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PARSA

Postgraduate Representative Council – Elections 2015

Report

Prepared by: Returning Officer - Dale Brosnahan



I have been appointed as the Returning Officer to officiate and assist with the Postgraduate and Research Students Association (PARSA) online elections for the Postgraduate Representative Council (PRC).

On 23 April I attended a meeting at PARSA to discuss the Election Regulations and procedures for the 2015 elections.

The 2015 elections were held electronically as it has been decided that it is the most efficient way to run the elections allowing enrolled students who are not located in Canberra to participate.

There were indirect reports relating to the PARSA Regulations **2.8 (e)** and **2.8 (f) (ix)** which resulted in an email being sent to all Nominees running in for General Representative, however, there were no formal complaints made to me.

The following number of nominations was received:

General Representative	39
CASS	3
CAP	6
CBE	9
CECS	5
CoL	3
CMBE	5
CPMS	2

There was one invalid nomination received.

The use of Apollo to conduct the elections has been very successful. The total number of votes which were cast comparable to previous years where the elections have been online are as follows:

	2013	2014	2015
Gen Rep	444	883	848
CAP	73	327	214
CBE	74	256	333
CASS	N/A	76	34
CMBE	N/A	30	109
CoL	N/A	N/A	21
CECS	N/A	N/A	127
CPMS	N/A	N/A	N/A

There was one informal vote received, however I was unable to verify the person's identity to determine eligibility for voting so that vote was excluded from the count.

Successful Candidates names follow in Attachment A & B.

The PARSA Electoral and Discipline Regulations state that the Returning Officer must include "the number of votes received by all candidates in each ballot". It has been reported to me that the disclosure of this information through my report may potentially cause some embarrassment/shame and anxiety to candidates so for that reason I have made a decision to not include that information in this report.

"Election Processing" functionality in Apollo was used to count votes with the "ANU Membership of the Council" method selected, this system has been tested and approved by ACT Elections and more information about how



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votes are counted can be found at:

http://www.elections.act.gov.au/education/act_electoral_commission_fact_sheets/fact_sheets_-_general_html/elections_act_factsheet_hare-clark_electoral_system.

There were some typographical errors made in two of the College Polls, which caused some confusion so when they were brought to my attention the polls were closed, corrected and re-opened to allow for votes to be submitted. An extension of time was allowed for the closing time to allow equitable and fair voting periods. There was also some issues around votes in the first part of the morning for the General Representative votes which would have caused inequities so that poll was also reset and opened when this issue was discovered.

I have some concern about the timeframes in relation to the opening and closing times for each of the polls and recommend that the new PRC discuss whether there should be a buffer in the timelines to allow for any issues that might arise with the electronic polls, at present there is no space to allow for a poll to be closed and voting to recommence if there is an issue for some reason.

Most enquiries received as the Returning Officer have been straight forward and the process for 2015 has been an overall positive experience.



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Attachment A

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Gemma Killen (Women's Officer for PARSA)
Alyssa Shaw (Women's Officer for PARSA)

[Redacted]

Bishal Chalise
Olivia Purba

[Redacted]

Defu Wan
Hao Xiong

[Redacted]

Mohammad Shahedul Karim
Xuan Luo

[Redacted]

Isobel Smith
Chris Orchard

[Redacted]

Chris Wilson (Science@Uni)
Zaheer Jayhoon (Science@Uni)

[Redacted]

Pablo Moto
Tharika Liyanage



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Attachment B



Ben Niles
Binota Dhamai
Chuhuiyi (Elaine) Zhang
Dominic Nadvillaveetil
(EMPOWER)
Kim-Marie Spence
Lilliam Castellon
Md Shahidul Islam
Michelle Sebesfi (Science@Uni)
Qian Zhang
Ran Wang
Sarah Ellis (Science@Uni)
Shipei Qu
Storm Viall
Wenqing Duan
Yekti Pratiwi