

I have seen the future...

...and it doesn't work.

Robert Fulford

The Gateway

Thursday, February 14, 1985

Inside this issue of the
Gateway:

The Pink Triangle
Supplement

Results official

by Neal Watson

After five days of counting ballots, the results of the SU general election are finally official.

Only one of the positions changed from the results announced early Saturday morning. Jim Shinkaruk was re-elected to the Board of Governors position, defeating SU President Floyd Hodgins by 31 votes.

Mike Nickel (President), Caroline Nevin (VP Academic), Gayle Morris (VP External), Scott Richardson (VP Internal), and Rob Splane (VP Finance and Administration) were all confirmed in their positions with the re-count.

The new executive members assume office May first.

However, controversy continues to plague Chief Returning Officer Michael Brings.

Certain members of the Returning Office staff, including former Deputy Chief Returning Officer Gunnar Blodgett, say they refuse to work for Brings anymore because they say he refused to continue with repeated countings of the ballots to confirm their accuracy and did not order a re-count until receiving complaints from candidates.

The former staff members are collecting signatures to bring to the attention of students the irregularities of the counting process.

Ninette Gironella, last year's Chief Returning Officer, said in a letter released to Brings and the Gateway that Brings "willingly and knowingly violated the neutrality of the Returning Office." Gironella charged that Brings consulted with Ken Bosman, No-CFS leader, on the issue of CFS pre-campaigning before making a ruling on the issue.

When contacted last night, Brings called the charges a "crack" and a "smear campaign" against him.

"They're going to try to pull whatever they can," he said.

"I don't want to substantiate what's been said," Brings said. "I've had a good rapport with the staff I've got to know and I think I have the support for all the executive."

"I am responsible for the election," he said.

Brings admitted that the possibility of another re-count was quite good. A petition with 25 names is what it takes for a re-count.

As for the "confirmed" executives, they expressed relief that the counting was finally over.

President-elect Mike Nickel thanked all his campaign workers and said he would be sitting down with the other executive members to discuss priorities.

"Hopefully we can work together to get the job done," he said.

Nickel also expressed disappoint-

ment with the Gateway's coverage of the election, and the fact the Gateway endorsed candidates editorially.

"I don't think it's the place of the Gateway," he said.

VP External-elect Gayle Morris said the new executive members must start work right away.

"We have a common interest in helping students," she said. "There is so much to learn. We need some continuity."

Caroline Nevin, VP Academic-elect, called for a re-assessment of the election process.

"If that means bringing in outside groups to monitor the process, so be it."

Nevins said she felt she would be able to work with the three members of an alternate slate.

"Any group of individuals chosen for SU executive will be working for the same goals," she said.

VP Finance and Administration-elect Rob Splane said he was satisfied with the qualifications of all the new executive members and their ability to work together.

"Everybody wants a change from the divided council," he said.

Splane said a priority for him would be to assess the waste in the SU and "wipe it out."

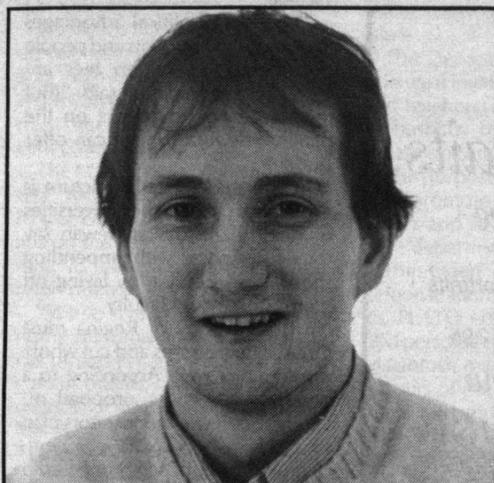


Photo: Tim Kubash

Meet your new SU executives. Clockwise, they are President-elect Mike Nickel, VP External-elect Gayle Morris, VP Finance and Administration-elect Rob Splane, and VP Academic-elect Caroline Nevin. The fifth member, VP Internal-elect Scott Richardson was unavailable for a photo.

Feds come through for students

by Bill Doskoch

\$205 million was allocated by the federal government last week to create 95,000 summer jobs. However, the real question is: how much do Alberta students benefit?

"\$12.71 million is available for the Student Employment and Experience Development (S.E.E.D.) program in Alberta," said Alan Widdows, provincial manager of the employment development branch of Employment and Immigration Canada in Edmonton.

"That is out of the \$163 million available nationally," said Widdows.

He estimated that 5,000 jobs should be created with the money, compared to 2,800 summer jobs that were created with \$7 million last year under the Summer Career Access and Summer Canada programs last year.

"S.E.E.D. subsidizes students' wages and benefits. The amount of the subsidy is conditional on whether the private sector, a non-profit organization or a municipality is involved," said Widdows.

"Another program is the student entrepreneur program, which will assist students in setting up their own businesses," said Widdows. "It isn't finalized yet because negotiations between the federal and provincial governments are on-

going but things look promising."

The "Hire-a-Student" offices and funding for federal departments to hire additional staff are continued from last year, Widdows said.

Two new programs, Work Orientation Workshops and Business Drive For Jobs, are available this year, said Widdows.

"The workshops are directed at

helping secondary students who have no career plans and are in danger of dropping out of school," explained Widdows, "and the Drive is an umbrella program to get businesses to set and achieve target figures for hiring students."

Widdows had no specific figures on how much funding would be directed to the non S.E.E.D. pro-

grams or how many student jobs would be created in total, but said the programs should be finalized by the end of February.

Widdows didn't feel this would adversely affect students.

"We can start things moving quickly. There should be no fear programs won't be up and running in time," asserted Widdows.

SU election cost big bucks

by Neal Watson

The recently completed SU general election cost the students' union about \$26,000.

Two days of voting, a re-count that took two days, more polling staff and the increased number of candidates increased the cost to about \$26,000, says VP Finance Christine Ens.

"Everything is tentative right now," said Ens. "But that figure is probably quite accurate."

The increase in the number of candidates is the primary reason for the increased cost of this year's election, said Ens, but the re-count and the increased number of hours for the security personnel to guard ballot boxes also contributed. Twenty-seven candidates contested the

five executive positions and the B of G position.

Last year's election cost about \$28,000. In that election, there were 12 candidates and that figure includes the by-election for VP External, which had 11 candidates, and the CFS referendum in Oct. of 1983.

The SU election in Feb. of 1982 cost about \$13,000.

"The delay was costly in two areas" said Ens. "We needed more people to count and the wages for security guards." The re-count and the increased security hours cost about \$2,000 in total.

According to Ens, a full slate, including a Board of Governors candidate, was allotted \$1,300. The Progressive Alternative and Initiatives '85 received the full amount.

The Skip Slate and the Ballas slate received \$1,150 each. The Sesek slate got \$1,000.

An independent candidate would get \$500.

Each side of the referendum battle got \$1,000 for a total of \$4,000.

Other expenses include 3,606 for advertising, and \$6,500 for staff costs of the Returning Office.

Controversy over the length of time required to count the ballots has many questioning that process of the returning office.

Ens suggested that some "set procedure" must be established for the Returning Office.

"There must be some system to follow," she said. "The counting process fluctuates from year to year."