

GSS 2021-2022 Election Summary

Election Committee Members: Elsa Cousins (Chair), Clement Boaheng, Patrick Kamieneski, Pulkit Sharma, Xiaoyun Song

For elections to be valid according to the GSS bylaws, a minimum of 5% of fee paying graduate students must vote. The GSS bylaws (as amended March 11, 2021) may be found [here](#), and the constituent bylaws for elections may be [found here](#).

Senator Elections

To have a ballot in the Campus Pulse Senator Elections, there must have been at least one person nominated for that department/program. Nominations were submitted through a google form distributed by GSS over email

NOTE: For any ballots where the total number of voters is greater than the total count of votes, this means that some voters who viewed the ballot did not cast a vote.

NOTE: For any ballots with a tie vote, the program/department is responsible for running an internal run-off election and informing GSS of the results as per the GSS Bylaws.

Senator Elections Results Summary:

Architecture Department (37 Students) - 1 voter. Not Valid

Megan Itzkowitz: 1

Write in: 0

Astronomy (23 Students) - 9 voters. Valid

Patrick Kamieneski: 9

Sarah Betti: 9

Write in: 0

Biomedical Engineering (11 Students) - 2 voters. Valid

Luca Fuller: 2

Write in: 0

Chemistry (141 Students) - 5 voters. Not Valid

Nathanael Kuzio: 4

Paul Marshall: 4

Write in: Jeffrey Cullen: 1

Write In: Gaurav Mitra: 2

Write in: Ruptanu Banerjee: 1

Write in: Kyle Winters: 1

Computer Science (895 Students) - 13 voters. Not Valid

Shashank Srigiri: 9

Education (424 Students) - 49 voters. valid

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Niyanthini Kadirgamar: 42

Tita Feraud-King: 41

Benjamin Scherrer: 39

Verity Norman-Tichawangana: 39

Laurie Simmons: 30

Campbell Hart: 26

Additional 4 seats:

Write in 1: Sahara Pradhan: 3

Write in 2: Kimberly Mcintee: 3

Write in 3: Samuel Abora: 2

Write in 4: Pempho Chinkondenji: 2

Write in 5: Bara Mbengue: 2

Write in 6: Shao Yu (Dora) Tseng: 2

4 way tie for the remaining 2 senate seats

English (157 Students) - 36 voters, valid

Rowshan Chowdhury: 34

Sally Luken: 26

Rob Murra: 24

Additional 2 seats:

Write in 1: Jarrel de Matas: 1

Write in 2: Ashley Canter: 1

Write in 3: Stacie Klinowski: 1

3 way tie for the remaining 2 senate seats

Environmental Conservation (91 Students) - 13 voters, valid

Ayodele Ouhuru: 13

Amanda E Suzzi: 12

Additional 1 seat:

Write in: Sebastian Moreno: 1

Kinesiology (42 Students) - 7 voters, valid

Joseph Gordon III: 7

Write in: 0

Management (225 Students) - 11 voters, valid

Patrick Malone: 9

Additional 5 seats:

Write in 1: Trevor Brightman: 1

Organismic and Evolutionary Biology (44 Students) - 15 voters, valid

Elsa Cousins: 15

Kimberly Acevedo: 14

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Polymer Science & Engineering (79 Students) - 3 voters, not valid

Khatcher Margossian: 3

Write in: 0

Public Health: Biostatistics & Epidemiology (86 Students) - 2 voters, not valid

Alvaro J. Castro Rivadeneira: 2

Stevaughn Smith: 2

Write in: 0

Public Policy & Administration (91 Students) - 12 voters, valid

Khalif Nunnally-Rivera: 12

Nia Johnson: 11

Lucas Henrique: 10

Write In: 0

Regional Planning (33 Students)- 1 voter, not valid

Victoria Desclos: 1

Write in: 0

Resource Economics (38 Students) - 1 voter, not valid

Jonas Schmidt: 1

Write in: 0

Sociology (71 Students) - 2 voters, not valid

Thomas Corcoran: 1

Write in: 0

Sustainability Science (34 Students) - 7 voters, valid

Angie Gregory: 7

Write in: 0

Internal Senator Election Results reported to the elections committee:

[See extended report](#)

Additional notes on Senator Elections

[See extended report](#)

GSS Officer Elections

Officer Election Results summary: 269 voters

Total Number of Eligible Graduate Student Voters: 4,344

President:

Justin Burch 244 votes, 96.44%

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Write in 9 votes

Vice President:

Mariam Rashid 194 votes, 76.98%
Jarrel De Matas 57 votes, 22.61%
Write in 1 votes

Treasurer:

Laura Hancock 242 votes, 98.37%
Write in 4 votes

According to the results, the 2021-22 Academic Year GSS President is Justin Burch, the Vice President is Mariam Rashid and the Treasurer is Laura Hancock

Summary of election timeline:

Nomination period: March 2nd - March 15th

We received 4 self nominations - Justin Burch, Mariam Rashid, Jarrel de Matas, Laura Hancock. All candidates who ran submitted a picture and statement and confirmed that they would follow the GSS Election guidelines.

Campaigning period: March 16th - March 28th

We received and approved campaign flyers from Justin Burch. We received a question about the facts stated in one campaign statement pertaining to the period of time serving as GSS Senator. We pursued the inquiry via student leadership in the department and determined that the statements were valid. Please see the appendix in the [extended report](#) for additional details and the email statements confirming this. We determined that the miscommunication likely stemmed from internal election communications, and recommend that clearer communication guidelines for programs running internal elections be established.

We received a question about the appropriate use of email campaigning and use of GSS Senator List. See [extended report](#) for details.

Voting period: March 29th - April 2nd

The Committee received several requests for clarification and one formal complaint, as follows:

1. ***Formal complaint:*** "I would like to lodge a formal complaint that GSS Vice Presidential Candidate Jarrel De Matas is campaigning beyond the allotted and scheduled campaigning period. I ask that the committee inform Mr. Jarrel De Matas that he needs to immediately cease all campaigning activities as we are now in the voting period."

Election Committee ruling:

In response to a recent inquiry, the Elections Committee has determined by majority vote that campaigning may continue through the voting period, based on our interpretation of the GSS bylaws and election guidelines:

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Reference to campaigning in the Election guidelines:

"Campaigning, hereafter to mean working "in an organized and active way towards being elected," including written or verbal solicitation of votes or support, is not permitted until after the close of the nomination period"

and in the bylaws, Article III A:

"5. Elections shall begin no less than one week after the candidates are announced publicly to allow for a minimum one week, but maximum two week, campaigning period."

There is no rule in the Bylaws that campaigning must end during the voting period. Additionally, prohibiting campaigning during the voting period may lead to lower voter turnout, a longstanding issue in GSS elections. We interpret the "maximum two week" campaigning period to mean that voting MUST start by the end of two weeks, not that all campaigning activities must cease after two weeks or at the end of the campaign period. The Election Committee hopes that by allowing candidates to continue campaigning during the voting week, as long as they continue to follow the code of conduct outlined in the GSS Election bylaws:

" 1. No person who is not a candidate, as defined above, shall campaign. 2. No person(s) shall appropriate funds for the purpose of campaigning. Candidates may not pay anyone to campaign on their behalf and/or vote for them. 3. No candidate shall wrongfully represent any campaign material as being the material of any other candidate. 4. No candidate shall violate the University Code of Student Conduct; for more information please see http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/codeofconduct/ 5. No candidate shall corruptly give, offer or promise to any GSS member any pecuniary or other benefit not authorized by the Campaign Guidelines, Candidate Code of Conduct, which is intended to influence the vote(s) of GSS member. 6. No candidate shall be physically present nor shall influence GSS members' choice when he/she is voting online. 7. Under no circumstances should a candidate attempt to use any GSS resources. This includes, but is not limited to, GSS office space, printer, paper or Facebook Groups. "

that we may see increased voter turnout due to voter awareness and increased perception of the election process.

2. *Requests for clarification:* [See extended report](#)

Appendix: [See extended report](#)