

The Gauntlet's SU Election Reviews



The Supplement

Putting together the Students' Union election supplement means spending reading break caring about the future of the SU. Being elected to the SU executive team comes with a lot of responsibility, and we took the task of reviewing and recommending the candidates seriously.

Our eight dedicated panelists gathered bright and early on the first Saturday of reading week

to grill and question, intimidate and interrogate the hopefuls to see who would best meet students' needs and wants.

Here is our report to you on the worthiness of each candidate. Feel free to disagree with us, but above all read, consider and vote, vote, vote.

These will be your advocates and your voice at the University of Calgary.

The Panel

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President

The president is the leader of the Students' Union who maintains relations with the university administration, chairs many committees and has a vote on the Board of Governors.



What's really important to me is getting students engaged.

Hardave Birk is back in the game. After unsuccessfully running for president in 2011, Birk has used this last year to reflect and refocus his sights on the Students' Union's top spot. Birk's experience in the SU as operation and finance commissioner and VP external, paired with his direct communication style, will serve him well as president.

In the next year, the MacHall lease agreement will involve extensive negotiations with university administration and current businesses in the building. Birk predicts the university will want to take over SU businesses, such as Conference and Events — an area where the university might see the possibility of increased profit. He emphasized he will advocate to keep MacHall in the hands of students and ensure that revenue

from SU businesses continues to directly benefit students.

Birk insists that proposed market modifiers should not occur at the University of Calgary. He believes the university does not need to increase student fees, as it is currently running a surplus. Other platform points include lobbying government to decrease the cost of work permit applications and allow applications for multi-entry visas for international students.

During his year as VP external he loudly advocated for the legalization of secondary suites despite city council resistance. He also has the ability to engage students. In the last municipal election he secured polling stations on campus, which resulted in high voter turnout. His previous experience as VP external will be helpful

Hardave Birk

with the upcoming provincial election.

Finally, Birk hopes to improve the student experience on campus. He proposes a smart phone application which students can download and customize to highlight events happening on campus. Students will have a personalized calendar to tell them about upcoming Dino's games, events with free food and club events.

Birk's strong knowledge of student issues and his direct approach will ensure the student perspective is heard.

Selected Qualifications:

VP external 2010-11
Chair of Council of Alberta Students 2010-11
Designed iVOTE for 2010 municipal election
Orientation leader fall 2011



I want to be president so other students feel the same way about the U of C that I do.

Matt McMillan finally broke into student politics last year as VP external. With this experience under his belt, he is now campaigning for president.

McMillan's platform points are specific. He wants to make it easier for students in residence to use their campus ONECARD in MacHall. He noted that a recent survey revealed 75 per cent of residence students were willing to pay a five per cent fee in order to access MacHall food vendors. "Students are fed up with Chartwells. I want to let residence students spend their money where they want to spend their money." Although a definite hit with residence students, the change will not affect the majority of other students.

Other platform points revolve around student

input in SU decision-making. With upcoming renovations in MacHall, McMillan wants to see a multi-year consultation process with info sessions. He also wants to ensure students have a voice in the day-to-day decisions made by the SU.

He proposes to do this by revamping social media, using SU survey data as well as continuing Jones's out-of-office approach. Although McMillan puts heavy emphasis on creating dialogue with student clubs and the Residence Students' Association, he recognizes not all students are in clubs and a multi-level approach is needed to engage students. However, no new ideas were proposed to increase engagement. Previous years show the SU's communication strategy is weak, and students don't give input.

McMillan has had some success as VP external. His Get Out The Vote initiative to encourage students to vote in the upcoming provincial election has rendered 6,500 student participants. This shows that McMillan is able to actively engage students. Also, he was successful at lobbying the provincial government to make changes to student loans.

McMillan's goals are realistic. However, next to Birk's ideas, McMillan's seem shallow.

Selected Qualifications:

Current VP external
Founder of Get Out The Vote campaign
Political Science Association

Matt McMillan



There is no better reward than fighting evil.

Evil has no place at the U of C, and to ensure that this becomes a reality, the Power Rangers have come to campus and want to use the might of the SU to abolish all forms of wickedness.

In the race for president, perhaps the most prepared candidate to 'hi-yah' his way on campus, the Red Ranger, has clearly outlined his objectives to rid this school, and the planet, of evil and to give students an opportunity to aid in the Rangers' attempts.

"They want to gather the power and strength of the Students' Union and fight against evil for the sake of good and justice," said the Red Ranger, explaining that he wants to make room for a new command centre in MacHall, create storage for "Power Zords," recruit students to

become new rangers, as well as revamping the MacHall master plan to make the campus their own headquarters and boot-camp.

"As a Power Ranger, you are standing for all that is right, all that is good," he said, and the students at this institution should feel honoured that they have been chosen for such a monumental task. But is it what students really need at this time?

Although prepared and confident, the Red Ranger still had difficulty relating to the true needs of the students. Yes it's true, none of us necessarily need evil, but there are plenty of other issues affecting students right now which need attention. And when asked where the funding would come from for these plans, the

Red Ranger struggled to come up with an answer.

Surely, if the Rangers continue their conquest to destroy all that is evil in the world they will prove to be successful, and if any students want to join them, so be it. But realistically speaking, the Power Rangers have no place here at the U of C, and they need to get their priorities straight.

Selected Qualifications:

Wears a tight red suit
Has ass kicking skills
Battles evil alien scum
Has outstanding moral qualities

Red Ranger

Bonsai the AOP Panda

Bonsai the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority panda was a joke of a joke candidate. “I don’t actually know what a platform is,” Bonsai admitted. However, she did manage to explain she wants to build lifelong friendships, leadership and academic excellence among U of C students. Bonsai has a lofty goal of increasing charity work and philanthropy, but has no concrete ideas on how to execute her goals, and was stunned when asked if this meant giving away SU money. She said she would use teamwork and collaboration to lead the SU, but admitted, “I’m so unprepared for this, I had no idea.” This clearly reflects her lack of leadership skills.

However, she did seem to understand university can be like a jungle for new students, be-

cause she said she can help students survive the “wilds of university.” Her in-depth understanding of the Sichuan mountain ranges and jungles in China would provide the necessary base to sympathize with the student experience.

Bonsai knows the two pandas coming over from China to the Calgary Zoo, and she will work to get them here sooner, but she was more concerned about the other pandas, rather than students. Bonsai wants to hold philanthropy events to raise money for the pandas’ care.

Bonsai refuted any accusations of being a communist, but her repeated use of the word “philanthropy” didn’t diminish doubts. She didn’t know why, although she’s from China, her name is Japanese.

Above all, she should work on her sense of humour and understanding of sarcasm. By the end of the interview, Bonsai had cracked from simply having to talk in front of a panel. “So much pressure,” she said with a bewildered look in her eyes. “I’m sorry, I can’t do this. This is really awkward. I did not know it would be like this at all. No one really explained to me what would happen.”

Selected Qualifications:

Can eat bamboo
Is very, very soft
Is not a communist
Has wisdom of the ages



I can’t do this. This is really awkward. I did not know it would be like this at all.

The VP academic is responsible for all relevant academic matters, including liaising with faculty representatives, promoting undergraduate research and increasing the quality of education and teaching.

VP Academic

Michelle Huie

On nearly every level, the outgoing vice-president academic Ola Mohajer has done a great job. Luckily for U of C students, Michelle Huie has the potential to pick up where Mohajer left off.

Huie is currently the faculty of medicine representative and has plenty of other leadership experience. She is the chair of the Canadian Undergraduate Technology Conference and sits on two boards that award money to undergraduate researchers.

One of Huie’s primary goals is improving quality of education. She will do this by addressing the university’s Eyes High project, which hopes to make the U of C one of the top five Canadian universities by 2016. University administration is just beginning to set the criteria

for Eyes High, so next year will be the SU’s chance to encourage a teaching-focused approach, rather than a purely research-driven one.

Huie also wants to address some of the study space issues on campus. “We’re talking about places that are quiet where students can focus,” said Huie.

Finally, Huie wants to increase unconventional education opportunities. This is the strongest part of her platform. Eyes High and study space concerns are obvious points, but besides petitioning administration, the SU has little recourse should problems arise.

But with unconventional education, Huie has a vision beyond the classroom, including information seminars (like TED talks) that she wants to host for each faculty, increased funding for

research and travel, and providing workshops so that students can find out about these opportunities.

Huie has set the right balance of working with administration and focusing on students. She didn’t mention the MacHall lease agreement, which is set to expire in 2014 and should be a major focus next year, but she is prepared regarding most of the other big issues.

Her preparedness, vision and experience make us excited to see what she’s capable of when she gets comfortable with the job.

Selected Qualifications:

Faculty of Medicine Representative
2012 Canadian Undergraduate Technology Conference Chair



I want students to cross the stage and be proud of what they’ve done.

Kenya-Jade Pinto

Kenya-Jade Pinto hasn’t held an executive position before, but she brings a diverse range of experience to her campaign. Indeed, well-roundedness is something she wants to encourage in other students.

“I think it’s important to be rounded in your undergraduate career, and I advocate for everyone to try everything — clubs, sports, everything.”

Her previous experience includes currently serving as a SU program assistant, which gives her familiarity with the SU. She’s also an executive of the Women in Leadership club, and was the liaison with faculty for last year’s Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Pinto is advocating for the usual things — decreased cost, increased quality and better student experience — with some unique twists on

how to achieve those goals. For example, she wants to make student feedback to professors more frequent than the USRS administered at the end of each semester.

She also hopes to broaden the number of languages available for credit. Currently, Continuing Education offers some popular courses that are unavailable for degree students, especially Arabic. Pinto hopes to make such Continuing Education courses open for students in degree programs.

Another example of Pinto drawing on her diverse experience is her focus on mental health. She is currently on the Health and Wellness team, and hopes to improve the student experience by offering more seminars on time management, effective studying and coping with stress.

While Pinto’s platform is well thought out, it remains to be seen if it will impress. Some of her ideas, such as increased use of teacher evaluations, are easy to implement and will likely make a noticeable difference.

In contrast, she has made increasing the number of taught languages a focus of her platform, but it’s unclear that enough students care about this to justify the attention she is giving it. Also, mental health is certainly an important issue, but seminars to address mental health already take place on campus.

Selected Qualifications:

Adjudicator Liason for the Undergraduate Research Symposium
Committee member, Teaching excellence awards
VP communications, Women in Leadership club



It’s really important for me personally to love what I’m learning.

VP External

The VP external is the SU's representative to federal, provincial and municipal governments. She or he will represent students at lobby groups, community committees and campaigns, external university relations and the alumni association.



I don't think quitting is an option, so I will definitely hold fast to the vision of students.

Being confident and personable can take you a long way as a candidate, but if you don't have expertise, plans or a defined way to reach your goals, good traits can't get you all the way. For Kourtney Pratt, her lack of a clear path to reach the initiatives in her platform makes her a weak candidate for VP external.

Her platform revolves around raising awareness concerning political changes, continuing political advocacy and engaging with students. She wants to dive into the issues surrounding student housing, making access to student loans easier and lowering student debt. Yes, all of these aspects are important, but every person who has ever ran for this position outlined the same things in their platforms. How about a lit-

tle outside-the-box thinking, how about a little research?

Pratt wants to increase student awareness and engagement with events and "days of action," as well as participating in the goings-on at the campus and devoting her out-of-office time to speaking with students. She wants to build great relationships with the university administration and politicians. It seems that Pratt is unaware that this position requires a devoted person who isn't afraid to ask important people hard questions.

The fear is that these objectives, which do need attention, will fall to the wayside as these challenges will be too large for Pratt to handle. And let's face it, the position of VP external is the

students' voice addressing the decision makers in the city, province and country, and voting for someone who will be "learning on the job" does not sound like a good idea.

"I am a passionate and hard working individual. I believe that that's key for promoting the student agenda," she said, and no matter how true that may be, she's still missing the characteristics that will make her the best VP external possible.

Selected Qualifications:

Current SU Policy Development and Review board member
Former president of Alpha Gamma Delta
Peer helper, Sophomore Leadership Program

Kourtney Pratt



We need to have it mandated that students have a say, an input and a vote.

Raphael Jacob is a fourth-year political science major who knows what he wants to achieve as VP external. Jacob has the knowledge and the poise to get the job done. His well-researched platform is based on making the university accountable and reducing unnecessary and illegal tuition fees.

His number one goal is the elimination of market modifiers and, if voted into office, he will start working right away with the newly elected provincial government to get this done. With market modifiers, there is no effective cap on tuition fees, something Jacob said is problematic. This goal will be hard to achieve though, and it reveals a slight naivety.

Jacob is looking out for students' best interests

by insisting on regulations for non-instructional fees. His view is realistic because he acknowledges that certain fees are necessary in order to keep the university functioning at a high standard, but thinks students need to know where their money is going. Presently, there is no transparency regarding non-instructional fees and Jacob plans to change this.

Jacob's third platform pillar is to have student representation on councils that decide fees. He thinks matters that affect students should have student input. Students need to work with the university administration and have a vote in order to voice their concerns.

Jacob plans to work from the top down and lobby the provincial government to make post-

secondary education accessible and affordable. He has the proper tools and experience to really advocate for students. Of the three candidates vying for VP external, Jacob has the most experience and will transition smoothly into the role. His feasible goals and concrete plans to achieve them make him a very strong candidate.

Selected Qualifications:

2011-12 Faculty of Arts Representative
Won the out-of-office award twice
Faculty Promotions Committee Member
President of the Model United Nations Team

Raphael Jacob



I'm not afraid to have class discussions or talk to people.

Maral Kiani is a candidate who is immensely involved in student life. She runs her own business and has experience with the SU through sitting on the Teachers' Excellence Committee and helping with the Undergraduate Research Symposium. Although VP external would be her first priority, the time commitment of the position would force her to quit other things or risk spreading herself too thin. However, she has the passion to take on the role.

Her platform consists of three main points: affordability, accessibility and safe housing.

Kiani plans to have a student referendum on non-instructional fees and lobby the provincial government to make education more affordable and grants and scholarships more available.

In order to make university more accessible, Kiani wants to increase the amount of seats available at the graduate level by making admission proportionate to the number of applicants. Again, she will lobby the government for more funding.

For her safe-housing initiative, Kiani hopes to legalize secondary suites and promote safety. She acknowledges that the SU would not be able to do more than negotiate for this matter, and she had no original ideas to make changes.

Kiani said her leadership and negotiating skills gained from two years of owning a business with College Pro Window Cleaning will help her transition smoothly into the position of VP external.

Kiani's drive and involvement are her strong points, but many of her plans are based on discussing issues rather than implementing policy change and are too far-fetched to be attainable. She raises issues that are important for students, but ultimately lacks a concrete plan to tackle them.

"I would go out and ask every student what their priority is. I would like to know the students' opinion," she said.

Selected Qualifications:

SU Program Assistant
Involved with the Get Out The Vote initiative
Franchise owner, College Pro Window Cleaning
Junior Executive of Calgary Against Cancer

Maral Kiani

The VP operations and finance chairs the operations and finance committee, sustainability board and refugee student board; reports on the SU's financial position; and interacts with university administration regarding capital planning and development.

VP Operations & Finance

Scott Weir

Scott Weir is a su faculty of arts representative who can clearly describe his platform and show his forceful personality.

Weir ran two businesses of his own — a vending machine company and a web design firm — before coming to university.

His platform includes improving community spaces under the su's control, such as the Stör renovation and club spaces. He commented that current vp operations and finance Pat Straw did well at progressing multi-year projects, such as the Stör renovation, which is currently waiting on a Quality Money grant to expand into a larger grocery store. Renovations and the upcoming MacHall lease renewal will be Weir's main challenges, and he needs to focus a bit more on these plans.

Weir wants a stronger role in affordable hous-

ing for students, ranging from improving the off-campus housing website to actually buying houses off-campus. However, this could mean a lot of money and time going to help only a few students and the feasibility of this suggestion is doubtful.

He wants to promote green initiatives, drawing on experience as a member of the su sustainability board, and working on a \$35,000 project to get renewable energies in high school. Every day after school, Weir would collect compost because no one else would do it, which shows some humility.

He also said the new waste receptacles in MacHall, the ones newly designed to also collect organic materials, were very poorly done.

Weir is passionate about educating students about proper composting, saying he will stand

in MacHall and explain to students individually how to properly compost, yet he needs to focus on money, not compost. The vp operations and finance needs to see the big picture.

He wants to continue current president Dylan Jones's out-of-office campaign and he boasted about winning Jones's out-of-office award five months in a row.

He said the relationship between the su and the university administration is one of the best they've had in years.

Selected Qualifications:

Current Faculty of Arts Representative
Ran two business ventures
Operations and Finance Committee member
Quality Money Committee member



Why exist if students don't know what we're doing?

Jason Hong

Jason Hong, a.k.a. "your bro, J-Ho," is a current faculty of science representative. Hong appeared confident and presented a workable platform. He believes that he has a strong business foundation and is willing to listen to the su staff for guidance and mentorship. He was the partnership lead for the Canadian Undergraduate Technology Conference and he raised roughly \$80,000 worth of sponsorship money through deals with companies such as Deloitte, Microsoft and Research in Motion.

Part of his platform builds on this experience of external sponsorship by helping clubs contact sponsors so they can have bigger events. He realizes clubs only get a couple hundred dollars from the su, but that the clubs can sell their appeal and bring in more money. This is a creative idea, which some clubs are already using, but it might appeal to only a small number.

His platform also includes doing more for MacHall and making sure it is the centre of student life. He wants projects and renovations such as the Microstore and the Loft to be completed on a timely basis for students. However, he needs to better articulate how he is going to help with plans for MacHall. He should have also tied in the MacHall lease renewal into his plans for renovations.

Hong wants to continue building sustainability into the su. "Styrofoam [poly-styrene] free. What's next? Maybe water bottle free," he said.

He also wants to continue current president Dylan Jones's out-of-office initiative. He wants to communicate to students better through Tri-Media, the Loop and social media, but the su executives have been promising better communication for years with little success.

"The su website is this monstrous thing that people can't really look into," he said. He might find that it's hard to simplify the website.

Hong claims his weakness is taking on too many projects and not focusing on core elements, which can be seen through his focus on clubs and sustainability more than the MacHall renovations and lease renewal, yet it also sounded like the cliché "I work too hard."

Selected Qualifications:

Current Faculty of Science Representative
Partnership Lead for the Canadian Undergraduate Technology Conference
University of Calgary Debate Society



Even though I'm sitting in the office looking over your budgets, I can do cool things too.

ELECTION QUIPS

What changes would you like the SU to make?



"It's difficult to eat healthily and cheaply here on campus."
– Benjamin Trigueiro, third-year international relations



"Parking sucks."
– Christina Lombardo, first-year business and arts



"Lower tuition costs."
– Daniel Hickaway, first-year business and commerce



"More places where I can use my ONECARD."
– Carlie Tollifson, third-year civil engineering

VP Student Life

The VP student life has the responsibility of trying to get students engaged and informed. The winner will chair the clubs committee and represent the SU at the Senate, campus recreation, Orientation Week and other events.



I think we really need to focus on having more depth versus breadth.

The VP student life has a direct and visible role in determining the quality of the campus community and the student experience. Kevin Kempe understands that a well-rounded and wide-ranging selection of opportunities is essential to the well-being of students and fostering positive student experiences.

Kempe demonstrated his capacity for constructive criticism of the current SU officials. He claimed that while current VP student life Matt Diteljan's events were well-advertised, well-attended and largely considered successful, they often targeted a niche group, focusing on the interests of a select group of students, often those with a party mentality. The events failed to integrate more students and failed to take into account the entire student experience — in Kempe's words, too much "depth versus breadth."

If Kempe gets his way, he hopes to expand the scope of the VP student life portfolio, reinvigorating the holistic approach to student well-being for which the position was created three years ago. For Kempe, this doesn't mean planning fewer events, but expanding on the types of events that occur, making better use of existing facilities, creating spaces for rejuvenation, making new connections between clubs and organizations and finding ways to foster and develop the wide variety of interests that students have.

Kempe's shortfall, which he was quick to admit, is his lack of experience with the SU. While being an outsider allows Kempe to bring a unique and unpolluted perspective to the political table, many great platforms have been diminished by insufficient SU knowledge. Kempe must quickly learn the rules and play the SU

Kevin Kempe

game while also burying himself in the policy books if he is to have any hope of succeeding in the role of VP student life.

Kevin Kempe sees the role not just as event planning, but as a position for student advocacy that takes into account the entire student experience. Kempe's outsider status gives him a fresh perspective on the SU's role and direction, but it also could limit his capacity for effective governance. In the end, Kempe remains a strong candidate with a vision.

Selected Qualifications:

U of C Rowing Club Executive
Calgary Meal Exchange Coordinator
Regatta Coordinator and Fundraising Chair



The U of C is a big commuter campus and students are not engaged.

The VP student life must always deal with pervasive student apathy and a commuter campus.

Hayley Wade's focus is on increasing student engagement, yet this is what every VP student life, if not most every candidate, runs on. Most of Wade's executive experience stems from her position as vice-president of hybrid residence in the Residence Students' Association. She did not concretely address how she will reach out from the residence community to students who live off campus.

Wade wants to extend the fall reading week, which would be a popular idea, yet the feasibility of it rests with university administration. According to Wade, the extension would allow an opportunity to raise student awareness and

market new promotions for mental health wellness for students.

In 2011, she had to use a wheelchair to access the campus. Her first-hand experience on issues relevant to students who have physical disabilities will be an asset in seeing a different side of student life, but she again lacked specifics.

Wade is passionate about creating more physical community space that connects U of C students directly to their faculty and thus the university as a whole. Wade believes there are many students who love the U of C as much as she does and thus would love to have community space to socialize with fellow academics, students and friends. It is a project worth continuing, but she did not express how far Diteljan had gone with

the project and did not elaborate on her specific goals for making the project a success.

Wade also wants to make the ONECARD more accessible throughout campus.

She presented herself as personable and ambitious, but left doubts regarding her understanding of the position.

Selected Qualifications:

Current RSA vice-president hybrid
Current SU Sustainability Board member
Advisor to Yamnuska Hall Council
Advisor to Global Village Community Council

Hayley Wade



Being able to speak on behalf of the students is what matters.

Mike Rines hopes to build on current VP student life Matt Diteljan's program of increasing the visibility of the SU on campus and the planning of events.

Rines admits that when he first came to university he was, as is the case with many students, not connected to the campus community. That all changed when he became personally acquainted with the SU, seeing the value in their efforts and events, and eventually becoming inspired to run for a position himself. Rines is presently a representative for the Residence Students' Association, and has seen the potential for enhancing the student experience through student government.

Rines says the SU provides an incredible number of opportunities and services for students. His main strategy for dealing with stu-

dents' lack of knowledge is to continue the promotion and visibility of the SU through enhancing the use of social media, creating a "clubs of the week" program and planning high-profile events. The execution and benefit of "clubs of the week" was unclear because Rines wants to feature about 10 clubs each week for the program, but wants to leave it to the clubs how they will promote themselves, and didn't say if this would be in addition to or at the expense of Clubs Week.

Rines's goals for the VP student life position appear, on face value, to be reasonable and possibly even achievable. However, the worry exists that Rines's platform focuses on narrow aspects of student life and doesn't fully grasp the approach that is necessary to positively affect students at large.

While not an SU insider with extensive SU knowledge, Rines hopes that the connections he has made will allow him to do well in this position. Rines's lack of sufficient SU know-how is outweighed by his connections and self-proclaimed personableness.

Mike Rines is a friendly and approachable character. His idea of building on the current direction of the position makes him an easy-to-swallow candidate. However, Rines's ideas feel weak, ineffective and somewhat ignorant to the actual demands of diverse students.

Selected Qualifications:

Volunteer Coordinator, United Global Initiative
Student representative for RSA
Two years on Dinos wrestling team
Building representative, Global Village Council

Mike Rines

The Board of Governors is the corporate entity of the U of C. All land titles, agreements and leases are held in trust by the governors. The student-at-large representative voices student concerns.

Board of Governors

Kyle Bly

Kyle Bly is a third-year student in the Haskayne School of Business who feels his corporate experience paired with his youthful outlook can offer a fresh perspective to the Board of Governors next year. But the position is a bit over his head.

Though he has no previous SU experience, Bly thinks that working in the oil and gas sector has prepared him to deal with people in positions of authority and ensure his voice is heard. He considers himself well organized, and that his ability to balance work, school and volunteer commitments have prepared him, but he didn't exude professionalism.

Bly's main concerns are maintaining and strengthening the Quality Money program, and increasing social networking by the SU, which

are standard for all BOG candidates.

Bly is also concerned with the U of C's small population of First Nations students, and wants to work towards raising that number. Part aboriginal himself, he has an interest in First Nations affairs and seeks greater opportunity for students facing similar challenges. This was a worthwhile point to raise.

It is doubtful that being a Calgary resident his entire life gives him sufficient experience to represent the interests of the average student, though he claims it does. He would like to see the U of C pursue higher scores on the *Maclean's* university ratings and says tuition increases aren't necessary to achieving that and other goals set out by the university.

One of Bly's weaknesses is his lack of SU experience, and another is his lack of confidence in articulating his ideas to a panel barely a quarter the size of BOG.

He at times seemed unsure of his platform, and mixed up the "Eyes High" document, instead calling it "Eyes Up."

There is a wide gap between Bly's ideas and their feasibility, and he should be better informed about the workings of the university before setting out to change it.

Selected Qualifications:

Head high school basketball coach
Stand-up comedian



I don't like increases in tuition.

Chris Skappak

Chris Skappak is currently an M.D. PhD student with a strong background in student government.

He was the previous chair of the Alberta Graduate Council, a provincial student lobby group, and has many contacts in both the government and university administration. Skappak has the ability to bridge the gap between the SU and Board of Governors with his intelligence and maturity.

It was impressive that Skappak mentioned the renegotiation of the MacHall lease agreement because he was one of the only candidates who seemed informed and articulate about the upcoming challenge. He knows he has to protect the SU from large rent increases.

He proposed a new code of conduct for faculty and staff to prevent sexual harassment, something he considers to be in the interests of both students and the administration. He cited examples where a code would have been useful, so the idea seems both necessary and attainable.

He also proposes SU legislation to enable the recall of the BOG representative if she or he is not doing the job correctly. Though Skappak did not provide any specifics, this is a novel move towards increased accountability in the elected position. Skappak is a member of all four major political parties in Alberta and considers himself "apolitically" active, which is a sharp contrast to St. Pierre's partisan-ness.

Skappak pledged to attend as many Student Legislative Council meetings as possible.

Though a busy medical student, he says he will find adequate time for the job, yet it's doubtful he would prioritize the BOG position if he had to choose.

Unfortunately, much of his experience lies outside the realm of the SU and the fact that he is a PhD student alienates him from the average undergraduate student.

Selected Qualifications:

Former Chair of Alberta Graduate Council
Former Alberta Student Finance Board member
Calgary Medical Students' Association Member
Health Quality Council of Alberta Member



The amount of involvement, the amount of engagement that students have here is phenomenal.

Vincent St. Pierre

Vincent St. Pierre defines the sort of approach he wants to take to the Board of Governors as "professional, but tough." His previous experience includes faculty of arts representative, his work in the political sphere and his success running a family business.

St. Pierre's familiarity with SU processes and faculty structures are definitely an asset, and his work on planning the Arts Lounge shows he can handle large projects. He is very well-spoken and confident.

St. Pierre thinks the greatest issue facing students is proposed funding increases for research, which he predicts will come out of student pockets. He will provide a strong and outgoing voice for student interests.

He unsuccessfully ran for VP operations and finance last year, and though he had some difficulty articulating precisely why he chose BOG this time around, he stresses a desire to fight for student interests as his primary motivation for running. Consensus-building outside of official BOG meetings, a key interest, would be valuable to working with BOG, but it also sounds eerily like "personal networking opportunity."

He is the current president of the Alberta Liberal riding for Calgary-Klein, and he repeatedly referred to himself as a political hack. It is unclear if he would be able to represent all students, not just those with his political mindset.

Overall, St. Pierre's outspokenness, enthusiasm, knowledge and motivation will make him an effective representative for students, but he needs to work on his weaknesses.

Selected Qualifications:

Faculty of Art Representative
Ran family business
Familiar with Robert's Rules of Order
Political blogger and commentator



We have to be tough, we have to be communicative, formal, presentable, and very professional.

Senate

Matt Diteljan



I am not a believer in weakness.

After his year as VP student life, Matt Diteljan is certain that his experience will enable him to be a strong advocate on the Senate. Diteljan's confidence will be beneficial when interacting with other senators.

As VP student life, Diteljan is currently a member of the Senate, so he already knows some of the senators and sits on several of the sub-committees. Diteljan will be able to pick up where he left off. He is also not afraid to stand up in front of 70 other senators and point out that a research-driven document needs work.

He plans on improving accountability with mandatory reports to the Student

Legislative Council. Currently, the senators do not have to report back to SLC, and this has caused problems in the past.

He proposes that the SU include the elected senators in the training offered to the other executives at the beginning of the year. He also wants to make sure the senators are up to date with student issues and causes. These are practical and necessary platform points, and they will benefit the role if he implements them.

Diteljan knows students are unfamiliar with the Senate and so he will have to reach out to students.

Diteljan's clear ideas and passion for students will make him a great senator.

Patrick Straw



I like being the shit disturber. It's exciting stuff.

Straw's SU experience and familiarity with university issues are major assets that he will bring to the Senate position. He currently serves as VP operations and finance, and also chairs the Sustainability Board and the Refugee Student Board.

Straw's platform is composed of two goals. First, he wants to make the Senate position more accountable to students. He wants required reporting to the Student Legislative Council on what has been covered in meetings, yet he will have to lead by example and have the initiative to report on his own activities. Straw believes that reporting to SLC is the first step to making the position more accountable,

and he might look at other ways to improve accountability.

His second goal will be to make sure that the student voice on Senate is clearly heard and able to bring forth change. He wants to bring student needs to the senate. Straw's confident public speaking skills and determined attitude will help him achieve this.

Straw and Diteljan will work together to form a unified voice advocating for students.

Straw's passion for addressing student needs, and his achievements in the VP operations and finance role demonstrate the effort he will bring to the Senate position.

CJSW ON-AIR GUIDE

	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	
6 am	BBC WORLD SERVICE NEWS					tea time with annie (continued)	radiosaurus (continued)	6 am
6:30								6:30
7 am	breaking the tethers	a.m. mix tape	the morning after	soap box derby sponsored by arusha centre	the house blend	democracy now!	alternative radio	7 am
7:30	NEW MORNING MIX							7:30
8 am								
8:30							eritrean radio	8:30
9 am							hrvatski radio croatian	9 am
9:30							radyo pilipino filipino	9:30
10 am	her royal opinion sponsored by local 510	outside the lines	instant gratification: revoked	mind folk'd	up for it	calgary vietnamese radio	radyo pilipino	10 am
10:30							buscando america latin & south america	10:30
11 am		deconstructing dinner	alternative radio	democracy now	narrowcasted news	hellenic melodies greek radio	precious dynamite	11 am
11:30	so sue me						behind the scenes	11:30
12 pm	roger that	daydream dance party	mind grapes sponsored by republik	failed pilot / pillage the village	electric ladyland sponsored by beatroute	speaking in tongues		12 pm
12:30						double entendre preserves!		12:30
1 pm								1 pm
1:30								1:30
2 pm	the new classics	white lodge/black lodge	off duty trip	my public shame/contramandatum	my allergy to the fans sponsored by tubby dog	bikesheviks	the 2 and 2 ain't 5 show	2 pm
2:30								2:30
3 pm						music to my ears	knotted roots	3 pm
3:30								3:30
4 pm	aubrey's shindig sponsored by the drum & monkey	electric company sponsored by broken city	halfway home sponsored by local 522	alternative to what? sponsored by the ship & anchor	road pops sponsored by fivd weekly	level the vibes	mental illness	4 pm
4:30								4:30
5 pm								5 pm
5:30								5:30
6 pm	french transe en danse	desi vibes	mezza l'una italian	that's so gay!	musiquarium everything from jazz to jungle	voice of ethiopia	breaking techniques	6 pm
6:30						radio oromia		6:30
7 pm	south louisiana gumbo	tombstone after dark	the blues witness	folkcetera	the dubble bounce	oh africa!	mind grapes	7 pm
7:30								7:30
8 pm	yeah, what she said	writer's block	artslink	noise	full moon funkalcious	nocturntable	katharsis	8 pm
8:30								8:30
9 pm	cjsw presents...	jazz focus	lift the bandstand		dirty needles the best in funk, soul & hip hop			9 pm
9:30								9:30
10 pm	funk senden	radio boys in the shortwave mystery	good character requirement/estate sale	fat beat diet	what will the neighbors think?	megawatt mayhem metal	that's classical?	10 pm
10:30								10:30
11 pm	each one teach one	urban sex	am i right?? comedy	the twisted brain wrong	remote emissions jungle & drum 'n bass			11 pm
11:30								11:30
12 am	sweet chin music	twilight banter	blue collar bravado	bass ackwards metal	dna hardcore techno	attention surplus disorder	translucent dreams ambient, trance etc.	12 am
12:30								12:30
1 am							sunday night groove school	1 am
1:30								1:30
2 am	up all night	the freak show	graveyard riot	rage cage metal				2 am
2:30								2:30
3 to 6 am					tea time with annie	radiosaurus	straight on 'til morning	3 to 6 am

CJSW is programmed and largely operated by a volunteer force of 200+ but we are always looking for new members of the Calgary community to join and help out! To find out more about how you can contribute, visit www.cjsw.com.

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 MUSIC DIRECTOR: kat dornian
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Joseph Arthur at CFMF2011 by Andrew Williams

CALGARY **90.9 FM**
cjsw
 cjsw.com

MUSIC MIX | BEATS | NEWS / SPOKEN WORD | JAZZ | MULTICULTURAL

Endorsements

As a rather intimidating panel, we sat down with the candidates to ask them the hard questions. Some rose to the occasion and clearly defined what they were going to do, others stumbled over their weakly articulated goals, while still others crawled away looking for bamboo. Here are our recommendations and insights. Take what you will.



Amy Badry
News Editor

President: Hardave Birk

Birk's wealth of experience will do more for the SU than McMillan's passion.

VP academic: Michelle Huie

Although both candidates were charismatic and genuine, Huie has more experience with advocacy.

VP external: Maral Kiani

Kiani will be a good addition to the executive team. She has a good grasp on student issues, and will strongly lobby government officials without hesitation.

VP operations and finance: Scott Weir

Both will do a capable job, but I think Weir has stronger goals than "your bro J-Ho." Although some of Weir's ideas are lofty, his excitement may be the push needed to move the SU forward.

VP student life: Kevin Kempe

Kempe understands that the student life portfolio is more than just event planning. He articulated creative and tangible ideas on how to advocate for a well-rounded student experience. Rines and Wade seemed to just want to continue with the status quo.

Board of Governors: Chris Skappak

Skappak blew all the other candidates out of the water. He has a strong understanding of student issues, and will be a powerful voice for students.



Erin Shumlich
Sports Editor

President: Hardave Birk

He's back and he's ready to win. McMillan has the passion and energy, but Birk has expansive experience and his goals are more feasible and quantitative.

VP academic: Michelle Huie

Huie has the fire and drive to stand up for students. Confidence is not a problem for Huie, who came to the interview in a tasteful superhero costume.

VP external: Raphael Jacob

Jacob is a good communicator, is intelligent and has the experience to represent the U of C on external matters.

VP operations and finance: Jason Hong

Both candidates had strong platforms and would do well in this position. Weir's honesty was refreshing, but J-Ho was more approachable and engaging.

VP student life: Kevin Kempe

Wade's misogynistic posters changed my mind and show that her platform is narrow-minded. Kempe advocates for a well-rounded university life that include tangible ideas for the entire student body.

Board of Governors: Chris Skappak

Skappak was ready to tackle issues that really matter to students. He has the dedication and is level-headed enough to make sure the student voice is heard.



Erick Maleko
Gauntlet Writer

President: Hardave Birk

Birk's passion for taking care of students' needs and his ability to follow through with big initiatives will make him a great president.

VP academic: Michelle Huie

Huie's drive, ambition and knowledge will undoubtedly make her a great VP academic.

VP external: Raphael Jacob

The VP external needs incredible political maneuvering and schmoozing skills in order to get things done. Without a doubt, Jacob is the man for this job.

VP operations and finance: Jason Hong

Toughest choice. Both candidates have excellent qualifications, but in the end Hong's focus and sharp thinking make him the best choice.

VP student life: Haley Wade

Her experience when it comes to dealing with matters involving student life issues clearly sets her apart as a candidate for this position.

Board of Governors: Chris Skappak

Compared to other candidates, Skappak's maturity level sets him way ahead. He is definitely the most informed when it comes to matters involving student issues.



Michael Grondin
Supplement Editor

President: Hardave Birk

Birk has been pushing for this position for quite some time. He has his sights set and a straightforward plan that won't disappoint.

VP academic: Michelle Huie

Whoever takes this position has big shoes to fill, but as Huie has proven, she will implement new ideas that will benefit students.

VP external: Raphael Jacob

Jacob is fit for this gig. He has plenty of SU experience and a know-how mindset.

VP operations and finance: Scott Weir

Who better to handle the SU's finances than a tenacious and focused individual? Weir has a strong business background and a lot of drive. He will have little difficulty getting students involved.

VP student life: Kevin Kempe

Kempe is someone who is devoted to the student experience at large. He does lack SU experience, but he has ideas and an approach that has the potential to rejuvenate the position.

Board of Governors: Chris Skappak

Skappak will be able to take on this role. He has a strong view on how to bridge gaps and get students involved with the decision-making process.



Susan Anderson
Supplement Editor

President: Hardave Birk

Birk seemed more capable and the app idea is cool. He was a strong candidate last year, and he has only improved and grown from his loss.

VP academic: Michelle Huie

Huie was both confident and intelligent. She'll do well with the position.

VP external: Raphael Jacob

Raphael was very passionate. Kiani would do a fine job too, but please not Pratt. The embarrassment would be too great.

VP operations and finance: Scott Weir

Either would be capable, but I'm leaning to Weir because he seemed more determined, and had a stronger background with business and leadership.

VP student life: Kevin Kempe, I guess

No one really jumped out for me, but I'll go with Kempe because Rines's "clubs of the week" idea is just dumb.

Board of Governors: Chris Skappak

Skappak was professional, educated and impressive. I have faith he will do a fantastic job.



Eric Mathison
Editor-in-Chief

President: Hardave Birk

Birk has learned a lot from his defeat last election. He's motivated, prepared and ready for the role. I lament, however, that Jones has made it cool for presidential candidates to walk around in hoodies.

VP academic: Michelle Huie

I'm sure Pinto would have done a good job, but Huie is a rock star.

VP external: Raphael Jacob

Jacob is staking a lot on his "market modifiers are illegal" claim. Even if he's wrong about that, he's willing to fight without pulling punches.

VP operations and finance: Neither

Both candidates lack clear vision for the position. If you absolutely must pick one, choose Weir for wanting to bring Bike Root back to campus.

VP student life: Mike Rines

I can't in good conscience recommend either of the other two candidates, one of whom comments on penises, the other of whom is terribly unfunny.

Board of Governors: Chris Skappak

Skappak has done his homework, and while he doesn't have the same experience as St. Pierre, that won't hurt him. Bly is motivated, but isn't ready for such an important position.



Sean Corrigan
Gauntlet Writer

President: Hardave Birk

Birk's enthusiasm, experience and unique ideas make him the perfect candidate. He has a lot of energy and his drive is contagious. I love his app idea.

VP academic: Michelle Huie

Huie is well-spoken, well-informed and genuine. The sheer fact that she made medical school her plan B if elected demonstrates her commitment to the cause.

VP external: Raphael Jacob

Jacob has "lobbyist" written all over him. He lives politics. This guy will get stuff done.

VP operations and finance: Jason Hong

This one is a really tough call. In the end, I have to go with J-Ho. The snappy nickname got me.

VP student life: Kevin Kempe

Kempe has a good holistic approach, but his platform is somewhat abstract. He's a great "big picture" guy though.

Board of Governors: Chris Skappak

Skappak offers experience and he knows where he stands.



Remi Watts
Opinions Editor

President: Hardave Birk

Birk's energy and capacity for leadership make him the better choice as an advocate and representative for the interests of all students.

VP academic: Michelle Huie

With legitimate leadership skills, an incredible capacity for communication and an envious intelligence, Huie won't let us down.

VP external: Anyone but Kourtney Pratt

The serious and worthwhile race is between Jacob and Kiani. Nothing against Miss Pratt, but she's simply not cut out for the job.

VP operations and finance: Flip a coin

Both candidates are energetic, informed, but far too talkative. Place your bets on whichever of them learns to be concise.

VP student life: Kevin Kempe

An SU outsider with strong and tangible ideas for improving the campus community, Kempe is a candidate with a unique and hopeful vision.

Board of Governors: Chris Skappak

As an extremely experienced, well-informed and serious candidate, the others pale in comparison.