

2026 Fanshawe Student Union (FSU) Elections Report

Presented by the FSU/CRO, John b. Young

It was an interesting and at times frustrating experience to act in the capacity of the Chief Returning Officer for the FSU, this was my third consecutive election cycle as the Chief Returning Officer...the phrase “third time is a charm’ was not my experience. I will further explain these comments in the next few weeks when I send my policy recommendations report to the Fanshawe Student Union Board.

I would like to take this opportunity to state that my overall experience was positive, in large part because the continued support of the entire FSU Full Time Staff and the current FSU President. I must begin this report with a personal ‘Thank You” to Heather Vance, John Riddell, Krista Fysh, Hannah Theodore, Jerry Thomas and Allan Gaynor. I also want to acknowledge the students who ran for the various positions, in the majority of cases they showed a sincere sense of responsibility and passion for representing students...I am so impressed with there dedication, energy and working tirelessly for students interests.

Election Results Announcements, Board of Governors Election and Appeals

On March 4, 2026, after 2:00 pm, I received the official voting results from Alan Gaynor. The overall voting was down from the previous year, but the population of students attending the college was also down. We also had a two hour delay in opening the polls due to technical difficulties on the Sunday but I do not believe that had a major impact on the voting process, students still had access to vote online for well over 70 consecutive hours before the voting was finished on Wednesday March 4th at 2:00 pm. Comparing the results from the previous five years the participation by students in this voting process was actually in the higher range of voting results.

I had the privilege to announce the results of the Directors positions and the current FSU President; Jerry Thomas announced the results of the President position. **NOTE:** In past years that normally would be the end of the exercise, but it became obvious after Shade Dias name was announced, she was moving towards the stage to acknowledge her win and thank her team and supporters. I allowed this to happen, and I believe that in the future, the process should be in place to ask/allow the FSU President Elect, the opportunity to speak at this event. The opportunity should be given only to the presidential candidate.

Board of Governors Position: We had no nominations for that position before the nomination process closed. After the FSU Elections were completed, I was informed a student had approached the College to express interest in this position. The Board of Governors Office contacted Heather Vance to inform the FSU regarding this situation. Heather contacted me for my opinion. After some short discussions, I thought the student should be required to have a Board of Governors Nomination Form completed with 10 student names, bring it to the FSU for authorization and then take it to the Board of Governors Office for their approval. Please note that this position is not under the FSU jurisdiction, besides the nomination process, the FSU allows the voting to take place at the same time as the FSU election cycle, the FSU has also financially assisted the Board of Governors candidates with funding for the nominees, if more than one, at the similar level as the director’s position. The FSU informs those students running during our election process they would have to follow our election rules and regulations. Isabel McLean is the student that was accepted as the Board of Governors representative for the next term beginning in September 2026.

Appeals Process: As per policy, any candidate has 5 days after balloting has ended to appeal the election results or any action taken by the CRO during the election cycle. There were two appeals presented to the FSU before the deadline. The first was questioning the CRO interpretation of the Election Rules and whether the election was conducted in a manner consistent with the principals of fairness and electoral integrity as it pertained to another candidate in the election. The second was questioning the CRO interpretation of the eligibility of them as a nominee for the presidential position. The person asking for the initial appeal requested that the SAC Board appoint a three-member committee to hear the appeal and recommend a decision.

This action was accomplished by a three-member student committee, they had a few meetings and to be legally diligent, the FSU lawyer was present for all the meetings as was the FSU Executive Director solely as observers and resource persons. The Appeal Committee reviewed all correspondence between all candidates and the CRO. I had the opportunity to meet with this committee once before they made their ruling to answer all their questions regarding my actions during the election cycle. Their ruling dismissed both appeals, this outcome was released to the candidates on March 24, 2026 and then announced on the FSU website.

As of March 27, 2026, the following list confirms the successful candidates to serve as President and the Directors of the 2026 – 2027 Fanshawe Student Union and the Board of Governors election results.

FSU President – Shade Dias

FSU Directors – Piyush Aneja, Avnish Kumar Choudhary, Ralph Matthew Cruz, Samuel Nelly Ismaila, Amrit Kaur, Agrim Thakur, Abrar Ul Hoque.

Board of Governor – Isabel McLean

As the Chief Returning Officer, I certify and validate the election results of the President and Directors of the 2026 FSU Elections. I further recommend that these results be ratified by the FSU Board and Members of the current Fanshawe Student Union. As per the agreement between Fanshawe College and FSU, I also certify *and validate the election of the student representative for the Fanshawe College Board of Governor.*

I will be sending in the next week, my thoughts on this year's election cycle and some strong recommendations on changes to the Elections – President and Directors Policy.

Sincerely,

John b. Young

FSU/CRO Fanshawe Student Elections