

Spring 2008 Election Report

By Mark P. Coombs, Director of Elections

This election cycle saw twenty-four (24) undergraduates successfully petition to qualify as candidates for the Student Assembly election and two (2) undergraduates do the same for the University Assembly election.

Contested races this semester included those for the Student Assembly's At-Large, International, Minority, and Industrial & Labor Relations seats.

The remainder of the races were uncontested; in total, twelve (12) candidates ran uncontested, including both of the candidates in the University Assembly election.

Two (2) open seats remain on the University Assembly; these will be filled during a special election in the Fall 2008 election cycle, along with the Student Assembly's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans-gendered, & Questioning seat; the College of Architecture, Art & Planning seat; and one (1) of the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences' two (2) seats.

There were no candidates for the LGBTQ seat.

The rest of the vacancies stem from a single disqualifying action on the part of a group of candidates who failed to comply with Article I.B.7 of the Spring 2008 Election Rules, which reads, in part:

Candidates must complete [&] submit all receipts and/or proof of fair market value in person to the Office of the Assemblies, 109 Day Hall. For candidates that have no spending to report, a signed statement indicating there were no expenses is required. Failure to submit appropriate documentation of expenses by 12:30 p.m. on the last day of the election will result in automatic disqualification.

Candidates H. Bergman (AAP), A. Femminello (ILR), and A. Natarajan (Minority) all submitted the necessary documentation *after* the prescribed deadline; candidate S. Matthews (CALs) did not, at any point, submit financial documentation of any kind.

A total of four (4) candidates, therefore, were disqualified by the Elections Committee, each of whom — as well as the reason for their disqualification — is indicated above.

It should be noted that the decision to disqualify these candidates was not without controversy, as they and a number of committee members argued that the portion of the election rules used to justify this decision was unclear, particularly for candidates who had spent no money on their campaigns.

Upon appeal, however, Associate Ombudsman Danilee Poppensiek ruled that there is “no ambiguity in the election rules, Article I.B.7,” and the decision remains in effect.

Full election results — as validated by the Elections Committee on March 10 — have since been posted on the Assemblies' website and are viewable for everyone online.