

Gauntlet 2009 Candidate Reviews



For the average student, weekends are a time to sleep in, catch up on homework and possibly go out with friends. For the six dedicated members of our panel, it meant interviewing and reviewing Students' Union candidates for this year's election, and deciding how we would present our ideas as accurately as possible.

From the beginning, it was crucial we all be there for the interviewing process. Some panel members went as far as sleeping on the *Gauntlet's* couches

at 4 a.m. in sleeping bags, ensuring they wouldn't miss a single interview when the time came.

This dedicated act had nothing to do with a late night adventure and a downtown pub, of course.

Of all the candidates running in the 2009 Students' Union general election, we decided we would focus on the 15 candidates running for president, vice-president external, VP academic, VP events, VP operations and finance, senate representative and board of governor rep-

resentative. After a long day of face-to-face interviews and expressing our opinions about the candidates, it was time to go home and write up reviews.

It was certainly a good test for candidates selling themselves to our panel within a 20-minute time frame.

In person interviews were better than telephone interviews, since panel members got to watch candidates panic.

The following day our panel was still hard at work, interviewing the three remaining candidates who were un-

available to talk on Sunday. One day later, we started to edit, typeset and lay out all supplement reviews.

The sleeping bags were pulled out again.

What proved most challenging were the candidates who seemed equally qualified for the same position.

We tried our best to fairly represent the candidates in our reviews and then made endorsements based on personal preference.

Go out and vote, for your own sake. Ballots are open Feb. 10–12.

The Panel

Sarelle Azuelos

News Editor

After promising last year not to get involved again, Sarelle proved that she breaks promises.

Cam Cotton-O'Brien

Opinion Editor

Cam just can't get enough of SU politics. He practically begged to be on the panel.

Morgan Haigler

News Assistant, Supplement Editor

After her first late night/early morning at the office, Morgan plans to avoid the office for the next few days.

Chris Pedersen

Sports Editor

Chris is well-informed on student politics, despite having attended only half of an SLC meeting.

Ryan Pike

AP Editor

After three years of practicing his death stare on SU hopefuls, Pike still needs improvement.

Jon Roe

Editor-in-Chief

Jon still has the biggest beard. He is still therefore the most qualified.

The Process

Candidates for executive positions, the senate and the board of governors were given two minutes at the beginning of their interview to introduce themselves and their platform.

Afterwards, all candidates were asked standardized questions, previously drafted by our panel. This was followed by a free question period where panelists could ask for clarification. It was during this period that panelists attempted to get the candidates to flesh out their specific platform points as much as possible.

Each interview was followed by discussion of the candidate's merits and each review is

intended to reflect the entire panel's assessment, as well as consideration of the candidate's submitted platform.

Panel members have made their personal endorsements for each position on page 8, but bear in mind these picks are a reflection of each panelist's personal opinion and the *Gauntlet* heartily encourages readers to make up their own minds before voting.

Qualifications listed with each candidate interview are what our panel felt best represented them.

Candidate platforms can be found in an additional supplement in this week's issue or online at www.su.ucalgary.ca.

President

Responsible for overseeing everything that concerns the the SU, the president is in a position of power and leadership for students and internal committees. Working closely with the Students' Legislative Council, the president has the authority to decide how certain issues, policies and services will be addressed.

Charlotte Kingston



Charlotte Kingston has an extensive list of qualifications. After a few years at the University of Lethbridge, she gained the position of vice-president academic and chaired the Council of Alberta University Students, a provincial lobby group. These, along with an even longer list of campus clubs and committee positions, give Kingston an edge with both external and internal issues.

Kingston's strong focus on improving U of C's results on the National Survey of Student Engagement may seem a little narrow, but makes sense considering it's the only tool available. She hopes to use the survey to hold university administration to promises it makes during tuition consultation. Last year's SU worked hard to communicate with students, but she felt that more should have been done to represent the students' wants to administration.

Kingston wants to direct funding from a research majority to undergraduate causes which is another positive goal. Kingston argued that more student space, perhaps including future SU ownership of the Loft, and a focus on teaching quality should come first.

Sustainability might not be an area ranked by NSSE, but Kingston's work on the SU Sustainability Board and the campus composting pilot program have made her passionate about the cause. While the SU has switched to green cleaning chemicals, Kingston hopes to see all styrofoam removed from SU food vendors. With an overall cost of \$3,000-\$4,000, to switch to cardboard, according to Kingston, the small expense would bring the SU to par with Chartwells.

One area of concern would be Kingston's strong personality in a leadership role. While she does have an impressive list of goals, her vice-presidents will have dreams of their own and need the freedom to accomplish them.

Overall, Kingston's goals are reachable, although they might be difficult when everyone is busy tightening their belts. Her passion and experience should produce desirable results.

Selected Qualifications

- University of Lethbridge VP academic 06/07
- External commissioner 08/09

Chris McMillan



Despite not having any prior Students' Union experience, McMillan is well-informed about student politics. He also has a unique perspective with an obviously fresh look at some SU policy and traditions that have been around since time began. However, as an SU presidential hopeful, McMillan would have to learn an enormous amount of information in a short time and this is not something easily forgotten.

One of the only people to show up at a weekly SU meeting without getting paid to all year, McMillan is passionate about instilling change at the university. He'd like to see a more approachable SU, talk directly to students and interactions with clubs simpler. McMillan agreed that the SU this past year has done an excellent job communicating with students, but felt that he could "force" the administration to listen. Focusing on students' needs is important, but without mobilizing students, administration won't pay any more attention.

The tuition BOG meeting is usually held at 8 a.m. on the last day in fall semester and McMillan would like to see them at a time when more students can attend.

Like many of the other presidential candidates, McMillan wanted to promote sustainability on campus — specifically bio-degradable containers and more water fountains.

As a leader, McMillan does have some experience as president of the Debate Society and an executive of the Political Science student club.

The SU could use an infusion of fresh blood and while this is where commissioners usually help, commissioners also don't get much say on what projects will be undertaken. McMillan does have a few original ideas, but then again, there's a delicate balance needed between outsiders with unique perspectives and experienced SU members

Selected Qualifications

- Debate Society president 08/09
- Model UN member 08/09

Lance Stewart



If Lance Stewart is elected, he'll follow in the footsteps of Residence Students' Association presidents who became president. Stewart has been fairly involved on campus in his university career and has sat on the RSA or the SU for the last four years. He feels that his experience on the U of C campus sets him apart from his competitors.

He is thoughtful and knows the issues that the SU president would face next year, including the looming arts faculty amalgamation, inside and out. This was reflected in his answers to the panel's questions and in his platform, where he focuses on engaging students, grabbing grassroots ideas and working with the university administration on mutually beneficial projects. Often the idea of working hand-in-hand with the administration reflects poorly on the SU, but it seems Stewart has struck a good note. If the projects meet the two organizations' goals, Stewart might as well work with the university to accomplish them. As long as he can still step away and effectively advocate for students' needs when the university decides to unilaterally make decisions, he will be able to do his job successfully. Projects may include workshops to improve the quality of teaching — something that has been well-received, but left funded

His willingness to work with the university on projects emerges from his criticism of the last few years of tuition consultation. He felt that the SU made too many requests and the university was never held accountable. He feels that mutually beneficial projects would likely get accomplished.

Stewart believes that the president's role isn't at the top of the hierarchy and he seemed to be willing to give his executives space. This makes a lot of sense for vice-presidents come in with a lot of their own goals.

Students would be well served with Lance Stewart as president.

Selected Qualifications

- RSA president 07/08
- External commissioner 08/09

Jeremy Zhao



Students' Union presidential candidate Jeremy Zhao hopes to lose this all-important election. He described his leadership style as "terrible." His goals for the year included changing one lightbulb from an incandescent to an energy saving model and something involving the Prairie Chicken that's best left to the imagination.

And imagination is something that Zhao has in abundance.

Zhao's ultimate goal for his campaign, apart from causing voting technical errors with an outrageously long nickname (Erotinine Sur Subfulgently Reemanating Outhyperbolize-Superseraphic Procvillian Phlogeotic Harkee Aneuch Hotcha-Voetsek Hwt Eriodictyon-stanhopea Ayrshire-Ph.D-MD-MBA-Men's Studies-LL.D.-Sir-Honourable-Esquire-the-iv-the-terrible), is to highlight some SU policy he finds contrived.

He said events like the tuition consultation with students have very little effect on the board of governors' vote. Tuition will go up no matter what the SU does to fight it. Zhao argued that the resources put towards the consultation could have gone towards replacing or adding microwaves in Mac Hall.

Zhao admitted to his lack of experience and inability to do the job. He would be a terrible SU president, but that's not the point. He even ensured the *Gauntlet* that if elected, he'd resign at the end of his acceptance speech. The other candidates would do a much better job, even if they won't be as internally critical.

Zhao's forefront point was that, while the SU does its best to keep university administration accountable, students need to be aware of their role in keeping the SU accountable.

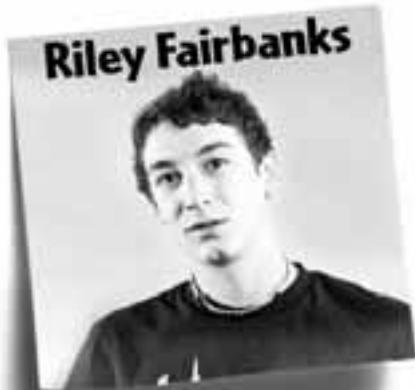
If anything, Zhao's platform will entertain students with the election and encourage more to vote.

Selected Qualifications

- High school diploma
- Beat the Elite Four in Pokemon

VP external

Students who hold this position are responsible for SU policies, programs and services that relate to government, public information campaigns, student financial aid and employment issues. They also ensure policies are in place for tuition, student fees, transportation and housing.



Currently working as a Students' Union external commissioner, Riley Fairbanks has applicable experience for the vice-president external position. His experience with Youth Exchange immediately after high school has helped him build stronger interpersonal skills with the community, governors and legislative assemblies.

Fairbanks is determined to make a positive difference in the lives of students. His first initiative is to focus on secondary suite awareness and changing Calgary's current zoning requirements so that post-secondary students have more housing options. Secondly, he would like to advocate environmental sustainability by encouraging students to use yearly U-Pass in place of driving.

Some have already expressed concern over Fairbanks' idea to institute a cap on the maxi-

mum price on textbooks. He suggested that to reduce the cost of textbooks, the government should subsidize any extra money students would normally spend over the cap's limit. This would be done with the Council of Alberta University Students, the U of C's provincial lobby group. However, because publishers are entitled to set their own prices to student textbooks, this goal may be too complicated to achieve in a year. The cap also won't address classes where the textbooks are cheaper, but more plentiful.

Finally, Fairbanks hopes to focus on deferred maintenance, making upgrades to classrooms and designing buildings that are both aesthetically pleasing and environmentally friendly.

Compared to his opponent Kay She, who expressed her opinions straightforwardly,

Fairbanks was more soft-spoken. This might make it difficult for him to articulate his ideas and address certain issues. Although he listed all the tasks he hopes to accomplish within the next year, he never gave specific examples explaining how he would tackle these issues head-on.

It is uncertain if Fairbanks will be able to do an adequate job if elected as VP external. Although he claims he has accumulated a wealth of experience that relate to his higher position, he struggled to find words that best support his stance. If Fairbanks does win the vote, he will have to prove himself capable of much more than what is seen on the surface.

Selected Qualifications

- External commissioner 08/09
- Quality money committee 08/09



Kay She is incredibly passionate, a trait that will serve her well if she gets the position of vice-president external.

Her campaign is filled with a lot of initiatives that have been floating around for a while, but this isn't necessarily a bad thing. The ideas are mostly good (which is why they keep cropping up) and would make a meaningful change in students' lives should they ever get enacted. The problem with the external portfolio is this likely isn't going to happen due to any individual candidate, but it's positive that She knows what has been done and is willing to continue talking to the government about those issues.

Her platform talks of removing GST on textbooks and working on secondary suites

in Calgary. Removing GST would do very little to save students money — if you spent \$1,000 on textbooks a year, it would only save you around \$50 and if you're a student, you're more than likely getting that money back anyway. She is heavily focused on continuing the SU's campaign for secondary suites that started with last year's VP external Mike Selnes' affordable housing paper and has continued under Alastair MacKinnon this year.

In her interview with the *Gauntlet*, She came off as very knowledgeable and professional and if she can maintain that sort of composure when she's talking with government officials, then students would be served well by her.

Her only misstep was when the panel asked her why she was the best person for the job. Instead of emphasizing her own strengths, she readily criticized her opponent — which is a little petty even for student politics. The atmosphere of the last few SU elections has been positive, so her questioning Riley Fairbanks' commitment and involvement was unexpected.

Otherwise, She is a thoroughly capable candidate for VP external.

Selected Qualifications

- Op-Fi commissioner 08/09
- Clubs committee 08/09

VP academic

The vice-president academic develops and implements SU policies for many government and university issues. They organize the operation of the Student Academic Assembly, oversee the academic commission and develop programs such as the Teaching Excellence Awards.



For the third time in the last four years, the vice-president academic position is acclaimed. Luckily for students, it's gone to an excellent candidate at each acclamation. Next year's acclaimed VP is current academic commissioner Megan Martin.

Having spent three years in SAA, one as the humanities faculty representative and two as an academic commissioner, Martin has a strong base of experience from which to work. She's been a key cog in the academic portfolio over the past several years, particularly in the development of policy and the academic plan, and knows what the position entails and how to get things done. Martin has also spent time on many committees, adequately preparing her for the rigours of her new position. Furthermore, Martin's time as a faculty representative and commissioner makes her well aware of the commission's strengths and weaknesses,

which will hopefully allow her to improve how her commission represents students. She said she was concerned with the lack of official voting power faculty representatives have as they have the most direct interaction with students.

With the spectre of faculty amalgamation looming on the horizon, Martin's year will likely be dominated by working out the specifics of the merger so that they work for students.

Her platform has three pillars, advocacy, empowerment and communication. Within that she will focus on using commissioners and faculty reps to protect student interests, lobby for textbook reform with the Canadian Roundtable for Academic Materials and maintain strong channels of communication between the Students' Union, students and administration. The groundwork for more communication was already laid this year with

the SU's input in the academic plan as well as Martin's experience working with the administration analyzing National Survey of Student Engagement results. The SU now has a seat on the NSSE committee and Martin knows how the administration thinks and how best to influence their decisions.

After three years in the SU, Martin has the experience necessary to be an effective VP academic. Much of her platform continues work done by previous VPs and progresses it in logical directions, particularly using the position to influence university academic policy, while addressing some of the problems faced by previous VPs, like the effectiveness of commissions and faculty reps.

Selected Qualifications

- Academic commissioner 07-09
- Humanities faculty rep 06/07

VP events

The vice-president events is responsible for organizing all of the fun activities that happen on campus like Nogfest, Bermuda Shorts Day, concerts, That Empty Space, Cinemania and U of C 101. The vice-president events is also responsible for organizing awareness weeks and political speeches.



Kat Lord

Kat Lord's vivacious personality and enthusiasm to meet students' interests make her a perfect match for the vice-president events position. Having served as a SU commissioner in both the external and events portfolios, she understands the importance of being sensitive to students' concerns.

If elected, her main goal will be to create events that appeal to students from all walks of life. Lord wants students to be honest about the campus activities they enjoy and plans to keep her website up to date as a forum. She believes acting upon students' requests will produce the happy responses she's looking for.

In addition, Lord knows that training her commissioners properly and overseeing all

their duties enhances the quality of their performance and the way they impact student life.

Lord suggested an old-school science fair, an inter-faculty chili cook-off and a pep rally as potential events. She also plans to restructure awareness weeks. To achieve this, Lord proposes to market the weeks at U of C 101, Kickoff and Red Friday, which all have high attendance. She wants both semesters to include Wellness, Culture and Arts Weeks that would encourage more participation than previous years.

A major setback for Lord is how little she knows about the music industry. SU events are mainly geared towards music and Lord admitted she will be seeking advice from stu-

dents and on-campus volunteers about what's most powerful in the Calgary music scene. Also, she plans to utilize That Empty Space by opening it into a napping area and a place where students can join free yoga classes.

Without question, Lord has the ambition and skill to turn one-of-a-kind ideas into realities. Her roles as a club president, Campus Recreation Committee and communication and culture peer mentor will help her accomplish these extensive, but reachable goals.

Selected Qualifications

- Events commissioner 08/09
- External commissioner 07/08



Luke Valentine

Luke Valentine has a very specific idea of how he wants to see events run this year. Unlike last year when his goals were very broad, Valentine has narrowed down his vision for the upcoming year. He wants to see music integrated into as many events as possible around campus. In fact, his entire platform is based around music, music and more music — which is worrisome if it ignores other events that students might be interested in.

One of his main goals is to establish a music appreciation week to showcase music on the university campus. He would also like to introduce local artists to perform at Mundane Mondays and use music to change how the SU advertises for events. Instead of rely-

ing solely on posters, Valentine believes that music can be used to draw larger crowds. Valentine is not worried about students' tastes in music, as he mentioned that what he likes usually works for most students. This is also worrisome as it illuminates a potential problem: not listening to what students want.

Valentine mentioned that he would not ignore awareness weeks and work to establish a Sex, Drugs and Rock and Roll Week. This would cover alcohol and drug awareness, sex awareness and also integrate music into the week to make the event more interesting for students.

A concerning trend among Valentine's work last year was the cancellation of Mas-

ter Debaters, Indie Rock Bingo, Perogies and Porn as well as Shinerama, an event that was hugely popular with residence students. The Spelling Bee was a great idea, but was very poorly attended due to inadequate advertising. This is a legitimate concern as it appears that Valentine is unenthusiastic about the job, catering to his own tastes rather than those of the students, and does not care about events that are popular with students.

Selected Qualifications

- VP events 08/09
- Academic commissioner 06-08

VP operations & finance

The vice-president operations and finance handles the financial aspects of the SU, including budget oversight and managing SU levies and facilities.



Joey Brocke

It helps if the person who gets the job is familiar with all their duties as SU vice-president of operations and finance, especially with the recent economic recession affecting students. Newly acclaimed vice-president Joey Brocke has a good base of experience to work from.

Currently the fine arts faculty representative, Brocke came to the SU with skills he learnt through campus clubs. In his first year in the organization, Brocke gained as much experience through his faculty work and volunteering as some other reps do in several.

Brocke's work experience with clubs make him a strong candidate for operations and finance, particularly in addressing the communications issues between clubs and the SU.

The logistics of his idea to use online forums to connect clubs may need a little work, but the thought behind the idea is sound.

Brocke's platform is a logical progression from current VP Alex Judd's work, particularly his focus on sustainability issues. In his interview with our panel, he discussed continuing several of Judd's initiatives such as My Market, composting and campus bikes while exploring areas for future development.

He also mentioned the ongoing review of the SU's governance structure, particularly the issue of faculty representatives not having a voice in SLC, and expressed a desire to increase the organization's internal accountability structures during the process.

The VP operations and finance serves on a large number of committees and boards, such as those of NUTV, CJSW and the *Gauntlet*. Brocke's laid-back demeanor and experience interfacing with clubs and arts students will definitely serve as an asset. Already a very visible presence both to students and within the SU, Brocke's acclamation is nothing but good news for those seeking strong representation.

Selected Qualifications

- Fine arts representative 08/09
- Visual Studies Undergrad Society president 07/08

Senate

The senate acts as a research and advisory committee for the university. It helps to address issues on campus. They also grant honorary degrees. Two student representatives are elected to the senate.



Sabrina Grover

If you're a student who feels that the senate is not listening to you, then Sabrina Grover can help change that. Grover is an acclaimed senate representative for the upcoming school year. She thinks that the senate can play a crucial role at the university and that the position provides a second voice by representing public interest and engaging the community.

With her senate position, Grover wants to improve student engagement with the senate. She feels you should not only listen to the people outside the school but listen to each student. Grover believes she needs to

make students voices heard more distinctly in senate meetings.

She said that her su experience allows her to be the bridge that connects the su, the senate and the student body. She is currently the speaker at the Student Legislative Council and Students' Academic Assembly meetings. Grover feels that this experience will allow her to work with the su and senate members, ultimately in the name of students.

Another goal of hers is to increase the attendance of clubs and club executives at senate meetings. She feels this will help ad-

dress student concerns. Clubs are the first line of contact with students and can represent a wide variety of student interests. This is a great idea as it provides proactive students on campus with a platform to voice their concerns. With a senate member focused on students in the discussion, it can only bring about positive change.

Selected Qualifications

- U of C Political Science Association 08/09
- SU speaker 08/09



Alastair MacKinnon

Acclamations are seemingly a way of life in su elections. Every year, several positions are filled by whoever throws their name in, regardless of qualification or platform. Thankfully, most acclaimed candidates are at least moderately qualified. Alastair MacKinnon is one of these candidates.

As the current vice-president external, MacKinnon spent the year travelling throughout the land on behalf of the su. While senators travel much less and have a smaller time commitment, MacKinnon's experience in advocacy will be beneficial on the senate. Better yet, he's already served a year on the senate

as part of his duties on the external portfolio, making him familiar with its processes and people.

With a year under his belt on the su executive, MacKinnon has a strong working knowledge of who the major players are in the university hierarchy and how they operate. Even though he declined to submit a platform and joked to our panel about wanting to return to the senate so he could lobby for his own honorary degree, it's obvious that MacKinnon cares deeply about student issues and wishes to continue representing students, albeit in a more limited capacity.

MacKinnon is a strong vp external and the passion he's shown in his current position will easily translate over to the senate position. Over the past year he has pushed forward municipal projects with secondary suites and played a lead role on the Calgary Student Caucus. He will also provide a good example for fellow acclaimed senator Sabrina Grover as she learns the rigours of su representation.

Selected Qualifications

- Academic commissioner 07/08
- VP external 08/09

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2009-0015

Board of governors

The board of governors is on the administrative side of the university, acting as a governing council. Members are from across the university and include administrators, the SU president and one elected student representative.



With years of experience working for the SU and having run in two federal elections and one provincial, Teale Phelps Bondaroff has more political experience than most students. He has also developed a reputation over the years as being something of a firebrand, willing to stir up trouble whenever he feels there is a need to do so.

His intention with the Board of Governors is to do just this, with three specific targets in his sight. The first is to take a strong stance against tuition increase, actually arguing for it to be lowered. He dislikes the way things have been handled the last two years, as the SU has

favoured asking the university to increase the quality of education in accordance with increasing tuition levels. Phelps Bondaroff is highly critical of this strategy, critiquing the concept of trading a tangible for an intangible.

He further points out that the university only succeeded in achieving one of the many quality objectives set by the SU in the first year of the new strategy, thus making a second year of adopting this strategy a very poor decision. Though he does realize that asking for a tuition decrease is a long shot, he feels that by taking the strongest stance possible, and the one that would be most preferable, the SU may at least

succeed in getting some positive result from the yearly tuition fiasco.

Phelps Bondaroff is also interested in increasing the accessibility of education at the university through scholarships and lower fees, and in motivating the university to invest its money in sustainable and ethical stocks.

Phelps Bondaroff is a rambunctious politician unafraid of pushing against absolutely everyone else if he feels the need to.

Selected Qualifications

- Social Sciences Representative 05-09
- NDP Candidate for Calgary West 08/09



Having served as vice-president academic this year and events commissioner the previous two years, Board of Governors candidate Pamela Weatherbee has a wealth of experience.

This will be one of her greatest assets if she is elected to the board next week because she has already developed a rapport with many of the members on the board.

As the VP academic, Weatherbee has knowledge about the academic issues confronting the university. This will allow her to be more academically focused on large issues, such as faculty amalgamation.

Students only have three representatives on the 23 member board — two from the SU, one from the Graduate Students' Association — so the best way they can influence votes is by presenting well articulated accounts of why it is in the university's interest to pursue a particular course. Weatherbee's interest and knowledge of academic issues put her in a position to do just that.

Weatherbee intends to use her position on the BOG to introduce issues that the SU, through the role of the president, may not be interested in. If she follows through on

this, contacting other students and deciding what issues to address, would prove very effective.

Weatherbee has a strong personality and is obviously very assured of herself. Because she will be dealing with very influential members of the university community, this confidence and strong sense of self helps her chance of being elected.

Selected Qualifications

- VP academic 08/09
- Events commissioner 07/08

election quips

What issues do you feel are the most important to be discussed in the Students' Union election?



"Tuition. 100 per cent. And payment options."
– Liam O'Brien, second-year mechanical engineering



"I'm happy with the way things are."
– Aziz Akbar, first-year health sciences



"More quiet places to study and to eat lunch. Sitting on the floor eating lunch is not fun."
– Jacquie Hodge, fourth-year psychology



"Reducing the tuition fees for international students. It is almost unjust how outrageously expensive it is."
– Courtney Haigler, second-year sciences

Interviews: Heidi Stobert, Photographs: Geoff MacIntosh

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NUTV referendum

NUTV looks to student body for \$1 per semester increase to their levy

After NUTV lost their campaign for a levy increase in 2008, they didn't decide to give up. With another year under their belts, they're coming back to the student body asking the student body to vote "yes" on their ballot question.

NUTV, the University of Calgary's campus community television station, has not had a levy increase for the past seven years. They are looking for an extra dollar per semester from full-time and part-time students, their first increase since 2002. Executive director Tinu Sinha believes NUTV keeps people informed.

"We're independent, not part of the University of Calgary," said Sinha. "We encourage media literacy and democracy."

The organization, with 120 volunteers — 110 of them students — will spend the money on increasing operational costs, Sinha said.

"As we've increased production, we have also increased the wear and tear on our equipment," he explained.

Not only will the money be going towards the increased costs, but it will also be focused on increasing opportunities for students to get paid jobs in the organization. Sinha explained that there will be a pay raise for the associate producer positions, which are held by students.

"We want to increase the pay from \$750 by about 30 per cent, to approximately \$1,000 every four months," he said.

The levy increase will also help NUTV set up scholarship opportunities for volunteers who are committed to the station.

NUTV will also use the levy increase to



Paul Baker/the Gauntlet

NUTV intends to use some of their money to increase student honoraria.

increase funding for getting their web-based viewership up. They intend to do this through purchasing additional bandwidth. They also hope to move one of their part-time employees to full-time status to help assist with operations in Mac Hall.

"We want to change our closed circuit television position from part-time status to a full-time position, to increase programming in Mac Hall," he said.

If NUTV does not get a levy increase, Sinha said they would have to cut back on services.

"If we don't get our levy increase, we'll have to decrease coverage of live events like Dinos games and That Empty Space," explained Sinha. "We'll also have fewer volunteer positions, as well as decreasing summer student opportunities."

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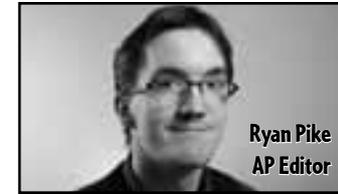
- Orientation Leaders
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Gauntlet Endorsements



President

Stewart - Stewart and Kingston are nearly neck-in-neck in my books, but I'll give Stewart the lead for the willingness to work with the administration on projects that benefit students.

Kingston - Kingston's long list of goals looks short next to what she's already accomplished. I think she'd make a strong su leader.

Kingston - She has a strong personality that seems a good fit to lead an organization with many diverse personalities. While Stewart is a very good candidate, Kingston has more specific ideas which seem likely to be accomplished.

Zhao - Heroism defined. The best thing ever. I believe that Zhao can bring to light issues that have been ignored in the past. He is not expecting to win but will still educate the students.

Kingston - Both Kingston and Stewart are extremely good options as president, but Kingston won me over with her focus on fostering campus community.

Kingston - Of all the presidential candidates, Kingston impressed me the most. Articulate and specific when describing her platform, she also has the most relevant work experience.

VP external

She - She came off as professional and passionate in the interview and Fairbanks was soft spoken and unsure of himself.

She - This is going to be a tough race, but She's outspokenness gave her the edge.

She - With more realizable goals than her opponent and a more outgoing personality, She has a definite advantage for vp external.

She - While a gsr break on textbooks is not an appropriate money-saving strategy for students, She brings other ideas and enthusiasm to the position.

She - Another close race with two strong contenders. She exhibited a bit more specific knowledge in her interview and provided more concrete ideas.

She - She has all the ingredients to be a strong representative. She has the honesty, sociability and passion to make students' life easier.

VP events

Lord - There have been a lot of people unhappy with the way Valentine has run events this year and I'm not sure if having the same person do the same job would produce different results. Bring in fresh blood.

Lord - Lord's enthusiasm far outweighs any experience Valentine can bring to the table.

Lord - Lord has almost too many ideas for what events she would like to run next year, but that can't possibly be a bad thing . . . unless you happen to be one of the commissioners expected to keep up with her.

Lord - Lord is looking to engage the entire student body in campus events, focusing on many ideas, especially relating to the Dinos. She is also extremely enthusiastic about the position.

Lord - Lord has ideas, plenty of ideas. I'm not sure if she can implement all of them given time and money constraints, but it will be fun to see her try.

Lord - Lord has an infectious personality that would breathe life into one-of-a-kind events. She also has a solid background as su events commissioner.

Board of governors

Weatherbee - If you can deal with Archie, Jughead, Betty, Veronica and Reggie, then you can deal with Harvey and Charlie. But seriously, Weatherbee has proven herself to be professional and effective on the su.

Phelps Bondaroff - Weatherbee has been a personal hero this year, accomplishing so much within her academic position. However, the BOG meets so rarely that I feel someone not afraid to stir things up would make a larger impression overall.

Phelps Bondaroff - Weatherbee is a very good option in this position, but on a board where the student voice is so thin, it would be nice if it was very loud. It is obvious that Phelps Bondaroff will perform this role well.

Weatherbee - Weatherbee brings a wealth of experience to the job and her views on campus space and tuition make her an excellent choice.

Phelps Bondaroff - While Weatherbee was an excellent vp, the su may have gotten a bit too cozy with administration over the past few years. A more vocal approach on the board could prove more effective than the current stance.

Phelps Bondaroff - Phelps Bondaroff's years of experience definitely give him an advantage over his contenders. He seems very well-organized and sensitive to students' needs.

NUTV levy

Yes - I think NUTV is valuable for the campus. They offer opportunities for students to get involved with broadcast media and produce a lot of interesting content. If you haven't seen what they do, check out their website, nutv.ca, and decide for yourself.

Yes - NUTV needs to connect to students more effectively and this levy increase will help them do just that.

Yes - Filming equipment costs money and it would be nice if NUTV had high quality stuff to train their students with.

Yes - I believe that it will help them improve their coverage of campus events as they will be able to upgrade some equipment.

Yes - After their heartbreaking loss last year, NUTV has upped their game and deserve the levy now even more than they did then. Voting yes is a no-brainer.

Yes - Because NUTV has not made their program easily accessible on television, it would be helpful to put money towards a better broadcasting system.