



Mason Gross School of the Arts Student Government Association 2016 Elections Report

Viktor Krapivin
Internal Affairs Chair
May 5, 2016

1 INTRODUCTION

On April 27th the Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) was approached by the Mason Gross School of the Arts Student Government Association (MGSASGA) RUSA Representative, Zahra Bukhari. MGSASGA requested an impartial elections arbiter to facilitate and coordinate their student body elections.

President Schulberg appointed, Viktor Krapivin, the Internal Affairs (IA) Chair as the MGSASGA elections director, with the charge of ensuring that the MGSASGA elections were run in a fair and impartial manner.

2 ELECTION PREPARATION

In consultation with, Laura Christiansen, the Internal Affairs Committee Advisor, and Lori Smith, a RUSA advisor, the governing documents of the MGSASGA were obtained and analyzed

to determine appropriate election procedures. The MGSASGA constitution requires that elections conclude by May 1st for the upcoming year. Additionally, the Constitution requires that newly elected members assume their office on the date of the Graduation Ceremony for the Mason Gross School of the Arts.

Previous to the assignment of the IA chair as the elections director, MGSASGA had issued a public call for applications to run their elections. The application had listed the following positions: President, Vice President (Internal), Vice President (External), Treasurer, Secretary, University Senate Representative, Department Representatives (2 of each, Dance, Music, Visual Arts, Theater, and Film), and Graduate Department Representatives (1 of each, Dance, Music, Visual Arts, Theater, and Film).

However, on a reading of the constitution of the MGSASGA, the constitution only provided for a singular Vice President and one (1) Department Representative from each of the four (4) departments, yet five (5) departments were listed on the application form. There was no provision for Graduate Department Representatives in the constitution except for a single, non-voting, Representative to act as the liaison between Graduate Student Governing Association and MGSASGA.

After verifying the eligibility of the candidates who submitted applications to run in the MGSASGA elections, an electronic ballot, using Collegiate Link, was created for all the eligible candidates. In the process, candidates who applied to run for positions, which were not provided for in the constitution, were notified and asked to declare their intent to run for a position that was provided for in the constitution. This resulted in one candidate declaring their intention to run for the Vice President position and one candidate declaring their intention to run for the position of University Senate Representative.

All the candidates were informed that they may not threaten or coerce anyone into voting for them and that election violations and irregularities may be reported to the RUSA Internal Affairs Committee.

After these preliminary matters were resolved, the election was set to begin at the earliest possible time, April 29th and conclude on the date required by the MGSASGA constitution, May 1st.

3 ELECTIONS AND SUMMARY OF ELECTION IRREGULARITIES

At Midnight on April 29th, the MGSASGA 2016 elections officially began. During the course of these elections, there were no complaints of election violations; however, there were two notices of election irregularities.

Two students reported an inability to vote in the MGSASGA elections. According to the the University Registrar, 720 should have been eligible to vote in the MGSASGA elections; however, only 568 students were listed in the Collegiate Link Eligibility MGSASGA voter eligibility list. Students who reported an inability to vote were given the opportunity to cast a paper ballot. Neither student exercised their opportunity to do so.

4 ELECTION RESULTS

Mason Gross School of the Arts currently has 720 enrolled students. 80 students voted in the MGSASGA elections. This results in a turnout of about 11%.

4.1 ELECTION BREAKDOWN BY POSITION

- President
 - Brianna Tagliaferro, 67 (91.78%)
 - No confidence, 6 (8.21%)
- Vice President
 - Margaret Shue, 67 (93.05%)
 - No confidence, 5 (6.94%)
- Treasurer
 - Kevin Madison, 69 (94.52%)
 - No confidence, 4 (5.47%)
- Secretary
 - Larry Fried, 38 (52.77%)
 - Alyssa Lopez, 34 (47.22%)
- Dance Representative
 - Spencer Grossman, 65 (89.04%)
 - No confidence, 8 (10.95%)
- Music Representative
 - Matthew Sakasitz, 64 (87.67%)
 - No confidence, 9 (12.32%)
- Theatre Representative
 - Joseph DeMichele, 63 (88.73%)
 - No confidence, 8 (11.26%)
- Visual Arts Representative
 - Anna Reid, 53 (84.12%)
 - Kaylin Virone, 10 (15.87%)
- Mason Gross Student Senator
 - Zahra Bukhari, 65 (89.04%)
 - No confidence, 8 (10.95%)

5 ELECTION RESULTS AND CERTIFICATION

The results of the election were certified to the Dean of Students of the Mason Gross School of the Arts on May 2nd.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE MGSASGA ELECTIONS

In order to ensure fairness in the elections process, future elections should be advertised in several different mediums on several different dates. These mediums may include Facebook, The Daily Targum, University Listservs, and any other social media platforms. In addition, the MGSASGA should consider hosting information sessions for prospective candidates and creating an information flier and displaying it around campus, in order to inform students about MGSASGA elections and any available positions. Most importantly, the declaration of intent form or application to run should be publicly available; students should not have to request a form in order to be eligible to run in the elections.

Additionally, MGSASGA should consider creating an elections timeline to provide structure to their elections and ensure there is sufficient time to organize and finalize the logistics of their elections. Preparations for elections should begin at a minimum two months in advance. An appropriate group of individuals should be tasked with preparing this timeline and the corresponding structure of the MGSASGA elections. As an example, RUSA designates this task to an elections committee. This group of people should be unbiased. It is also important to note that MGSASGA should consider creating a method to task certain individuals with coordinating their elections. Additionally, MGSASGA should begin to reach out to other campus groups ahead of time if all their members are running for reelection or if none of their members wish to coordinate their elections.

More importantly, MGSASGA should take an active role in representing their constituents across Rutgers. With their current enrollment numbers, MGSASGA should be entitled to two (2) RUSA representatives. The MGSASGA Constitution currently only tasks the Vice President with serving as their RUSA representative. Thus MGSASGA should consider updating their governing document to ensure they are able to appoint or elect more than one (1) RUSA representative.

Lastly, MGSASGA should consider updating their constitution to be aligned with their current practice.

/s/ Viktor Krapivin

Viktor Krapivin

Internal Affairs Chair, RUSA

Email: rusa.iacommittee@gmail.com