

Marasco ticket wins landmark election

Statement from the Elections Committee

After hours of deliberation and careful consideration of the issues and desires of both tickets, we have decided to accept the results of the election of February 20th. This committee feels this is in the best interests of the student body, the candidates, and Guilford as a whole.

We apologize for the delay in releasing the results, but we felt that there were significant issues which needed to be examined, due to the two-vote margin between the tickets. During this discussion of issues, we discovered inconsistencies in the voting procedure and in the process. The Election Committee followed the precedents of previous years which proved to be inconsistent with a by-law in the Senate Constitution. The Election Committee decided any decision made by the committee would be inappropriate without the involvement of both tickets. Thus, we presented the situation to both tickets without revealing who the ballots favored and asked how they would like to proceed. After thorough discussions, both tickets expressed the desire to accept and support the results of the Tuesday election, regardless of the outcome. In conjunction with two members of the Election Committee, both tickets developed several stipulations regarding the electoral process:

- 1) The election process must be reviewed and revised by the end of this academic year.
- 2) Senate should consult with others about how Quaker processes should be incorporated into the electoral procedures.
- 3) Senate should examine the impact of elections on individual perceptions of power on campus.
- 4) The election process must be approved by Senate and affirmed each year.
- 5) An open forum will be held by the elected executives to discuss issues of concern with the student body.

The Election Committee accepted the recommendation of both tickets as well as the stipulations listed above. One member of the Election Committee, Peter Kielty, stood aside in this decision due to the constitutional issue.

We would like to thank both tickets for handling this dilemma in a mature and respectable fashion.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Ford, Committee Chair
Stephanie Jennings
Rachel A. Christensen
Wolf Melbourne
Peter Kielty
Anthony DeCicco
Jeannie Dahlhauser



Sara Johnson

The two-vote margin of victory for the Marasco ticket (all shown above), perhaps the closest in Guilford's history, forces senators and students alike to consider a "revamping and restructuring" of our election procedures.

KEIR BICKERSTAFFE
news editor

People from all walks of life crowded into Founders Hall Tuesday night, waiting for the announcement of the winners in the UNION and Community Senate elections.

And they waited. And waited.

In fact it wasn't until very early Thursday morning, nearly 30 hours after polls closed, that an agreement was reached and the Marasco ticket was declared the winner in the Senate by a mere two-vote margin, 289-287.

"It was a very anxious time," said Senate President and Elections Committee member Stephanie Jennings, "Many of us had feelings that it was going to be close, and that only heightened [the tensions]. As the night wore on, there were more and more concerns as to what was the right thing to do."

The strange manner of this election became apparent late Tuesday night, when the Election Committee asked to speak to both tickets in private. It was then that the Committee told the candidates a two-vote margin existed, without revealing the victor, and asked for their help in resolving the matter.

As is stated in the Election Committee Statement at left, they decided to bring the two tickets into the decision because of "inconsistencies in the voting procedure and in the process," mainly attributed to problems in checking student identifications.

Numerous meetings between the tickets and the Elections Committee ensued, as the parties worked to find a possible compromise to alleviate any doubt the original tally might have held. Ideas such as coalition governments or a re-vote were brought forward, but after several hours, the two tickets agreed to stand by the original vote. It

was then, at approximately 12:15 am Thursday, that the Committee announced the

Marasco ticket as the winners. Due to the late announcement of the result, interviews were unable to be conducted with the individual candidates. However, a press release from each ticket from before the announcement of the winner is

printed below.

Many students around campus expressed anger at being effectively shut out of the proceedings, citing a re-vote as the fairest possible solution. Although nothing can be changed this year, leaders of the Election Committee were sensitive to these opinions. A thorough investigation of the election process will be taking place over the next several weeks, and a clearer law will be written and in effect by the end of this year.

"There may be some disgruntled people in the student body. I know I've heard complaints. What they should keep in mind is that this was a decision that the two tickets running agreed to. We are amateurs, and there will always be flaws [in the process], but we want to set a respectable precedent that will avoid the ambiguity of this year's process," Ford said.

In addition, a Forum will be held with the newly elected Executives to target electoral problems. All students and personnel are invited.

"The procedures and policies of Senate can constantly be approved, and this [elections] process has marked an area which merits particular attention," Jennings said.

In a somewhat less dramatic, while no less important announcement, the Cara Skeat ticket, with Skeat as President and LaShaira Fullwood as Secretary, was declared the winner in the UNION election. A late write-in campaign headed by Brian Lowitt garnered little support en route to Skeat's decisive victory.

SENATE results		
	Votes	Percentage
MARASCO ticket	289	48.25%
DAVIS ticket	287	47.91%
Others	23	3.84%
UNION results		
	Votes	Percentage
SKEAT ticket	352	78.7%
LOWITT ticket	54	12.1%
Others	41	9.2%

Statements from the two tickets

We wish to express the utmost respect and support for the Kelly Davis ticket. Their qualifications are obvious, their dedication admirable and their ideas well-thought out and focused. We are very proud of the campaign that was run—mudslinging, we feel, has no place between friends . . . we are pleased that it was avoided. Much discussion and deliberation has taken place since the election, due to the minute margin in the results. It was our central goal during the discussion, as well as the campaign, to do what was best for Guilford College. We stand behind the decision of the Election Committee and the student body. We feel the results of the election are legitimate and support the results as they stand, regardless of the outcome. The members of the Kelly Davis ticket have our full support in their continued leadership roles and involvements at Guilford College.

Steve Marasco, Shawntay Stocks, Adjowii Cooper-Henry, Molly Martin

After careful consideration of the situation at hand, we've decided that in the best interests of students and the school to accept the results of the February 20th elections. We support the endeavors of the other ticket. No matter the outcome, we feel each of us as individuals will stay—as we always have been—heavily involved in the betterment of Guilford College.

J. Kelly Davis, Santes Beatty, Cory Birdwhistell, Laura Davis