

“If [Samuel] had all of these great ideas, why didn’t he implement them in his year as Vice-President (Academic)? Why is he now focusing moreso on the academic portfolio when he’s running for president and never got anything done during his year as VPA?”

STEVE KIRKHAM



is presenting himself as capable of taking on the job.

“His points are quite good. He’s done his homework,” she said. “He recognizes that the administration is not valuing teaching. That’s fairly insightful.”

“[Eastham] hits on all the main issues. I like that she talks about seeking the University’s support for tuition stability in legislation.”

DAVE COURNOYER

Kirkham went on to criticize Lukes for what he deems a misguided campaign.

“Let’s be honest, guys: John Braga does not have a picture of him with Stéphane Dion in his pamphlet,” he said, adding that he has no idea why Lukes is running for the position again.

“He doesn’t understand the position, and, having run for it before, I would have hoped that he would have taken a year to understand and research it, but I don’t see evidence of that in any of his material,” Power continued.

While the panel was clear on Lukes’s fitness for the job, there was still some trepidation in giving the position to Braga.

“Seeing him articulate [his platform and ideas] in person, I’m not convinced he’s the type of person who can stand up on these committees and raise the voice of students without being pushed over by the University,” Cournoyer said

THE VERDICT: Three for Braga; one for None of the Above.

Vice-President (Student Life)

In what has turned out to be the most undecided race of the year, the three candidates vying for VPSL sparked some of the biggest debate: while dismissed by some as a two-horse race between Alena Manera and Kristen Flath, there was some support for third candidate Sean McQuillan as well.

“I really like what McQuillan has to say about petitioning ETS for extended service hours and frequency,” Cournoyer said. “I’ve heard some people criticize him, saying it doesn’t belong in the SL portfolio, but it totally is. I think it’s something that’s original, and [...] he’s building on something from last year. That type of thing I’m not seeing from the other two candidates.”

However, as Kehoe pointed out, McQuillan’s two opponents each have a significant amount of student life experience.

Furthermore, Kehoe said, both Flath and Manera have very strong platforms in promoting a green and sustainable campus, while McQuillan’s is missing it completely.

Another large issue that was pointed out that McQuillan lacked was dealing with mandatory fees.

“Alena and Kristen have a really key point: the transparency with mandatory fees, which is something the VPSL really needs to dedicate a lot of time to,” Power explained. “We’ve gained significant spaces on key committees where we can make use of viewing transparency in these mandatory fees. I would feel comfortable voting for either of [Alena or Kristen] on that point. That’s the key issue for me in the VPSL portfolio.”

However, Power added that Flath is the only candidate to discuss the physical activity complex (PAC), noting that her platform explicitly states that if it is to move forward, it should do so “without placing the financial burden on students.”

Kirkham countered this by explaining there were issues that Manera

brought up that went unaddressed by the others.

“Armark is another thing that has always been a huge thing on this campus,” he said. “The only person I’ve seen talk about it is Alena; I haven’t seen either of the other two candidates bring it up at all.”

He also criticized her plan for an opt-out health care plan for students.

“You’d never have an optional opt-out health plan at a university,” he explained. “It defeats the whole purpose, and you would never find someone to underwrite it.”

“Alena’s not quite as prepared or has not thought through as many things as Kristen has, but I see greater potential in that,” Kirkham added.

Power agreed on this point.

“Kristen’s platform is comprehensive, but it doesn’t seem like she knows where she would place emphasis, and that’s really important when you only have a year to accomplish something,” she said.

“I want to see something different. The last four have been almost the same person. I want to see something different this year, and I think we will,” Kehoe said.

THE VERDICT: Split between Manera and Flath.

“I want to see something different. The last four [Vice Presidents (Student Life)] have been almost the same person. I want to see something different this year, and I think we will.”

JUSTIN KEHOE



THE PANEL’S 2008/09 PREDICTIONS

After much deliberation—and even more coffee—our distinguished panel came as close as we could get them to a consensus. Here’s what next year’s SU executive might look like if these four hacks have anything to say about it:

Janelle Morin/ Dustin Miller (2-2 Tie) PRESIDENT	Michael Janz BOG REPRESENTATIVE	Steven Dollansky/ None of the Above (2-2 Tie) VP (OPSF)	Beverly Eastham VP (EXTERNAL)	John Braga (non-unanimous) VP (ACADEMIC)	Kristen Flath/ Alena Manera (undecided) VP (STUDENT LIFE)