



2012-13 SGA Presidential elections

By Park Baker
Editor in Chief

This past Tuesday SGA held Presidential elections for the upcoming 2012-2013 academic year. All positions except SGA President were uncontested. An amendment passed last year in the SGA Constitution removed the requirement to have an election for uncontested positions. Voting took place via traditional ballot in Myers Dining Hall and since the voting took place on Reading Day, commuter students were given an electronic ballot via email.

The announcement of elections was sent out via campus email on Monday at 10:30 a.m. and students were given approximately 24 hours to make informed decisions on the candidacy of Mark Moseley and Elise Labus. Elections were held throughout the following day, with Labus taking the win. Concerns have been raised about the timeliness of the elections and them falling on exam week, in particular on Reading Day.

"I didn't even hear about the voting until the day of the election through email," senior Chelsea Freeman said. "Maybe if I had known about it a week before then I could have thought about it and then voted. Even if it was only one day I would have at least had time and been aware of the elections."

Freeman is not the only student to have raised their eyebrows this semester. Blake Ellege is one of 21 commuter students to have voted and says, "I personally would have wanted to have more than 24 hours to get to know my candidates and vote. I check my email regularly, but there are a few instances where I have gone over 48 hours without checking it. If I had checked my email a few hours too late Tuesday night, I wouldn't have had the chance to vote."

Senior Krisma Sellers expresses the same sentiment but a different concern. "I would have voted if it was on a day I was on campus," she said. "Reading Day was a day for me to get away before I had to start studying. I did receive a text about it and wanted to vote, but I wasn't able to be here."

The election taking place on Reading Day

raises a question: Does SGA holding elections on Reading Day violate the college policy concerning this day? This is the text from the BC Student Handbook:

All faculty, staff, and administration should honor the spirit of Reading Day, which is devoted to preparation and study for finals. Accordingly, faculty, staff, and administration may not schedule mandatory activities on Reading Day including: due dates for assignments, formal presentations, athletic events, meetings, testing, and/or administration of final examinations other than those identified by the official, college-wide final exam schedule. Acceptable activities, for example, include: review sessions and study groups, as long as they are not required and/or graded as course components. All instructors are expected to be available to students on Reading Day.

Commuter students were sent a Google Doc ballot in their campus email, which was simple enough to use. However, there is an issue concerning voter privacy and anonymity in the voting process. In order to prevent multiple votes by commuter students, the Google Document had to be set up to record the voter's log in information, which cannot prevent tampering with ballots.

Clarion staff members attempted to report to our readers the election results. SGA President Lucy Matthews said the numbers were very close between Moseley and Labus, but she declined to provide specific numbers.

It is unclear why the actual election result numbers were withheld. "(They will be released)...If they're important facts. They're Lucy's numbers to share or not," said Assis-

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Congratulations to Elise Labus,
your new SGA president

