

Kevin Godbout
Speaker's Ruling, VP External Election
SOGS Council, April 2012
May 3rd, 2012

Dear SOGS Executive and Council,

The Interim SOGS President has indicated that certain individuals have taken objection that the new VP External was not acclaimed via a ratification vote at the last meeting of Council.

The Speaker reminds the SOGS Executive of Bylaw 2.2.2 that empowers him to resolve this dispute over the interpretation of the Bylaws.

These issues may or may not be leftover tensions from a motion the Speaker ruled out of order that would have delayed the VP Elections from April until May Council. Bylaw 8, which is the Elections Table, makes it very clear when the VP elections take place and when elected officers take office. Furthermore, as per Bylaw 5.1.4, nominations close one week before Council. The Speaker was in receipt of a proper nomination for the position of VP External on April 16, 2012 and received no other nominations in advance of the Thursday before April Council. Thus, the position was won by acclamation. Thus the nominee has taken office as the VP External this past May 1st.

For individuals who are concerned that the acclaimed elections of the VP External and the Disabilities Commissioner were not ratified by Council, i.e. Council did not formally vote to acclaim those positions. The Bylaws do not specify that such a vote is required. Furthermore, as per Robert's Rules of Order if only one nomination is received, that nominee is acclaimed (443, l. 7-12). Again, Bylaw 5.1.4 makes it clear nominations for VP positions close one week before Council. Even if another individual desired to run from the floor, it would not have been allowed, per the Bylaws.

Therefore, the VP External is duly elected, has taken office as of this past May 1st, and should be allowed to conduct his duties as per our Bylaws and be remunerated accordingly.

Kevin Godbout
Speaker
Society of Graduate Students
Western University