

NOTICE OF MOTION

TO: WUSA Annual General Meeting Assembly
FROM: Nick Pfiefler
DATE: March 13, 2024
RE: Filling the VP Vacancy

ISSUE: The 2024 WUSA General Election did not result in the election of a Vice-President. Based on discussions among the members of the incoming Board, it is believed that the Assembly should consider taking action to address this as explained below.

DETAILS: The Vice-President will support the President and the Board. As one of two full-time student leaders, their commitment and readiness for the role is critical to WUSA's ability to advocate for students. The new Board is set to begin their terms on May 1, but training and planning has begun in March and will intensify over the next few weeks.

The incoming Board of Directors held discussions through electronic means on ways to resolve this issue. Some of the options discussed:

- By-election. This option was rejected for a variety of reasons including "voter fatigue", "pushes back timelines by a lot" so the ultimate winner "can't be transitioned", and that there is "no guarantee of anyone running"
- Open contest at AGM: With a quorum of just 100 students, AGM was thought to be not a good "[representation] of the student body". It was also questioned as to whether an open-ended motion that would require a significant on-the-floor amendment would be permitted by the chair.
- Automatically picking the runner-up of the General Election's presidential candidates: There was recognition of benefits from choosing between candidates who had already garnered some measure of electoral mandate from voters, were interested in a similar leadership role at WUSA, and would be able to dedicate themselves to the 12-month full-time commitment. However, there was debate on the differences between the roles of President/VP and "electoral integrity".

From these discussions, the following was generally agreed on:

- Choosing between the candidates for president would be "a good place to start".
- While the incoming Board would have the power to appoint directors and officers after taking office on May 1, submitting a motion to AGM was seen as a good compromise timeline-wise for transparency, to provide students with an opportunity to deliver input in an existing discussion forum, and solidify direction for transition purposes

- It would be preferred to finalize a new officer as soon as possible to not compromise transition training, annual planning, and preparation for external assignments (such as the Ontario Undergraduate Student Association).

Following further discussion and general agreement, a Google form was sent to all incoming members of the Board to vote between Arya Razmjoo and Rafaeel Rehman, who both confirmed their interest and availability. The anonymized results of the form have been attached for transparency along with comments from each voter if they were submitted. While all 12 students joined the discussion, after extensions of a deadline and reminders/emails, only 9 of the 12 cast a vote.

The final result was 5-4 in favour of Arya Razmjoo.

Technical notes: Due to the WUSA Bylaws, the role of Vice-President cannot be filled except by a candidate who wins an election. Following precedent set in the 2022-2023 governing year, the Board may create a position with duties and expectations similar to those of the Vice-President, along with a nearly identical title, yet distinct from the Vice-President as defined in the Bylaws. The President and Vice-President are also meant to be directors of the Board, with voting privileges and access to confidential sessions/information.

RECOMMENDATION / DRAFT MOTION:

WHEREAS, no Vice-President was elected in the 2024 WUSA General Elections;

AND WHEREAS, it is urgent that a candidate be included in transition training and annual planning in advance of the governing year turnover to ensure readiness in assuming the duties of the Vice-President;

AND WHEREAS, the members of the incoming Board have by a majority vote expressed approval for Arya Razmjoo, a candidate for President in the 2024 General Election, and Arya Razmjoo has affirmed his availability and commitment;

AND WHEREAS, by the *Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010* and the Bylaws the Board of Directors has the power to appoint Officers of the Board from time to time as well as appoint directors to the Board;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Assembly supports the Board of Directors in exercising its powers to appoint Arya Razmjoo to an officer position with the general duties of the Vice-President and as a Director of the Board Ex-Officio.

MOVER: Nick Pfiefler

ATTACHMENTS:

[VP Voting Results](#)

[Comments on the Candidates](#)

