

**CRO REPORT - SCSU 2019 SPRING ELECTION**  
Phillip Scibor

Date: Tuesday, February 26th, 2019

## **INTRODUCTION**

It is my responsibility as the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) for the SCSU 2019 Spring Elections to present a report on the ongoings of the elections process which includes the results. As such, enclosed in this report is an overview of the elections process. I will later submit a report indicating challenges and problems with the existing Elections Procedure Code (EPC) in hopes that the incoming Board of Directors will take these concerns into consideration and strive to update the SCSU EPC in a way that will allow for a smoother election process.

I thank all candidates for their patience, wish the incoming SCSU representatives the best of luck and thank the current SCSU staff for the support and patience.

Best,

Phillip Scibor

Chief Returning Officer  
2019 SCSU Spring Elections

## **Important Dates**

### **2019 SCARBOROUGH CAMPUS STUDENTS' UNION SPRING ELECTIONS IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES**

#### **NOMINATION PERIOD**

**OPENS:** Monday, January 7, 2019

**CLOSES:** Wednesday, January 16, 2019

#### **ALL CANDIDATES MEETING**

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 22nd, 2019

**TIME:** 5PM

**LOCATION:** Room SL-232, 2nd Floor Student Centre.

Any candidate that did not attend or failed to send a designate to the all candidates meeting was automatically disqualified from the election.

#### **CAMPAIGN PERIOD**

**OPENS:** Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

**CLOSES:** Thursday, February 7th, 2019

#### **CANDIDATE FORUM**

A candidate forum was held.

#### **VOTING (PAPER BALLOTS)**

**DATES:** February 5th, 6th and 7th

**TIMES:** 10AM - 6PM

Note: voting hours were shortened on the 6th due to campus closure, therefore extended on the 7th until 8pm to make up for time lost.

#### **ELECTION PREPARATION**

##### **Advertising**

The elections process was advertised in the following ways:

- The elections page on the SCSU website was updated with information pertaining to the elections
- Emails were sent out to all undergraduate students via UTSC internal
- Posters were on display via the SCSU bulletin boards in various areas of the campus
- SCSU social media was used to promote the nomination period and important dates

### **Call for Nominations**

The nomination period for the 2019 SCSU Spring Elections began on Thursday, January 7th, 2019 and remained open until Wednesday, January 16th, 2019.

Nomination packages were available for pick up at the front desk of the SCSU office.

### **Ballot Boxes and Voter Screens**

Ballot boxes and voter screens were required for each polling station during the elections. Each polling station was provided with one ballot box and one voter screen at the beginning of each voting day. All ballot boxes were labeled with their location, as well as sealed with seals provided by Elections Canada and signed by either (a) CRO + poll clerk or (b) DRO + poll clerk.

At the end of each voting day, ballot boxes were stored in a safe storage by Campus Police to ensure that they could not be tampered with. For the 2019 Spring Elections, ten (10) ballot boxes total were used.

### **Polling Stations**

The three designated polling stations were placed in the following locations:

1. IC Building
2. The Student Centre
3. BV Atrium

All polling stations were equipped with their own set of supplies as packaged in their poll kit. These supplies included :

- 1 Laptop
- 1 Extension Cord
- 1 Power Bar
- Poll Clerk + Scrutineer sign in forms
- Ballots
- Large white envelopes
- Small white envelopes
- 1 Box of pens
- 1 Roll of masking tape
- 1 Set of instructions on setting up the polling station.
- SCSU Election Polling Station signs.
- A slide deck from Poll Clerk training and a flow chart on (a) how to properly cast a vote and (b) the Double Envelope method

### **Deputy Returning Officer (DRO)**

Although applications for the DRO position were up at the same time as the CRO position, there were no eligible applicants. Two DROs were hired after the CRO was hired through way of an extended application process and as per the Elections Procedures Code.

The DROs for the 2019 SCSU Spring Elections were Irfan Hakim and Maya Assisale.

The responsibilities of the DROs were as followed:

- Serve as a member on the Elections Committee
- Assist the CRO in their duties
- Adjudicate and enforce the election bylaws and policies

- Assist in the organization and operations of the elections
- Assist with the coordination of candidates during public forums, and other necessary meetings
- Publicize all related events pertaining to the elections
- Tally the ballots at the end of the elections and referendum
- Oversee polling clerks in their duties

**Poll Clerks**

Positions for poll clerk positions were made available well in advance through the SCSU website. Applications required a resume and cover letter and was to be submitted online or in person to the front desk of the SCSU office.

Poll Clerk Interviews took place over the course of two days, Thursday January 31st and February 1st, 2019. Interviews were conducted by the CRO.

Training of the poll clerks was held prior to the voting days, as per the Elections Procedure Code. Therefore, training was scheduled for Friday, February 1st and Monday, February 4th, 2019.

During the training, Poll Clerks were guided through a PowerPoint presentation that was also emailed to them along with the Elections Procedures Code to ensure information accessibility. Information included: important dates, contact information for CRO + DROs, Poll Clerk duties, typical voting scenarios, and poll clerk etiquette. Trainings were conducted by the DROs and CROs.

**Nomination List**

The following individuals submitted nomination packages to the CRO:

**Director of Arts, Culture & Media**

Jacqueline	Sahagian
Masooma	Gilani

**Director of Biological Sciences**

Shiza	Shaikh
Daniyal	Kashif
Mary	Achebe

**Director of Computer and Mathematical Sciences**

Ahmad	Shanqiti
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**Director of Critical Development Studies**

Eesha	Chaudhry
Armaan	Sahgal

**Director of English**

Claire	Caluag
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**Director of French and Linguistics**

Deborah	Kalonji
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**Director of Health Studies**

Muhammad Ali	Qazi
Sahiba	Saini

**Director of Historical and Cultural Studies**

Jacobo	Matta
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**Director of Human Geography**

Kandeel	Imran
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**Director of Management**

Heyden	Santosh
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**Director of Philosophy**

Mickel	Bogle
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**Director of Physical and Environmental Sciences**

Michael Olufemi	Clement
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**Director of Political Science**

Areej	Mughal
Rimsha Adiat	Rahman

**Director of Psychology**

Bhavana Reddy	Pagidela
Kian	Sassaninejad
Christopher	Kouyoumdjian
Hanna	Hamzai



**Director of Sociology**

Urba	Waheed
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**International Director**

Guido	De Filippo
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**EXECUTIVE POSITIONS:**

**President**

Chemi	Lhamo
John	John
Anup	Atwal

**VP Academic and University Affairs**

Raymond	Dang
Carly	Sahagian

**VP Campus Life**

Shehtabbanu	Shaikh
Sarah	Mohamed

**VP Equity**

Tebat	Kadhem
Leon (Li Yang)	Tsai

**VP External**

Chaman	Bukhari
Kalkidan	Alemayehu

## VP Operations

Rayyan	Alibux
Kevin	Turingan

## Voters' List

A voter's list is required to confirm the name, year, program, and status of the SCSU membership to ensure voting eligibility for each constituency. The voters list was obtained by the Internal Coordinator from the Office of Student Affairs & Services.

All eligible undergraduate students were asked to present their T-Card; however, any government issued photo ID was still accepted, as long as the student knew their student number. Polling clerks then inputted the last four digits into a real-time database to determine if the student was eligible to vote.

In the event that the student did not appear in the database but still met the above criteria, the poll clerks were then asked to manually input the student's information into the database and follow the Double Envelope Method to ensure safe and valid voting procedures.

## Ballot Box Storage and Security

All empty ballot boxes were stored in the office of the CRO prior to the election days. On the days of the election the CRO and DROs assembled the boxes with seals at each voting station and signed each seal with one (1) poll clerk at each station.

Promptly at the end of every voting day, either the CRO or DRO sealed the ballot box at each location and signed the seal on the box. After all the ballot boxes were together in the BV Atrium, the CRO, DROs, and late-shift poll clerks made their way to Campus Police and placed the boxes in a sealed room that was then accessed by the CRO and DROs at the end of voting on February 7th, 2019. Campus Police was notified of the need for storage in advance of voting.

## Scrutineers

Each individual candidate was presented the opportunity to submit one scrutineer to observe the polling station procedures as well as the counting process. Each team was able to appoint one scrutineer per counting table. This was the process for both the initial count and the recount.

## VERIFYING NOMINEES

All nominees were required to submit a minimum number of nominations based on the position they were applying for to be considered for nomination.

To verify these endorsements, the CRO inputted the provided information into the voter's list to determine the validity of each signee. Once a signature had proven to fit the required criteria, it was

accepted as valid. All nominees that obtained the required amount of valid signatures were deemed to have met the first requirement of becoming a candidate.

Given that I, as the CRO, was not hired until after the nomination period, I made the decision to verify 50 signatures for directors and 100 signatures for executives overall. This decision was made given the confusion that occurred about the process of obtaining signatures for nomination prior to my hiring.

#### **ALL CANDIDATES MEETING**

On Tuesday, January 22nd, 2019 at 5:00PM, the All-Candidates meeting was held in SL232. All candidates but one, attended the meeting - that person was deemed no longer eligible to run. Candidates who were unable to attend the meeting provided the CRO with a proxy 24 hours ahead of the meeting via email.

The CRO chaired the meeting, and guided candidates through both the All-Candidates Meeting PowerPoint presentation, as well the Elections Procedures Code verbatim, with pauses for clarification and questions when prompted. For accessibility purposes, information about where to access the Elections Procedures Code online for review were emailed to all candidates prior to the All-Candidates Meeting and upon request documents were printed.

At the end of the All-Candidates Meeting, all candidates and proxies signed a form indicating that they had not only attended the meeting, but understood the Elections Procedure Code and as such would abide by the rules of the election.

#### **Voting Days**

The voting days for the 2019 SCSU Election were February 5th, 6th and 7th, 2019.

#### **Demerits**

Below is a list of any demerits given out to candidates over the course of the election:

**Candidate:** Anup Atwal

**Position:** President

**Violations:** Unapproved Material (5), Gross Misrepresentation of Fact (20)

#### **Reasoning:**

On Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Anup Atwal received a total of 20 demerits after posting unapproved campaign material on social media. The social media post contained an unreported incident which contained broad accusations of the elections process. 25 demerit points were issued originally. Candidate appealed the penalty. 5 demerits were subtracted as the post did not target a direct individual in the campaign. The candidate received 20 demerits total.

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**Candidate:** Carly Sahagian

**Position:** VP Academics and University Affairs

**Violations:** Unapproved Material (5), Gross Misrepresentation of Fact (20)

**Reasoning:**

On Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Carly Sahagian received a total of 20 demerits after posting unapproved campaign material on social media. The social media post contained an unreported incident which contained broad accusations of the elections process. 25 demerit points were issued originally. Candidate appealed the penalty. 5 demerits were subtracted as the post did not target a direct individual in the campaign. The candidate received 20 demerits total.

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**Candidate:** Shehtabbanu Shaikh

**Position:** VP Campus Life

**Violations:** Displayed in an unauthorized area (5)

**Reasoning:**

On Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Shehtabbanu Shaikh received 5 demerit points for displaying a campaign poster in an unauthorized area. Candidate did not appeal.

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**Candidate:** Raymond Dang

**Position:** VP Academics & University Affairs

**Violations:** Malicious or Intentional Violation of this Code (25)

**Reasoning:**

On Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, during a debate, the Candidate made a direct and misleading comment towards another candidate. Comment was considered a direct attack on that candidate, and a violation of the Election Procedure Code, under 'Malicious or intentional violation of this code', a total of 25 demerit points were issued to the Candidate. Candidate appealed the penalty. The total number of the demerit points were upheld.

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**Candidate:** Chemi Lhamo

**Position:** President

**Violations:** Malicious or Intentional Violation of this Code (25)

**Reasoning:**

On Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, during a debate, the Candidate made a direct and misleading comment towards another candidate. Comment was considered a direct attack on that candidate, and a violation of the Election Procedure Code, under 'Malicious or intentional violation of this code', a total of 25 demerit points were issued to the Candidate. Candidate appealed the penalty. The total number of the demerit points were upheld.

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**Candidate:** Anup Atwal

**Position:** President

**Status:** Disqualified

**Violations:** Malicious or Intentional Violation of this Code (25), Gross Misrepresentation of Facts (Withdrawn)

**Reasoning:**

On Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, Anup Atwal received a total of 20 demerit points after posting unapproved campaign material on social media. The social media post was unapproved, non-factual and a false accusation. Therefore, 20 demerit points were issued for Gross Misrepresentation of Facts. During a debate that occurred on February 1<sup>st</sup>, the Candidate made a direct and misleading comment towards another candidate. Comment was considered a direct attack on that candidate, and a violation of the Election Procedure Code, under 'Malicious or intentional violation of this code', a total of 25 demerit points were issued to the Candidate. Following the appeals process, the demerits for Gross Misrepresentation of Facts were withdrawn. However, due to it being a second time offence for posting unapproved and leading material, the committee considered this violation to be an act of intention. Therefore, the demerit points for 'Malicious or Intentional Violation of this Code' were upheld on the grounds of the social media post and the comments made at the debate. The number of demerit points accumulated throughout the entirety of the Spring Elections surpasses the total of demerits an Executive Candidate is allowed to obtain. Candidate is disqualified.

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**Slate:** SCSYOU

**Violations:** Unapproved Campaign Material (5)

**Reasoning:**

On Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> 2019, SCSYOU slate posted unapproved material on the @scs.you Instagram account. Posting without CRO approval is within violation of the Election Procedure Code,

under 'Unapproved Material', a total of 5 demerit points. Demerit Points were issued to each Candidate of the Slate as it was a joint Instagram account. Candidates did not appeal.

## **BALLOT COUNTING**

Following the closing of polls on February 7th, 2019, the ballots were all transported by the CRO and poll clerks to the ballot counting room, Rex's Lab, in the Student Centre accompanied by campus security.

The ballot boxes were opened categorically, starting with all the ballot boxes for Days 1, 2 and 3 from IC, followed by Days 1, 2, and 3 from the Student Centre and finally, Days 1, 2, and 3 from the BV Atrium. Only one ballot box was opened and counted at a time. In this particular order, the CRO read out the ballots while both the DRO's tallied and filled out the appropriate ballot counting sheets. It was crucial that both DRO's ballot counting sheets matched up for each day and location. A separate ballot counting sheet was used for each location and day.

Afterwards, the tallies from the ballot counting sheet were added to an Excel spreadsheet to sum up the totals, as well as calculate overall voting numbers for the Election.

As per the Elections Procedure Code, under the heading "Recounting Ballots," a recount was called for positions which had a difference of 5 percent or less between candidates. Candidates were notified of a recount and told to submit scrutineers if they wish. The recount took place on Thursday, February 14th. Positions recounted were the following:

- VP OPERATIONS
- VP EQUITY
- Director of Arts, Culture, & Media
- Director of Biological Sciences
- Director of Political Science
- Director of Psychology

## **UNOFFICIAL RESULTS**

### **– Board of Directors –**

#### **Director of Arts, Culture, & Media**

**Jacqueline Sahagian (SCSYou) 39**

Masooma Gilani 36

Spoiled 1

#### **Director of Biological Sciences**

Shiza Shaikh 94

**Daniyal Kashif (Shine Bright UTSC)105**

Mary Achebe 15

Spoiled 9

**Director of Computer & Mathematical Sciences**

**Ahmad Shanqiti (SCSYou) 121**

Spoiled 12

**Director of Critical Development Studies**

**Eesha Chaudhry (Shine Bright UTSC) 36**

Armaan Sahgal 27

Spoiled 5

**Director of English**

**Claire Caluag (SCSYou) 48**

Spoiled 9

**Director of French & Linguistics**

**Deborah Kalonji (Shine Bright UTSC) 59**

Spoiled 5

**Director of Health Studies**

Muhammad Ali Qazi 40

**Sahiba Saini (Shine Bright UTSC) 84**

Spoiled 2

**Director of Historical & Cultural Studies**

**Jacobo Matta (SCSYou) 62**

Spoiled 11

**Director of Human Geography**

**Kandeel Imran (Shine Bright UTSC) 50**

Spoiled 10



**Director of Management**

**Heyden Santosh (Independent) 196**

Spoiled 49

**Director of Philosophy**

**Mickel Bogle (Shine Bright UTSC) 22**

Spoiled 7

**Director of Physical & Environmental Sciences**

**Michael Olufemi Clement (Shine Bright UTSC) 109**

Spoiled 19

**Director of Political Science**

Areej Mughal 68

**Rimsha Adiat Rahman (Shine Bright UTSC) 77**

Spoiled 8

**Director of Psychology**

Bhavana Reddy Pagidela 13

**Kian Sassaninejad (SCSYou) 162**

Christopher Kouyoumdjian 61

Hanna Hamzai 151

Spoiled 14

**Director of Sociology**

**Urba Waheed (SCSYou) 28**

Spoiled 3

**International Student Director**

**Guido De Filippo (Shine Bright UTSC) 133**

Spoiled 53

## **– Executives –**

### **PRESIDENT**

**Chemi Lhamo (Shine Bright UTSC) 837**

John John 519

Spoiled 124

### **VP OPERATIONS**

**Rayyan Alibux (SCSYou) 711**

Kevin Turingan 671

Spoiled 107

### **VP ACADEMICS & UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS**

Raymond Dang 594

**Carly Sahagian (SCSYou) 837**

Spoiled 82

### **VP EQUITY**

**Tebat Kadhem (SCSYou) 708**

Leon (Li Yang) Tsai 696

Spoiled 90

### **VP EXTERNAL**

**Chaman Bukhari (SCSYou) 790**

Kalkidan Alemayehu 602

Spoiled 61

### **VP CAMPUS LIFE**

Shehtabbanu Shaikh 407

**Sarah Mohamed (Shine Bright UTSC) 950**

Spoiled 11

## **Recommendations**

I recommend that the following individuals be ratified for the 2019-20 SCSU Board of Directors and Executives:

**Director of Arts, Culture, & Media**  
**Jacqueline Sahagian (SCSYou) 39**

**Director of Biological Sciences**  
**Daniyal Kashif (Shine Bright UTSC)105**

**Director of Computer & Mathematical Sciences**  
**Ahmad Shanqiti (SCSYou) 121**

**Director of Critical Development Studies**  
**Eesha Chaudhry (Shine Bright UTSC) 36**

**Director of English**  
**Claire Caluag (SCSYou) 48**

**Director of French & Linguistics**  
**Deborah Kalonji (Shine Bright UTSC) 59**

**Director of Health Studies**  
**Sahiba Saini (Shine Bright UTSC) 84**

**Director of Historical & Cultural Studies**  
**Jacobo Matta (SCSYou) 62**

**Director of Human Geography**  
**Kandeel Imran (Shine Bright UTSC) 50**

**Director of Management**  
**Heyden Santosh (Independent) 196**

**Director of Philosophy**  
**Mickel Bogle (Shine Bright UTSC) 22**

**Director of Physical & Environmental Sciences**  
**Michael Olufemi Clement (Shine Bright UTSC) 109**

**Director of Political Science**  
**Rimsha Adiat Rahman (Shine Bright UTSC) 77**

**Director of Psychology**  
**Kian Sassaninejad (SCSYou) 162**

**Director of Sociology**  
**Urba Waheed (SCSYou) 28**

**International Student Director**  
**Guido De Filippo (Shine Bright UTSC) 133**

**PRESIDENT**  
**Chemi Lhamo (Shine Bright UTSC) 837**

**VP OPERATIONS**  
**Rayyan Alibux (SCSYou) 711**

**VP ACADEMICS & UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS**  
**Carly Sahagian (SCSYou) 837**

**VP EQUITY**  
**Tebat Kadhem (SCSYou) 708**

**VP EXTERNAL**  
**Chaman Bukhari (SCSYou) 790**

**VP CAMPUS LIFE**  
**Sarah Mohamed (Shine Bright UTSC) 950**

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**CONCLUSION**

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in these elections as CRO.

Best,

Phillip Scibor  
Chief Returning Officer  
2019 SCSU Spring Elections