

CRO Report: ECA Annual General Election,

April 8-10, 2014

Trevor Wilkinson, CRO

ECA Annual General Election Results – 2014:

Software/Computer Science Rep: Stephanie Li

Yes – 32 (elected)

No – 1

Abstain – 1

Building/Civil/Envi. Rep: Melissa Nielsen

Yes – 37 (elected)

No – 1

Abstain – 5

President: Emma Saboureau

Yes – 119 (elected)

No – 23

Abstain – 16

VP Internal: Michael Davila

Yes – 123 (elected)

No – 17

Abstain – 20

VP Finance: Dante Trunzo

Yes – 132 (elected)

No – 12

Abstain – 17

VP Academic: Katherine Kokmanian

Yes – 129 (elected)

No – 14

Abstain – 19

VP Social: Amal Bouanani

Yes – 122 (elected)

No – 24

Abstain – 14

VP Sports & Competition: Kimberly Yeung

Yes – 138 (elected)

No – 11

Abstain – 13

On April 8th, 9th, and 10th, ECA held its Annual General Election to fill the seven (8) executive positions of President, VP Internal, VP Finance, VP External, VP Sports & Competition, VP Marketing & Communications, VP Social, and VP Academic. In addition, students were asked to vote on the four (4) faculty representative positions of Mechanical/Industrial Engineering Representative, Software/Computer Science Representative, Building/Civil/Environmental Engineering Representative, and Electrical/Computer Engineering Representative. The following report will discuss the proceedings, expenses, and recommendations following this General Election.

Proceedings:

Trevor Wilkinson, ECA CRO was hired at the end of March 2014 to administer the ECA Annual General Election. Aiding him in this endeavour was ECA ARO Shannon Coulter-Low. The hiring of 11 polling clerks took place the week prior to the election. Two training sessions were held on April 1st, 7:00PM and 7:45PM in the B-Annex Conference Room.

The candidate nomination and campaign periods took place between March 24th to March 28th at 4:00PM and March 28th at 5:00PM to March 7th at 11:59PM respectively. As two positions (Vice-President of Marketing & Communications and Vice-President of External Affairs) remained vacant by the end of nomination period, the CRO chose to extend the nomination period until March 27th at 4:00PM for these positions. In the final tally, nine (9) people submitted their nomination forms, with one (1) candidate submitting their formal withdrawal to the CRO on the April 1st, 2014. This left the remaining eight (8) candidates running in an uncontested election save for the positions of Vice-President of Marketing & Communications and Vice-President of External Affairs which remained vacant.

The campaign period proceeded very smoothly with no infractions on the part of candidates running in the election.

Polling period was scheduled for April 8th, 9th, and 10th in two (2) locations on Hall 1st floor and Hall 8th floor on the Sir George Williams Campus. On the first day of polling, there was a problem accessing the voter registration system on the laptops rented from IITS. This problem was unfortunately not resolved at the Hall 1st floor location for the duration of the three (3) days of polling. As a result, voters were asked to vote provisionally while the CRO and ARO entered voter's names and student ID's into the voter registration system at the Hall 8th floor location. There were no other issues during polling period.

In all, approximately 165 students voted in the ECA 2014 General Annual Elections. All ballots, blank and used, are currently being stored by Concordia Security.

Budget:

ECA Annual General Election 2014 Budget Report

Item	Details of Expense	Budgeted Cost	Actual Cost
Staff – Election Dates	11 Staff X 10.15\$/Hour for 11 Hours/Day X 3 Days X 2 stations	\$1339.80	\$1332.19
Staff – Training Session	11 Staff X 10.15\$/Hour for 30 Minutes	\$55.83	\$50.75
Staff – Ballot Counting	3 Staff X 10.15\$/Hour for 4 Hours	\$121.80	\$76.13
CRO Salary	One CRO (following distribution of report)	\$700.00	\$700.00
ARO Salary	One ARO (following distribution of report)	\$500.00	\$500.00
Election Printing	Posters (printed at office)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ballot Printing	972 ballots	\$34.30	\$34.30
Supplies	Pens, Binders, Envelopes, Ballot Boxes, etc.	\$20.00	\$10.93
Security Guard	30\$/Hour X 4 Hours	\$170.00	\$172.46
Computers	25\$/Day X 2 Stations X 3 Days	\$150.00	\$150.00
Food for Ballot Count	Pizza and drinks for ballot count	\$50.00	\$26.33
Space Bookings		\$100.00	\$0.00
Allotted Budget		\$3700.00	\$3700.00
Total		\$3241.73	\$3053.09

The budget for this General Election was \$3700.00. As council is able to see, there were no major cost overruns. The items marked in red are due to a lack of confirmed data – I am still waiting on confirmation of these amounts and have included estimates based on past experience dealing with these item amounts.

Recommendations:

Voter Registration System: Given the clear unreliability of the voter registration system and laptops, I believe that future CROs should draw up a one page report on the system to give to IITS so that they can make the necessary improvements/repairs to the system. I feel that this will not only ensure a more reliable voter registration system, but also ensure smoother elections in the future.

Standing Regulations Recommendations:**PART II – ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA**

Article #	What it says (based on June 2010)	Recommended change(s)
4	“The polling period shall commence on the fourth Tuesday of March and shall end on the Thursday of the same week.”	Change: “The polling period shall last for a period of no more and no less than 3 consecutive school days starting on a Tuesday and ending on a Thursday.”
9.2	“the official representative of any candidate;”	Recommendation: Who is the official representative of a candidate? This should be defined at the beginning of Part II of the Standing Regulations.
14	“A written contract between the board and the chief returning officer shall be signed at the time of his/her hiring. A similar contract shall be signed by the assistant returning officer at the time of his/her hiring.”	Change: “A written contract between the board and the chief returning officer shall be signed within 3 days of his/her hiring. A similar contract shall be signed by the assistant returning officer within 3 days of his/her hiring.”
15	“On the appointment of a chief returning officer and an assist and returning officer, the Board and shall publish notice near the ECA offices.”	Change: “On the appointment of a chief returning officer and an assistant returning officer, the Board and shall publish notice near the ECA offices.”
19	-----	Recommendation: the tasks/duties of the CRO and ARO can be determined between themselves after they have been hired.
26	“The chief returning officer shall appoint poll clerks as required within these regulations after holding a public competition for these positions.”	Add: Public competition shall include the announcement of these positions on posters placed in public view as well as posted in the HOJO classifieds.
27	“The chief returning officer may dismiss any election officer neglects to perform his/her duties, engages in partisan work, or is not qualified for the office.”	Change: “The chief returning officer may dismiss any election officer who neglects to perform his/her duties, engages in partisan work, or is not qualified for the office.”
30	“The executive committee and the chief returning officer shall fix the tariff of remuneration for poll clerks at an hourly rate to be specified in each	Change: “The executive committee and the chief returning officer shall fix the

	contract signed by the chief returning officer and the poll clerks.”	tariff of remuneration for poll clerks at an hourly rate in accordance with government-set standards.”
37	“The nomination paper shall include a statement signed by the candidate in the presence of the person authorized to receive the nomination paper to the effect that he or she consents to the nomination.”	Change: “The nomination paper shall include a statement signed by the candidate to the effect that he or she consents to the nomination.”
39	“When a nomination paper is filed by a candidate, the chief returning officer shall provide the candidate with”	Add: 39.6 A copy of the sanction schedule to be used in the current election.
47	“The chief returning officer shall attempt to notify the disqualified candidates within a delay of seventy-two hours following the close of nominations. The notice shall include a statement of the reasons for disqualification and their right to appeal as provided for by section 121.”	Change: “The chief returning officer shall attempt to notify the disqualified candidates within a delay of six days following the close of nominations.” Reason: verification of the nomination papers by the Dean of Students office can take up to a week (or longer if it is a contested election or if other associations are running elections concurrent with the ECA).
48	“The chief returning officer shall post a complete alphabetical list of all qualified candidates in areas frequented by ECA members.”	Change: “The chief returning officer shall post a complete alphabetical list, in order of position, of all qualified candidates in areas frequented by ECA members.”
52	“The campaign period shall begin 15 days before the first day of the polling period and end at midnight the day before the first day of the polling period.”	Change: “The campaign period shall begin 8 days before the first day of the polling period and end at 11:59pm the night before the first day of the polling period.”
59	“Not later than 10 days before the polling period, the chief returning officer shall announce that a poll will be held by publishing a notice indicating”	Change: “Not later than 7 days before the polling period, the chief returning officer shall announce that a poll will be held by publishing a notice indicating”
61	“The chief returning officer shall establish on	Change: “The chief returning

	polling station in the lobby of the Hall Building.”	officer shall establish two polling stations with one located on the 8 th floor of the Hall Building. The second polling station shall be located in a high traffic area where ECA student frequent. Suggestions include (1) the lobby of the Hall Building, (2) Hall 9 th floor, (3) EV building lobby.”
66	“Separate sets of ballots shall be prepared for each of the following categories:”	Change: “Combined sets of ballots shall be prepared for the following categories as per the template in Schedule I:
69.1	“The stamp of the returning officer”	Recommendation: this should be omitted as there is no official ECA CRO stamp OR a stamp should be purchased explicitly for this purpose.
70	“The number of ballots prepared for ECA elections should be at least equal to the number of undergraduate students enrolled in the Faculty and shall be numbered from one upwards.”	Change: “The number of ballots prepared for ECA elections should be at least equal 25% of the number of undergraduate students enrolled in the Faculty and shall be numbered from one upwards. Further ballots should be printed based on the needs of the current election.”
72	“The chief returning officer shall obtain one ballot box for the ECA elections.”	Change: “The chief returning officer shall obtain six ballot boxes for the ECA elections.”
74.1	“a ballot box for each association, which shall be brought from the office of the chief security officer by the chief security officer, the chief returning officer, or the assistant returning officer;”	Change: “a ballot box and a privacy booth, which shall be brought from the office of the chief security officer by the security escort and the chief returning officer or the security escort and the assistant returning officer;” Reason: The Chief of Concordia Security does not perform escort duties for Student Association elections. In addition, Security does not

		physically handle any elections materials (i.e. they won't carry them out of the office for us).
Return of materials (p22)	“All materials shall be returned to the office of the chief returning officer immediately after the close of the poll.”	Change: “All materials shall be returned to the designated security office immediately after the close of the poll.” Reason: Split up the ballot boxes from the unused ballots.
85	“As soon as an elector has voted, the poll clerk shall draw a line though that elector’s name on the list of electors.”	Recommendation: this should be omitted as it would be difficult to keep track of this information given multiple polling stations, not to mention that this would also necessitate a confidentiality agreement between the polling clerks and the ECA as well as the approval of the Dean of Students office.
92	“After the close of poll on the last day of the polling period, the ballot box, unused ballots and materials, shall be taken by the chief returning officer or the assistant returning officer to the office of the chief returning officer.”	Change: “After the close of polls on the last day of polling period, the ballot box, unused ballots and materials, shall be taken by the chief returning officer and/or the assistant returning officer, under the supervision of a security agent, to a predetermined secure room where ballots are to be counted.”
Flip a coin	“If the tie-vote still exists after the new addition, the returning officer shall request that the security officer flip a coin to break the tie.”	Recommendation: ECA should review this clause. I feel that flipping a coin defeats the point of a democratic election. Maybe a majority vote by a majority of ECA council is a better way to deal with ties.
127	“The maximum amount of election expenses that may be incurred by a candidate or a referendum committee, as the case may be, shall be \$100.”	Change: “The maximum amount of election expenses that may be incurred by a candidate or a referendum committee, as the case may be, shall be \$50.”

<p>129</p>	<p>“The executive committee shall, within one month of the close of the poll, reimburse an amount equal to the lesser of 50\$ or 50% of the election expenses reported in the return of election expenses and incurred and paid in accordance with these by-laws by a candidate or his/her official representative or by the chairperson of a referendum committee, as the case may be.”</p>	<p>Change: “The executive committee shall, within one month of the close of the poll, reimburse an amount equal to the election expenses reported in the return of election expenses, to a maximum of 50\$, and incurred and paid in accordance with these by-laws by a candidate or his/her official representative or by the chairperson of a referendum committee, as the case may be.” Add: A provision should be added that candidates cannot incur elections expenses of more than 50\$ or they will face disqualification.</p>
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Schedule I

A template has been left in the ECA CRO email and attached with this document.

Schedule II

A template has been left in the ECA CRO email and attached with this document.