

# THE GATEWAY

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GATEWAY PHOTOGRAPHERS

IMAGINE HOW MANY WORDS THIS MUST BE Seasoned Gateway photographers show off their superior sports photography skills and savvy camera know-how in a special spread on pages 10-11.

## High turnover and low turnout in Council vote

With only a small number of voters casting their ballots, fresh new faces are set to fill Council seats

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor

Less than five per cent of students filled out ballots in the Students' Union Council and the General Faculties' Council elections on 22-23 March—but the continuation of notoriously low voter turnout was met with little surprise.

**"The [SU] has communication issues with its members but I think it's even more magnified with Students' Council"**

**DAVE COURNOYER,  
ARTS COUNCILLOR ELECT**

"Turnout was approximately 1200 students, which is a little lower than last year. However, if you take into account we had fewer students running and fewer contested races, it's about what we expected," SU Chief Returning Officer Rachel Woynorowski said.

What has drawn particular interest, though, is the number of first-timers serving on next year's Council. Only five incoming councillors are returning to Council: current SU Vice-President (External) Dave Cournoyer for Arts, Prem Erubetine in Engineering, Ryan Payne in Business, Keith Vandersluis

in Education and Al-Amyr Sumar in Arts—while a sixth incumbent, Brock Richardson, was beaten by none of the above in Arts.

Council is the ultimate authority of the SU and consists of 50 members—including 42 elected councillors distributed on a representation-by-population basis, with each faculty receiving at least one seat. However, despite the importance Council plays in directing the SU, few students signed up to run in this year's election—with Arts and Law as the only faculties where more candidates ran than there were positions to fill.

"Students' Council makes a lot of big decisions, it's the highest governing body of our organization, but we do a very poor job in terms of outreach ... of letting our members know what we're up to and what we do and why we're important," Cournoyer said, adding that one of the things that he wants to do this year on Council is address this problem.

"The [SU] has communication issues with its members but I think it's even more magnified with Students' Council," he said, adding that more work needs to be done to inform students of what Council is up to and how get involved.

And while many of the Council candidates had previously run unsuccessfully in this year's SU executive elections, Cournoyer doesn't see a councillor position as less important than being an SU executive.

PLEASE SEE ELECTION • PAGE 4

## Alberta's postsecondary needs direction: report

RYAN HEISE  
Online Coordinator

Public Interest Alberta released a report on 21 March aimed at challenging the provincial government to recognize and effectively address what they see as the current problems that surround postsecondary education in the province.

*Where from Here? A Vision and Plan for Post-secondary Education in Alberta* lays out four main priorities that the group believes need to be carried out immediately: increase public investment levels to rival the highest in North America; create a plan to attract and retain the best faculty, staff and post-graduate students; expand the capacity of institutions to accommodate Alberta's growing population; and remove the financial barriers to make PSE more accessible.

"We are here today to say that a new vision for Alberta's postsecondary education system is urgently required," said Bill Moore-Kilgannon, executive director of PIA. "This document is a challenge to the Stelmach government to listen to Albertan's demands for a comprehensive and genuine plan for postsecondary education."

The report was formally presented during a short press conference at the SUB stage Wednesday morning and was the culmination of the efforts by PIA's postsecondary task force, which includes representatives from the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees, the Non-Academic Staff



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

**UNITED WE LOBBY** Postsecondary advocates joined together SUB stage.

Association from the U of A, the Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations (CAFA), the Alberta College and Technical Institutes Faculty Association and the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS).

Speaking for the CAFA, David Milner stressed that an effective system will yield great benefits for Alberta.

"A properly supported postsecondary system is, without a doubt, the key to sustaining Alberta's economic prosperity and promoting a more engaged, cohesive, active and healthy citizenry,"

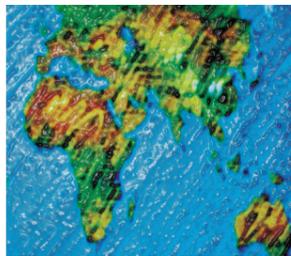
Milner said, later adding that greater investing in PSE would also increase Alberta's global competitiveness.

Moore-Kilgannon also commented on the lack of discussion within the government following the release of the *A Learning Alberta Review* and affordability framework in 2006. He pointed out that at the recent Speech from the Throne on 7 March, PSE received only four lines of mention. However, those involved with *Where to From Here* aimed to change this.

PLEASE SEE PSE • PAGE 4

### Inside

News	1-4
Opinion	5-7
Sports	8-12
A&E	13-16
Classifieds	17
Comics	18
Reader Survey	29



### Sweet mother of earth

Forcing students to learn about global sustainability puts the "mental" in environmental, says Candice Malcolm.

OPINION, PAGE 7



### He is the Champion

As part of the *Exclaim! Spring Fling* tour, Maxime Morin is bringing his electro-rock to the Dinwoodie.

A&E, PAGE 13