

300 STUDENTS POLLED

PSUA survey indicates close races likely

This is the first Political Science Undergraduate Association (PSUA) survey. It was done on an experimental basis to examine the opinions of undergrads on two of the issues and their candidate preferences. In an attempt to obtain a representative sample of most of the undergraduates eligible to vote, we selected through a random process 300 students in seven faculties (Arts, Education, Science, Engineering, Commerce, Phys. Ed., and Agriculture). The students were selected on a quota basis, with the larger faculties having a proportionally larger share of our sample. The total population in the survey was 13,640 undergrads in the aforementioned faculties. The survey was conducted on Tuesday, February 6.

In order to acquire the 300 undergrads who intended on voting on Friday, we had to talk to 495 students in 129 of these 495 said they had no intention of voting on Friday (26.1%), 129 said they were undecided (12.7%). The quota of 300 who said they were going to vote comprised 61.2% of the total.

The three questions asked were:
 (1) "Are you in favor or not in favor of the U of A students joining the National Union of Students (NUS)?"
 (2) "Do you approve or not approve of the slate system for the students' Union elections?"
 (3) "If the election were held today, how would you vote for?"

Question (3) included the display of

a card listing all the candidates' names, their membership on a slate (or indication of an Independent), and the position for which the candidate is running.

Many of the respondents who were undecided in their choice of candidates expressed the view that their decision would hinge on how the candidates presented themselves at the Election Forum on Wednesday. The PSUA's Presidential Candidates Forum on Thursday in Rm. T14-9 Tory at 2:30 pm will also hopefully encourage some fence-sitters to make a firm decision for the candidate of their choice.

Probably more students were willing to answer our survey questions than will actually make the effort to go to the polls and vote. We feel our 61% "turnout rate" indication is quite high, and expect a turnout at the polls of closer to 37% of the student electorate.

As usual, the undecided vote will determine most positions on voting day, with the exception of VP Finance, which seems to go to Kyle Peterson. But, also as usual, the local political pundits will go out on a limb with a keg of beer to make their predictions. After hours of deliberation in Friday's, these are our predictions:

- (1) NUS will pass.
- (2) Slates are here to stay.
- (3) President - Fenna
 V.P. Finance - Peterson
 V.P. Academic - Battacharya
 (by a hair)

The Results: All figures are percentages of the total sample (300)

Question (1) NUS:	V.P. Finance	
In favor	Peterson	37.0
39	Webster	11.3
Not in favor	Undecided	51.7
29	V.P. Academic	
Undecided	De Jong	27.3
32	Bhattacharya	20.7
Question (2) Slate system:	King	8.7
Approve	Undecided	43.3
46.7	V.P. Internal	
Do Not Approve	Hadford	21.7
27.7	Bell	32.0
Undecided	Thomson	6.3
25.6	Undecided	40.0
Question (3) Percentage of vote for each position:	V.P. External	
President	Michaud	25.7
Olmstead	Frank	18.7
Fenna	Blinston	6.7
O'Kurley	Undecided	48.9
Groberman	Board of Governors	
Thom	Rose	25.3
Undecided	Ford	18.0
	Undecided	56.7

V.P. Internal - Bell
 V.P. External - Michaud
 Board of Governors - Rose

Whatever your choice, whatever your prediction, the PSUA strongly urges everyone to go out and vote on Friday. We have tried to conduct this

survey in a fair and impartial manner, and are biased in only two matters, we believe in action and are against apathy. If you feel the same way, vote on Friday and make your voice heard.

Rod MacFarlane
 for the PSUA

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joined in 1976, or the four joined this year. They also exaggerated the percentage on U Vic. referendum. The final figure is 66%," said Parr. Kushner responded by say-

"In all honesty we might have made a mistake on that one, but that's the information we got from people at U Vic. We fully recognize if the figure was wrong."

Parr also charged Kushner with refusing to debate with him at NUS.

Kushner claims he refused because "Parr is not a credible representative of NUS. Jeff Parr is to concede that there are problems with the organization, and he's the only NUS member who takes this stance."

Parr was not available for a response on Wednesday night for a response at charge.

Kushner also voiced some complaints about the new prospectus.

"They totally misrepresent what we say in an attempt to water our pamphlet. They pit west against Ontario when structural debate has been reduced to 1 vote for all provinces."

He was also upset that the NUS material was referred to as anonymous leaflets.

"We clearly identified ourselves and we stand 100% behind what we said in the prospectus."

Kushner also objected to the fact that U of A students were asked to blackmail other Canadian students by holding membership in NUS.

NUS does not represent the majority of Canadian students," said. "We shouldn't join until NUS is representative of U of A student views."

"Blackmail is when we're forced to lose our travel office if we don't join NUS."

Election forum coverage continued from page one

didate, said he had a problem. "I can't see the difference between the three slates." Thom said all the other candidates were part of the existing student union structure, and stressed the need for a change.

"What the Liberal Democrats do in public, all three (slates) do in students' council."

Thom said he didn't want to join the circus, but rather to put an end to it.

He deplored the growing restrictive nature of the university, citing difficulty of access, lack of parking, and faculty quotas as factors detrimental to students.

As part of his policy, he suggested students with a grade point average above 7.0 receive a full tuition refund, and grad students receive a partial refund.

He also advocated a Student Bill of Rights, and added he could draft one by the fall.

Like the presidential candidates, vp internal affairs candidates had no surprises for the audience.

They stressed improvement in services, especially in SUB and HUB.

Sharon Bell of the Olmstead slate promised better food in RATT and Fridays, and more diversity in SUB theatre programming.

She also said SUB is the students' building, and suggested increased study and lounge space by enclosing the courtyard. She advocated revitalized interior design, with new furniture, paintings and warmer colors.

The Fenna Slate's Terry Hadford also promised improved food in RATT and Fridays. She advocated expansion of the photocopying room to multi-resource room, and promised more typewriters for student use.

Hadford also said a dental insurance plan for students was feasible. She deplored rental fees for student groups in SUB, and supported student government in Lister Hall.

Alison Thomson, "Equality" in the Liberal Democrat

slate, promised to move the Bearpit to the ice arena, to buy back the eighth floor of SUB from the university, and to build a mirror-image of SUB with a new bar called ROBOT (Room at the Bottom).

She concluded by crying, "Power to the People."

Candidates for the position of vp academic stressed the importance of student representation in university decision-making.

Chancel Bhattacharya, Olmstead slate, stressed his previous GFC experience, and stated three concerns: representation of student needs, more and better academic services, and improved relations between the SU and faculty associations and university clubs.

Harry deJong, too, stressed increased student representation. The Fenna slate candidate suggested the formation of course unions at the departmental level to elicit more student participation. DeJong also proposed an improved course guide and co-operative work-study programs for the U of A.

Sarah King, Liberal Democrat, promised a two-day school week, replacement of the nine-point grading system by a one-point system (more egalitarian), new faculty degrees in Celsius, and a yes vote to NUS as a prelude to the formation of the Intergalactic Union of Students.

The two vp finance candidates were less uniform in their views than contestants for other vice-presidential positions.

Kyle Peterson (Fenna Slate) defined two roles for the vp finance: representation of student interests and implementation of well-defined policies. He promised to rebuild the SUB expansion fund and to establish priorities for future spending.

He also mentioned upcoming contract negotiations between the SU and its employees. He encouraged a cordial atmosphere, but said "we must get the best deal possible

for the SU."

Bruce Webster, Liberal Democrat, opened by throwing literal and figurative herrings into the crowd. He proposed a repositioning of HUB perpendicular to its present location. He reminded the crowd of the winches and workmen in the building last week and said, "If we are elected, at 8 o'clock Saturday morning, up she goes!"

Two of the three vp external candidates also expressed similar views for their position but again the dissenting voice was provided by the Liberal Democrats. Candidate Kenny Blinston ("Vote for me") said: "Unlike my

opponents, I'm not going to hide behind an empty platform", and moved out from behind the stage lectern.

He then suggested making the university more familiar to the public by a series of loud explosions. Blinston deplored the lack of a "maybe" category in the NUS referendum, and advocated a boycott of Alberta products as a protest of the authoritarian regime of the Alberta government.

More seriously Tema Frank, Olmstead slate, cited the major problem of this office was university funding. She promised more government lobbying to

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