

OPUS Chief Returning Officer Report, 2013

Ian Clough, OPUS CRO 2013

Overview

What follows is the CRO report for OPUS 2013 elections. I was brought on as CRO by the OPUS Executive Director Maryan Amalow in early February and endeavoured to make the elections as fair and professional as possible. The OPUS Board approved the decision to hire me in February. Throughout the elections, Steve and Maryan provided excellent support and assistance to me whenever I had questions or issues.

Nominations

The first thing I did as CRO was set up a Gmail account to communicate with members regarding the elections. Opuscro@gmail.com was used to great extend over the elections. Almost all emails were carbon-copied to the OPUS staff and the staff also had access to the email. I was also given access to the facebook pages, which I only accessed to update with advertisements for the elections.

The nomination period began on February 4th and was originally meant to end on February 15th but was extended to February 25th (which was communicated to OPUS members via mass email and OPUS's facebook pages). This decision was made because there was still a Director-at-large position open. For the nominations period, myself and the OPUS staff communicated to students via mass email, the Daily News, a paid advertisement in the Lance, posters, and the facebook pages. I contacted OPIRG with a request to utilize their listserv, but did not receive a response.

The following nominations were received:

Ed King	President
Chris Baillargeon	Vice President
Anthony Meloche	Vice President
Hussein Ahmed	Treasurer
Hassan Ahmed	Director-at-Large
Bernie Doctor	Director-at-Large
MD Mahbub-E Khoda	Director-at-Large
Michael Livingston	Director-at-Large
Erin Plumb	Director-at-Large
Peter Soteris	Director-at-Large

All of the nominees excluding one were eligible to run in the elections. Hassan Ahmed was disqualified due to his academic standing and was notified by email.

Campaigning Period

The campaigning period ran from February 25th to March 1st. Both VP candidates put up posters: other candidates were not competing as we had not received sufficient nominations. Anthony

Meloche also put out donuts in the OPUS lounge. I worked closely with both candidates and went over the rules in detail. To my knowledge, there were no issues with either campaign.

I also did an interview with the Lance's news editor Faiza Mirza. Unfortunately, I did not prepare properly for this interview and made some comments I regret, as they were taken out of context.

Voting Days

Voting was open from March 4th to 6th. Working with Steve, we developed an online ballot system that allowed students to vote online. I was quite happy with this since OPUS recently had part-time distance education students join their organization and this gave them a chance to participate. Also, some students may not have been on campus during the three voting days or had tight work schedules: this gave them an opportunity to vote (though I'm sad to say that not many did).

A polling booth was set up each of the voting days from 10am to 7pm. I arrived each morning and set up a table in the CAW Centre commons and stayed till about 3pm, when an OPUS work study would take over or the booth would be moved to the OPUS office.

During the voting days, I decided to leave up the campaign posters of both candidates to help promote the elections.

Results

Election results are as follows:

The voided ballot was submitted by someone not currently enrolled as a part-time student and therefore not eligible to vote. Votes were counted by myself, Steve, and an OPUS work study.

HERE ARE THE NEW OPUS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2013 – 2015:

Ed King	President
Anthony Meloche	Vice-President
Hussein Ahmed	Treasurer
Bernie Doctor	Director-at-Large
MD Mahbub-E Khoda	Director-at-Large
Michael Livingston	Director-at-Large
Erin Plumb	Director-at-Large
Peter Soteris	Director-at-Large

The elected OPUS Board of Directors holds office for a two year term. One position for Director-at-Large remains open.

Submitted by Ian Clough,
2013 Chief Returning Officer for Organization of Part-time University Students