



Judicial Board Response to Student Concerns Regarding 2018 Elections

Problems with the Ballots:

The Board determined that the ballots were not prepared 24 hours prior to the start of voting. Due to this oversight, the following issues surfaced and were subsequently investigated:

Amendments not Included

The amendments to the Constitution were not on the original ballot that was prepared at approximately 8:45am. This was noticed prior to the opening of polls and therefore, while it did cause a delay in the start of voting, all ballots cast on the day of the elections included the amendments and no ballots were discarded. The Board finds no reason for further concern on this point.

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Voting Started Late

As the amendments needed to be added to the ballot the morning of the elections, voting did not start until approximately half an hour later than the advertised start time of 9am. There is no evidence that this delay in voting affected any outcomes. The Board finds no reason for further concern on this point.

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Write-In Candidate Name Appeared on Ballot

In the Class of 2020 Senator race, a write-in candidate's name was incorrectly allowed onto the ballot. As the Elections Commission stated, during this time votes were cast for the candidate and these votes were thrown away once the candidate was removed from the ballot. The Elections Commission determined to treat this inconclusive result for this race as a vacancy and left it up to the 2020 Class Council to fill. The Chairman of the Board discussed this issue with the candidate for whom votes were eliminated. The candidate affected stated they believed this was a fair solution and did not believe the Board should consider it further. The Board finds no reason for further concern on this point.

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Duplicate Names on the Ballot:

For two races there were candidates on the ballot under duplicate names. As stated by the Elections Commission, the race for Undergraduate President was an uncontested race. The board finds that the mistake had no effect on the outcome.

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In regards to the second race, the 2020 Senator Race, there were three properly listed candidates on the ballot, all of whom were elected. The remaining seat came down to the

two write-in candidates. As mentioned above, the Elections Commission determined to treat this inconclusive result for this race as a vacancy and left it up to the 2020 Class Council to fill. As a result, the Board finds no reason for further concern on this point.

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Voting System Compromised:

The following is consistent with all evidence provided to the Board by the Elections Commission, the Division of the Chief Information Officer (DotCIO), and The Union Lead Software Engineer:

On the morning of the elections, a candidate and a candidate assistant (who is a Web Systems Administrator), accessed the voting suite. However, this access was done at the request of and under the supervision of both the Elections Commission Chair and the Vice Chair of the Judicial Board. This access was intended to troubleshoot the aforementioned amendment issues. The voting system was accessed again later in the afternoon by this same Web System Administrator to confirm that there were no further issues with the ballot. At no point was the database which stores the votes themselves accessed by an unauthorized party. The Board found absolutely no evidence that any candidate or candidate assistant engaged in any wrongful action pertaining to the voting system nor any evidence that vote totals were ever affected.

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Results Released a Day Beforehand

The vote totals were prematurely released following the close of polls. This leak was confirmed and explained by The Union Lead Software Engineer. There is no evidence that there was any access to the database which stores the votes themselves. A new system has already been implemented to prevent any such leak in the future. The Board finds no reason for this to have affected the validity of the 2018 Elections. The Board finds no reason for further concern on this point.

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Voter Identification

Student identification was not consistently checked at voting stations during both the primaries and elections. While IDs have been checked by either Commission members or scanners in previous elections, there exists no provision in the Grand Marshal Week 2018 Elections Handbook that mandates the Elections Commission to conduct student identification at poll sites. While the Board could not find evidence of the impact of this oversight, the Board was concerned by the decision of the Elections Commission to forgo this precedent.

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All 2018 Elections as certified by the Elections Commission are valid.

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In summary, the 2018 GM Week election results are valid, and there is no need to run a new election. The Judicial Board found no evidence of any misconduct by any candidates or by any

candidate assistants. However, there were a number of procedural oversights on the part of the Elections Commission throughout the election. It is the opinion of the Board that any effect these mistakes had on the election was likely minor. The question became whether or not this series of procedural oversights by the Elections Commission should call into question the validity of the elections. Based on a preponderance of the evidence, the Judicial Board determined that the elections are valid.

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