



SAMBROOKS

A ONE HORSE RACE Would-be Board of Governors undergrad rep Michael Janz is the only candidate running unopposed.

Candidates argue it out at annual Horowitz forum

Classes were cancelled and forbidden lunches snuck into the campus theatre Monday at noon for the annual Students' Union candidates' debate

KIRSTEN GORUK
News Staff

The fifth and final SU election forum held yesterday in the Myer Horowitz Theatre had all the trademarks of a great student politics debate—tuition, housing, textbook costs and student advocacy were all hot topics, with the environment and religion also coming into play.

As presidential candidate Janelle Morin explained, there's a lot facing the university student and voter of today.

"The role of student has been degraded, compromised by declining quality of education, debilitating costs, and disengagement from campus community," she said in her opening statement.

The promotion of student advocacy and meeting the needs of students were both highly prioritized by all candidates.

"We need to take our heads out of our books," stated presidential candidate Dustin Miller, who went on to say that our province stands at the center of a booming economy at an exciting time, and that "[student] apathy is not the answer."

Bobby Samuel reiterated his belief in the changes he would make to affordability of education.

"As we face 17 years of increasing tuition cost, there are two things I'd like to do, the first being a student loan reform," he said.

Samuel added that his plan is to not just advocate for tuition reduction, but to ensure that when tuition increase does happen, a percentage of it goes into needs-based bursaries.

In a surprising twist, Sheldon Tibbo shied away from the political topics and instead focused on his faith and its influence on his decision to run.

"Take some time with God, and listen to what He's telling you. The end result for me was to run for the Students' Union. Everything impossible with man or woman is made possible by God," Tibbo stated.

When it came time for the presidential candidates to face their fellow competitors and potential voters, the overwhelming message from all candidates was based around student advocacy and involvement: all but Tibbo favoured an aggressive approach

to engaging students in rallies in protests.

"It's not action, but paper," Tibbo said, that will prove an effective form of communication.

In terms of action to be taken by the vice-president (Academic), Bryant Lukes' platform highlighted his belief that the SU needs to focus more on students and less on the SU representatives. He also briefly touched on his vision of bringing solar power to the University of Alberta.

His VPA opponent, John Braga, chose to emphasize his goals of strengthening the council of faculty associations to help meet faculty-specific needs, improving teaching quality, and continuing work with the Canadian Roundtable on Academic Materials.

"Take some time with God and listen to what he's telling you. The end result for me was to run for the Students' Union. Everything impossible with man or woman is made possible by God."

SHELDON TIBBO
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

The prominent issue of debate between vice-president (external) candidates Beverly Eastham and Matt Trodden centred around what involvement the position should have regarding the lowering of textbook prices.

"The concerns of students have been ignored for too long," Eastham stated.

She was adamant about her stance that her first two focuses lie with tuition and housing, and that she would support the VPA on the textbook issue.

Trodden, on the other hand, insisted that cost reduction of textbooks was an attainable goal and an important concern. He said that he would favour housing or tuition problems above textbook costs.

The head-to-head race for vice-president (Operations & Finance)

saw candidates Steven Dollansky and Peter Rychlik fielding questions about budgets, student space, and the Powerplant.

"I'd like to take the lessons I've learned and move from the external to the internal," explained Dollansky, who is currently Vice-President (External).

Dollansky outlined his plans for the Powerplant, which included moving the pool tables from Cue into part of the space and creating a trendy and inviting environment that would be affordable for student groups to rent.

Rychlik presented a somewhat different vision for the space, hoping to expand Dewey's into the open space to create a student-friendly environment.

The candidates for vice-president (Student Life) also highlighted their plans to engage and involve students in university life.

"I look at the SU and students, and I see a gap," Sean McQuillan said.

McQuillan's opening statement centred on his desire to bridge that gap and making sure that students are aware of and have access to SU resources.

Kristen Flath focused on expressing her intention to pursue an optional healthcare plan and sustainability on campus.

In light of the recent Residence Services debate, Flath emphasized the "need for greater advocacy to address student issues."

Alena Manera, the third VPSL candidate, explained that the Student Life portfolio should focus less on the now established advocacy portion and instead create the balance of advocate and programmer. If elected, she said she plans to create a stronger partnership between the SU and student groups.

"University is something to be experienced, not just attended," Manera concluded.

Lastly, outgoing SU president Michael Janz, the sole contender for the Board of Governors representative, took his opportunity to address student voters and make his intentions clear.

"We need to make sure that the vision [the Board] sets forward is a vision that is friendly to undergraduate students," he said.



GLOBE
TAP, BAR AND GRILL

*Globe is **NOT** closing!*

*Globe is staying **OPEN***

*Globe is **OPEN** Tues-Sat*

TUESDAY PUB NIGHT

WEDNESDAY WING NIGHT

34 flavours, 35¢ each

HALF-PRICE THURSDAY

everything is half price!

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Edmonton's best & most consistent party 5 years straight & still going strong!

**\$4 SHOTS TIL 10PM
& NO COVER!!!**



**10045.109 STREET
PHONE 780.426.7111**