



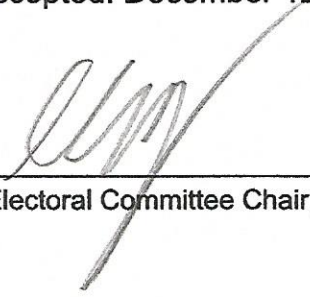
# **Electoral Report**

## **2017 UVSS Fall Referendum**

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Submitted To: UVSS Electoral Committee

Accepted: December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017



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UVSS Electoral Committee Chair, Cameron Fox

On September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the UVSS Board of Directors approved the following question for a Fall Referendum:

*“Do you support an increase to the student fee for the Anti-Violence Project (the on-campus sexual assault centre) in the amount of \$2.00 per semester for full-time students, and \$1.00 per semester for part-time students, for the purpose of expanding access to support and educational opportunities for the entire campus community and those impacted by sexualized and gender based violence?”*

The UVSS Elections Office was opened on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. The 2016 UVSS Elections Policy provided the framework for all procedures and standards.

A call for Proponent/Opponent nominations was held from October 20-27, 2017, with only one applicant for Proponent and no applicant for Opponent. Fulfilling all obligations of nomination, Kenya Rogers was declared the official Proponent.

As stipulated in the UVSS Electoral Policy, a campaign period of 11 days was held from October 30<sup>th</sup> 9 am – November 10<sup>th</sup> 9 am, 2017 with the final 48 hours, November 8-10, 2017, coinciding with the online voting period.

The Office of the University Secretary (USEC) reported no voting irregularities or issues arose during the 48 hours of voting. USEC provided the webvote data to the Elections Office within 75 minutes of polling being closed.

The official ballot report of the 2017 Fall UVSS Referendum was as follows:

UVSS Members Eligible to Vote as of November 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2017:	18,409
Number of UVSS Members Who Voted:	3955
Number of UVSS Voters Required for Quorum (15%):	2762

**Quorum was reached. The results are binding.**

Number of Spoiled Ballots:	4
Number of Valid Ballots Cast for YES:	2929 ( 74% )
Number of Valid Ballots Cast for NO:	1022 ( 26% )

Therefore, the YES vote received a majority. **The Referendum Question PASSED.**

The official results were posted at the Elections Office door, on the Elections Office website, and in the SUB and key academic buildings across campus, as required by the Electoral Policy at 12:30 pm on November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The official notice of results is attached as Appendix A.

No significant issues or formal complaints were raised during the nomination or campaign period. All Electoral Policy communications and notification deadlines were met. All requirements for Voting Support (polling stations) were met.

Throughout the campaign the Proponent acted with the utmost diligence and respect for the Electoral Policy and process. The Elections Office was able to verify by November 10<sup>th</sup>, 11 am, that Kenya Rogers had fully complied with all responsibilities required of a Proponent.

One issue raised was regarding the determination of the voter's list. A person attempted to vote and could not as, for personal reasons, he was not registered for classes this semester. He was registered as a full time student and UVSS member for the previous two years, and was registered for the January semester. This incident suggests that it would be useful to review how the UVSS voter list is determined, and how a person can appeal if denied the right to vote. Currently the mechanisms for filing a complaint or appeal only relate to the conduct of candidates, not the Electoral Office or the Electoral Policy.

During this referendum, the UVSS Elections Office internally faced significant time constraints, budget limitations, staffing deficiencies, and technological inadequacies. However the Office was able to meet these challenges, and surpass voter participation in previous electoral events, largely due to the Electoral Committee and UVSS Senior Staff providing this Office with a strong mandate, support, adequate resources, and their time. Voter participation for this fall 2017 referendum was 21.5%. The number required for quorum was exceeded by 1193 voters.

Mechanisms to collect formal feedback on this referendum process and on the Elections Office itself has been collected from the UVSS members who worked as poll sitters at the Voter Information Stations and the new roaming mobile polls, as well as the referendum proponent, and from the technical advisor from UVic Computing Systems. This feedback, as well as notes and observations from myself as Chief Electoral Officer, will be used to form the basis of policy, procedural and administrative recommendations for the Electoral Committee.

More detailed information on the referendum procedures, as well as copies of the recommendations resulting from the referendum, are available from the Elections Office and/or the Electoral Committee.