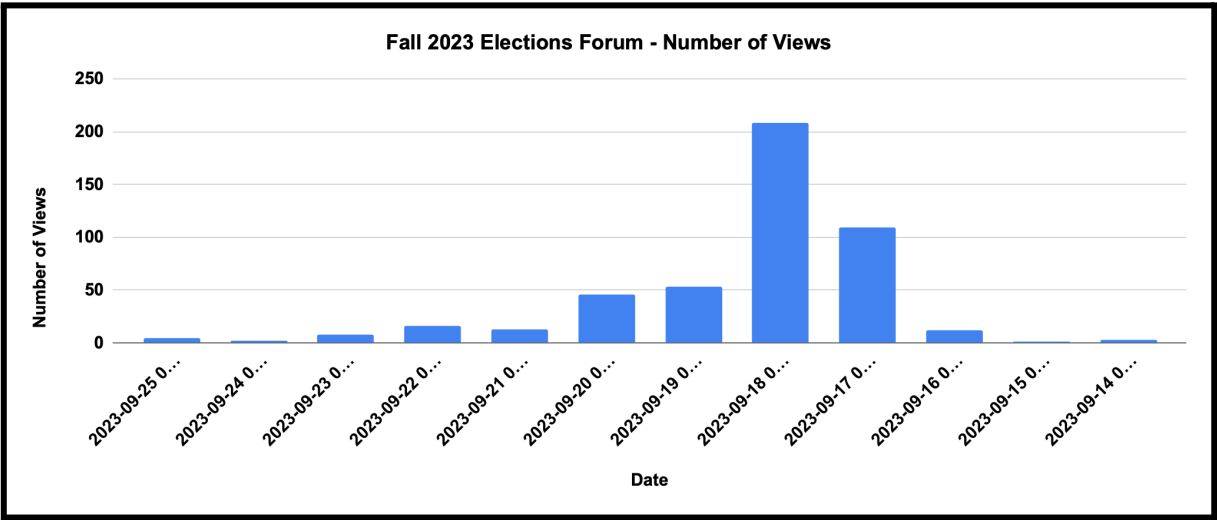
Basic Statistics on the Annual Total Number of International Councillor Candidates

Number of Years Analysed:	3
	2021 to 2023
Average:	1.67
Standard Deviation:	0.58
Minimum:	1
	2023
Maximum:	2
	2021 and 2023

Voter Turnout

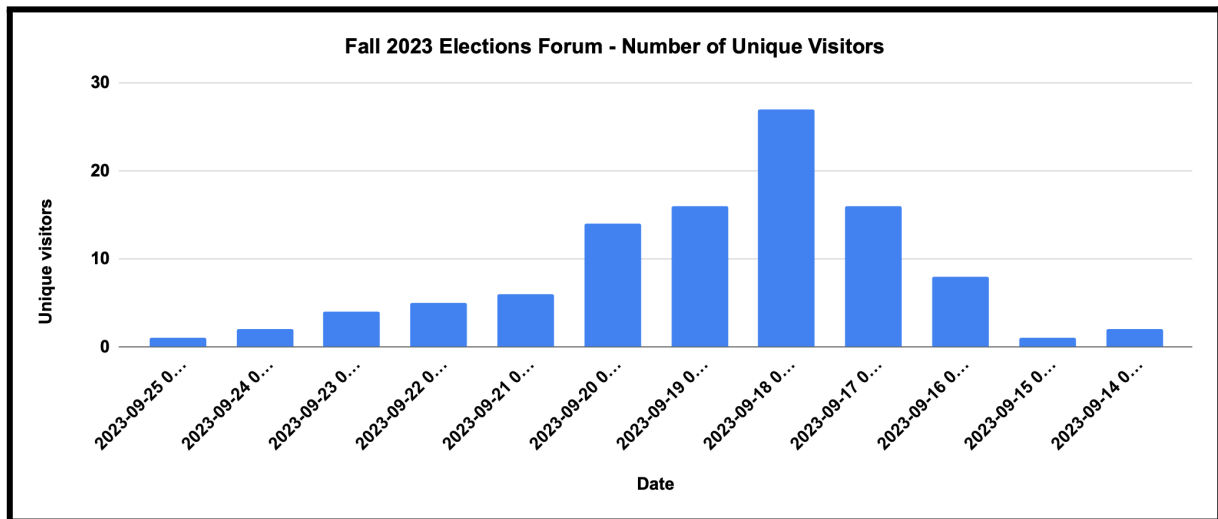


Election Forum - Fall 2023



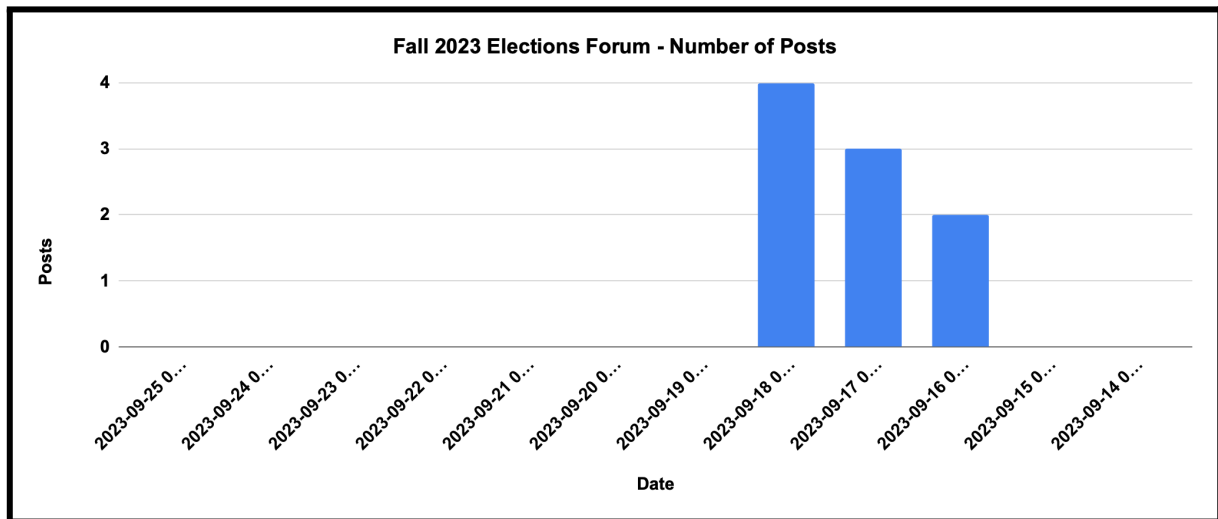
Basic Statistics on the Per Day Forum Views

Number of Days Analysed:	12
	14th of September, 2023 to 25th of September, 2023
Average:	39.58
Standard Deviation:	61.74
Minimum:	1
Maximum:	208
25th Percentile:	3.75 views
Median (50th Percentile):	12.5 views
75th Percentile:	47.75 views



Basic Statistics on the Per Day Unique Visitors

Number of Days Analysed:	12
	14th of September, 2023 to 25th of September, 2023
Average:	8.50
Standard Deviation:	8.10
Minimum:	1
Maximum:	27
25th Percentile:	2 unique visitors
Median (50th Percentile):	5.5 unique visitors
75th Percentile:	14.5 unique visitors



Basic Statistics on the Per Day Forum Posts

Number of Days Analysed:	12
	14th of September, 2023 to 25th of September, 2023
Average:	0.75
Standard Deviation:	1.42
Minimum:	0
Maximum:	4
25th Percentile:	0 posts
Median (50th Percentile):	0 posts
75th Percentile:	0.50 posts

Correlation Coefficients

Views and Unique Visitors:	0.93
Views and Posts:	0.86

Unique Visitors and Posts: 0.75

Minimum Number of Posts: 0

Conclusions and Recommendations

As the CRO for these elections, I extend my profound gratitude to the entire VUSAC, whose dedication and commitment were instrumental in the success of these elections.

Special thanks are due to the working group that meticulously audited and proposed necessary changes to the [ERC](#). Their insightful contributions have significantly improved our electoral processes.

I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to Tanya Kor, the Communications Coordinator. Their co-development of the election portal has not only streamlined our processes but also marked a revolutionary transformation in VUSAC's history. This advancement has set a precedent for future elections, integrating technology and efficiency in our democratic processes.

My gratitude extends to Shane Joy, the ACRO, Chair of the EAC, and President of VUSAC, and Lara Athena Reyes, the ACRO and VPI of the VUSAC. Their unwavering support and guidance have been a cornerstone of the electoral process, ensuring its integrity and fairness.

Moreover, I acknowledge several mistakes and breaches that occurred during the election process. These include technical challenges during the nominations period, the modified counting method used by the Simply Voting Election Manager diverging from Chapter 11, Article 21, Section 3 of the [ERC](#), and the breach of Chapter 12, Article 22, Section 7 of the [ERC](#) due to scheduling conflicts faced by the EAC. Additionally, there were issues in the campaign period, including communication gaps regarding candidate budget submissions and challenges in effectively investigating campaign poster tampering.

I extend my sincerest apologies to the candidates, VCU, and the entire VUSAC for these oversights and breaches. The responsibility for ensuring a smooth, transparent, and fair election process rests upon my office, and I regret any inconvenience or concern these issues may have caused. I am particularly remorseful for the complications arising from the modified vote counting method and the procedural deviations in handling appeals, recognizing that these aspects are fundamental to the integrity of the electoral process.

I am committed to learning from these experiences and taking proactive steps to prevent such mistakes in future elections. My office and the VUSAC will engage in a thorough review of the processes and systems used in this election, taking into account the unique challenges and constraints we faced.

Recommendations for Future Elections

1. **Review and Update of [ERC](#):** Given the technological and logistical challenges encountered, a comprehensive review of the [ERC](#) is recommended. This review should consider the feasibility of current guidelines in light of available technology and the practical constraints of student-run election committees.
2. **Enhanced Communication Strategies:** Improving communication around key aspects of the election process, especially regarding candidate responsibilities like budget submissions, is crucial. Clear, frequent, and multi-channel communications should be

established for future elections, especially effective communication strategies to engage the electorate, including more interactive and comprehensive voter education sessions.

3. **Technological Upgrades and Training:** Investing in and training for more robust election management software that aligns with [ERC](#) guidelines will be pivotal. Additionally, CRO and EAC members should receive adequate training on these systems to ensure smooth operation.
4. **Streamlining the Appeal Process:** Considering the challenges faced by the EAC, a more flexible approach to handling appeals should be explored. This may include alternative methods such as email voting or extending the timeline for scheduling virtual meetings.
5. **Enhanced Resources for Investigation and Monitoring:** Allocating resources for better monitoring of campaign activities and investigation of any misconduct is necessary. This may involve accessing security footage and coordinating with campus authorities to ensure fair play.
6. **Strengthened Oversight Mechanisms:** Implement stronger oversight mechanisms to ensure all election processes are conducted within the ERC guidelines.

In summary, the elections were a learning experience, marked by both successes and shortcomings. The dedication of the VUSAC, especially those in key roles, was paramount to the election's overall success. The lessons learned from this election cycle are invaluable and will guide the refinement of future election processes. The mistakes and breaches acknowledged herein have provided invaluable insights into areas that require improvement. By implementing the recommended changes and maintaining a commitment to continuous learning and adaptation, we can strive to uphold the highest standards of fairness and integrity in future elections. My office remains dedicated to serving the VCU with diligence and transparency, always striving for excellence in the democratic process.

Appendix

- 1) VUSAC ERC:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-MzNwAea_CWsFc6o4am9Yi0QdT2xb7rZIUrkW-9wH8w/edit?usp=sharing
- 2) Fall 2023 Nominations Package:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IL6h1DG7uOSlaVm8bPIDYavSrCJ-7c-BAe5-R1mTMvA/edit?usp=sharing>
- 3) Elections Portal Manual:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1C0IfLaR1_tIESLZTVQ8hSQivemSfClpSea_mLgqG-yk/edit?usp=sharing
- 4) Nominators' List Template:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LnLzIBsuswRD_b7-NkTMwM-0zbMUAGyL/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=108040756572800599064&rtpof=true&sd=true
- 5) Elections Budget Template:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1T0XEdg-kYfGmlT4pRgAakOvA6Cgrk7Co/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=108040756572800599064&rtpof=true&sd=true>