

April 3, 1991.

Elections McGill

Report to SSMU Council for the Elections of March 12-14,1991.

The official results of the Elections are as follows:

President

Andrew Richardson	1052
Scott Mitic	1297

VP External

Jason Prince	837
David Messenger	457
Karla MacDonald	1008

VP Internal Affairs

Alex Johnston	1365
Jeremy Dolgin	821
Hugo De Burgos	144

VP Finance

Paul Mackie	483
David Gruber	373
Eric Darier	370
Lev Bukhman	990

VP University Affairs

Rosalind Ward-Smith	1101
Susan Vivian	904

Undergraduate Rep to BoG

Maeve Sullivan	1056
Sujit Choudry	1026

Referenda

FEUQ

Yes	845
No	832
No Opinion	735

PGSS/SSMU Agreement

Yes	1201
No	295
No Opinion	905

Affirmative Action

Yes	1730
No	350
No Opinion	277

New Constitution

Yes	499
No	210
No Opinion	1388

The voter turnout was 14%.

Graduate turnout was much lower, so their future absence should raise the voter participation to about 18% next year under similar conditions.

A new type of ballot, McGill Exam Sheets, were employed to reduce the number of ballots needed for campus-wide and ASUS elections from the past average of 10 - 20 to just one sheet. Not only does this reduce the amount of printing considerably for environmental conservation, but it also saves money. These ballots can be computer counted. Whereas it took fifty students ten hours to count the ASUS, SSMU, QPIRG, and DPS ballots last year, this year it took two students two hours to tabulate even more ballots with an equitable turnout, by using an optical scan device. The work of counting ballots is monotonous and beneath the intelligence of McGill students. Automation was appropriate. Furthermore, computer counting is incerdibly less expensive than manual counting.

For the same reasons, automation of the voting process is the next logical step. We have been trying to develop a touch-tone voting system to increase accessibility, speed, and economy for voters without compromising confidentiality, impartiality, and participation. Hopefully, the groundwork laid for MARS voting will be built upon so that it becomes a reality next year.

Ever since the voters list and ID check were computerized, Elections McGill was established, poll locations were expanded, and SSMU, QPIRG, DPS, CKUT, ASUS, EdUS were integrated into one elections system, the process of Democracy has become an institutionalized part of student government at McGill. With vigilance, concern, and the will to progress, the right of all people to elect their governments will never be undermined.

I would like to thank everyone at Elections McGill, SSMU staff, the Registrar's office, UMS, Telecom, the McGill Computer Centre, the Daily, Tribune, and Pillar, the student associations involved, the poll clerks, the candidates, and the voters for their participation and contributions to the elections and referenda.

Special thanks to Sohee Ahn, Tammy Haverstock, Natasha Karim, Paul Smeaton, Deanna Vanderyagt, Regina Yang, William Stee, Denise Lai, Sophia Brown, Amanda Latimer, Sonal Gandhi, Jack Gagnon, Joanne Piazza, John MacNeil, Anna Walsh, John from Telecom, Caroline Elie, Helene Mayer, Tony Calabrese, Ling, Olga Patrizi from EdUS, Dan from QPIRG, Anne Yu from ASUS, Joanna Wedge, Heather Mackay from DPS, and everyone else who pitched in.

Eric Steinman
CEO - Elections McGill