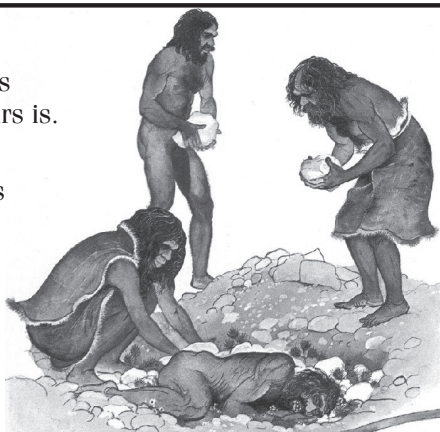


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**FACT:** The Neanderthals never made a newspaper.

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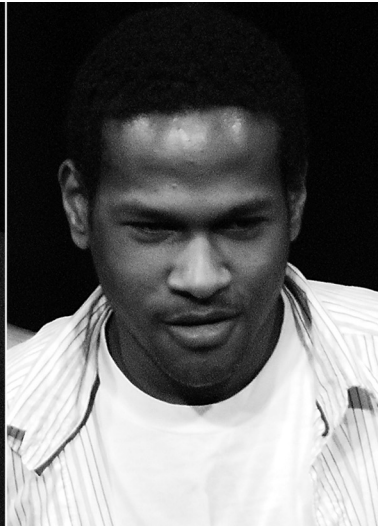
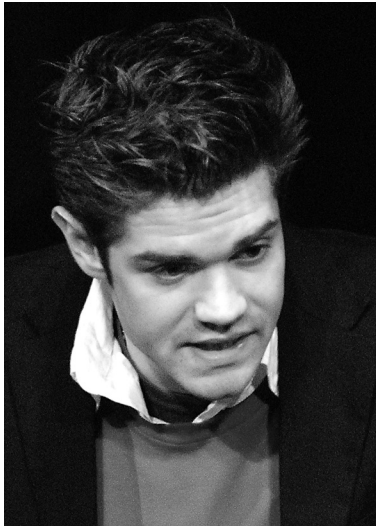
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**GETTING ON BOARD** Guiney, Chiswell and Eruvbetine speak to students at the Myer Horowitz forum yesterday.

## BoG hopefuls zero in on teaching, tuition

VICTOR VARGAS  
News Staff

Although the original nomination deadline had to be extended because of a lack of candidates, three people are now running for Board of Governors representative: Prem Eruvbetine, Paul Chiswell and Adam Guiney.

### 1 How do you see the role of the BoG representative as differing from the SU President's role on the Board?

**Prem Eruvbetine:** Well, for starters, the Students' Union President has a whole office behind her, so she has more resources, she has more plans, she has got ambition for the SU in general and the Board of Governors is one of the many faces of her responsibilities. But the Board of Governors rep is primarily just catering for the Board of Governors.

**Paul Chiswell:** The Students' Union President has a lot more encompassing in their job description. So they have to worry about SU services, the SU machinery, whereas the Board of Governors representative is representing all students at [that] level. They can give it much more attention than the SU President can. The SU President has much more in term of funds and resources at their disposal, and the Board of Governors representative can use that to their advantage if they work together. That way you are leveraging your votes and you automatically start off with a united front among students.

**Adam Guiney:** I think the role is differentiated primarily because the way the positions are structured. The President is directly responsible to the Students' Council, first and foremost. However, the Board of Governors isn't quite structured the same and he is more of a student-at-large. So therefore his opportunity is to speak [for] students in general, whereas the President would primarily take the role of speaking on behalf of the Students' Union at the Board level. That's not to say they can't work together and communicate and agree on a lot of issues.

### 2 The annual tuition decision is the highest profile activity of BoG. How would you approach it?

**Eruvbetine:** Well for starters, get student voices heard. Recently the tuition has been somewhat frozen and turn[ed] back, and it's been a positive step so far. And of course there is still more room for improvement. The main influence they have is by lobbying the individual governors on the Board, so that's another approach that could be taken—you go to each individual governor and get them to see, rationalize with them, present a good argument to

them and then hope for the best.

**Chiswell:** Tuition is the most highly debated and most covered topic of the Board of Governors. I think that what's important is that the Board of Governors has a plan when it comes to tuition instead of increasing tuition every year on an ad-hoc basis. One of the things that is important for the Board of Governors to do, though, is to demand a strategic plan to improve the quality undergraduate experience. If tuition is going up, so should the quality of the undergraduate education. And I think it's important to look at both of those as similar topics.

**Guiney:** I think, what we do is, primarily as students, is when we say no to a tuition increase, we are actually sending a message to the government. Because this is sort of a streamline process between moving from the government to the Board of Governors to the University to the students. And so by advocating that we shouldn't raise tuition, we are sending a message to the government. When it comes to issues such as tuition, we have to put up a good argument, which there are many, there are many sound arguments against tuition increases. And when the time comes, we will advocate all of them.

### 3 Besides tuition, what issues do you think are most important to students, and how would you approach them?

**Eruvbetine:** Almost everything, because [the] Board of Governors deals with everything financial. So things from education quality by releasing funds for new teachers for study space, allocating study space, and all that. So that's just education quality. There is also the aspect of residences, they deal with residence increases, everything about residences and they are responsible for the future of the University, so new buildings, new residences, new facilities like a new Van Vilet and what not. Anything that has to do with funding, the Board of Governors will be responsible for it.

**Chiswell:** The University should take a long-term approach to improving the quality of the undergraduate education. Right now they are always focused on being the number one research. [President] Indira [Samarasekera] says that undergraduate education is a priority but we need to see some concrete examples. One thing that the University can do is increase the emphases that are placed on, for example, professors incentives for them is to do research. And what the University should do is place teaching quality at the same place as research excellence. So if a professor is excellent at teaching, they should be able to receive the same raise as the bonuses and promotions.

**Guiney:** One of the biggest things we have to look at when you are looking at the Board of Governors, is thinking in terms of a corporation. One of the things ... is bringing in more professors, [and] professors of higher prestige. In addition, they are also focusing on a lot of research and development, as well as graduate students. Being elected by undergrads, I'm going to advocate that, no, undergrads should have a primary focus because they are in fact the foundation of graduate students. So, it would only make sense to consider them when you are looking at a long-term vision. The second thing I really want to focus on is student scholarships and bursaries. [And] the loan program, which needs very fundamental reform.

### 4 The BoG nomination deadline was extended due to lack of candidates. What made you change your mind and run?

**Eruvbetine:** Well, for starters, to be honest, that I didn't even realize that I wanted to be a Board of Governors rep. When I saw that no one was going to run, I was somewhat disappointed that no one wanted to take up the responsibility and I figured that I really wanted to do this. By no one wanting to do it, it kind of made up my mind that I wanted to do this.

**Chiswell:** I think it's very important that students represent other students on the Board. It's an excellent opportunity for students to communicate what's important to them and when I saw that no one did that, I wanted to make sure that students had a representative. I really think that the issue the quality of education and the level of the undergraduate experience needed to improve.

**Guiney:** I was intending to run for the Board position for next year. When I heard no one had put their name forward, I was just concerned because the Board of Governors, it the highest strategic body in the college and sets the long-term vision. Thus it is fundamentally important to the success of student advocacy that we have someone who can represent student views.

### 5 You have five minutes to write a haiku on why you should be elected.

**Eruvbetine** couldn't write a haiku he was willing to submit.

**Chiswell:** Tuition goes up, Students keep getting screwed Paul will represent.

**Guiney:** BoG is the board that hordes The keys, fees, use me's So please, take ease. Vote Adam Guiney