

# GAMECHANGERS Inc.



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Attn: Christopher Girodat  
Executive Director  
Capilano Students' Union

Christopher,

## **Re: Final Report, Capilano Students' Union 2025 General Elections**

This report provides an overview of the elections process including some statistics comparing them to previous elections and also provides some recommendations for future elections.

### **The Numbers**

Turnout for the elections was slightly lower in several categories as can be seen in Figure 1 – note that prior to 2025, there was no data captured for the Squamish and Sunshine Coast campuses. The data also indicate that the response rate for each voting category was lower in some cases but higher in others as can be seen in Figure 2. Figure 3 shows the number of candidates who submitted nomination papers as well as the number of complaints and disqualifications. Lastly, Figure 4 shows the percent of nominations that were accepted each year as a percent of the nominations received.

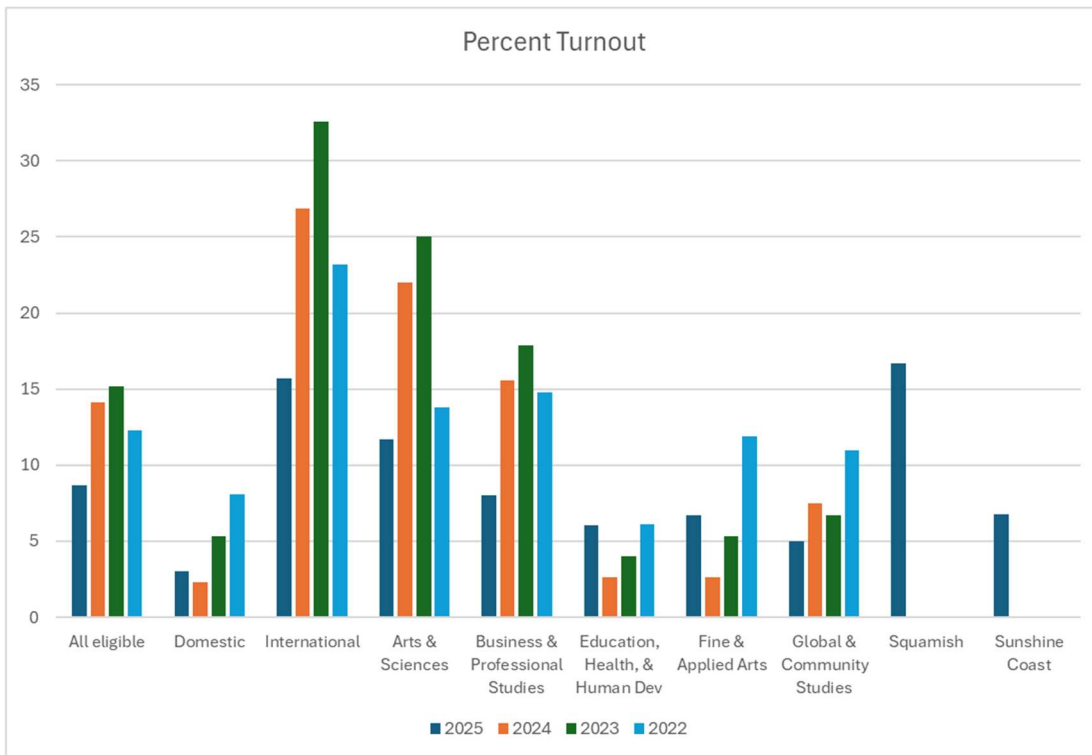


Figure 1: Percent Turnout (2022-2025)

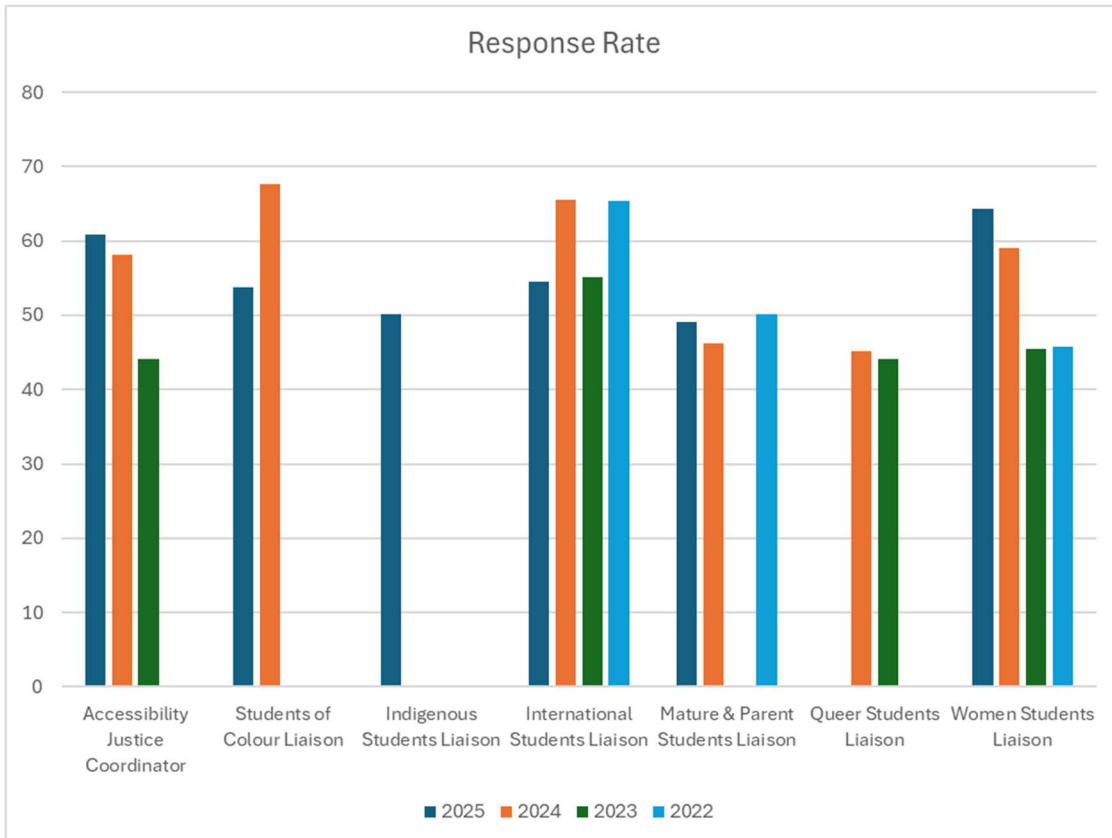


Figure 2: Response Rate per Voting Category (2022-2025)

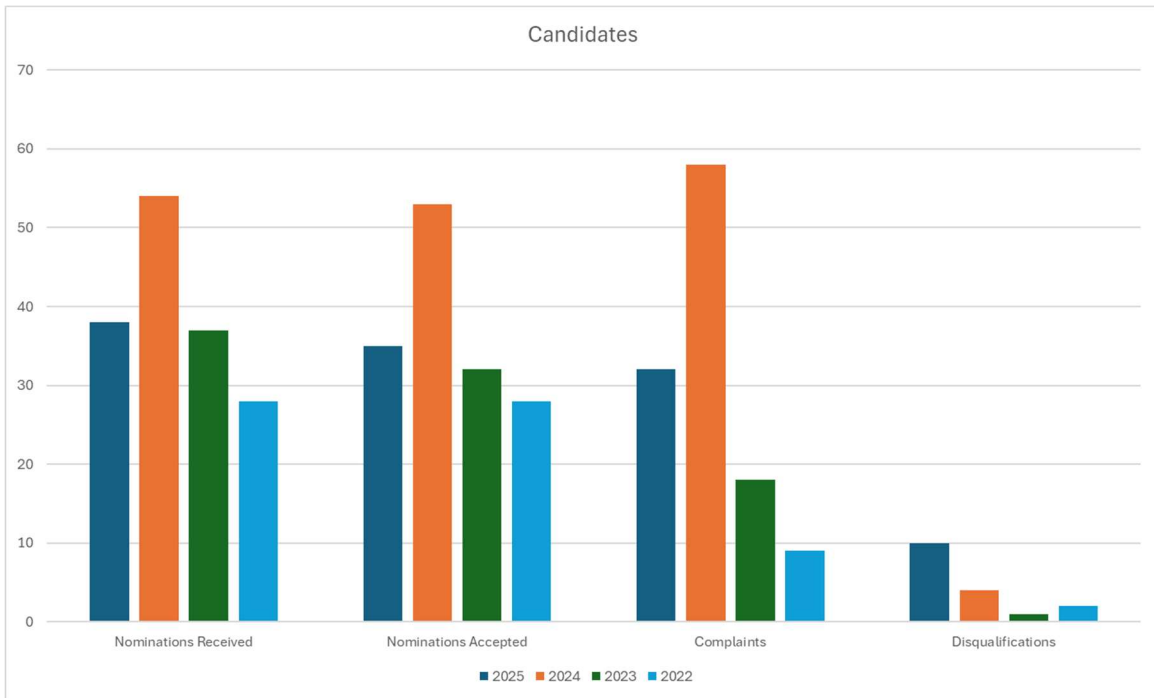


Figure 3: Candidate Statistics (2022-2025)

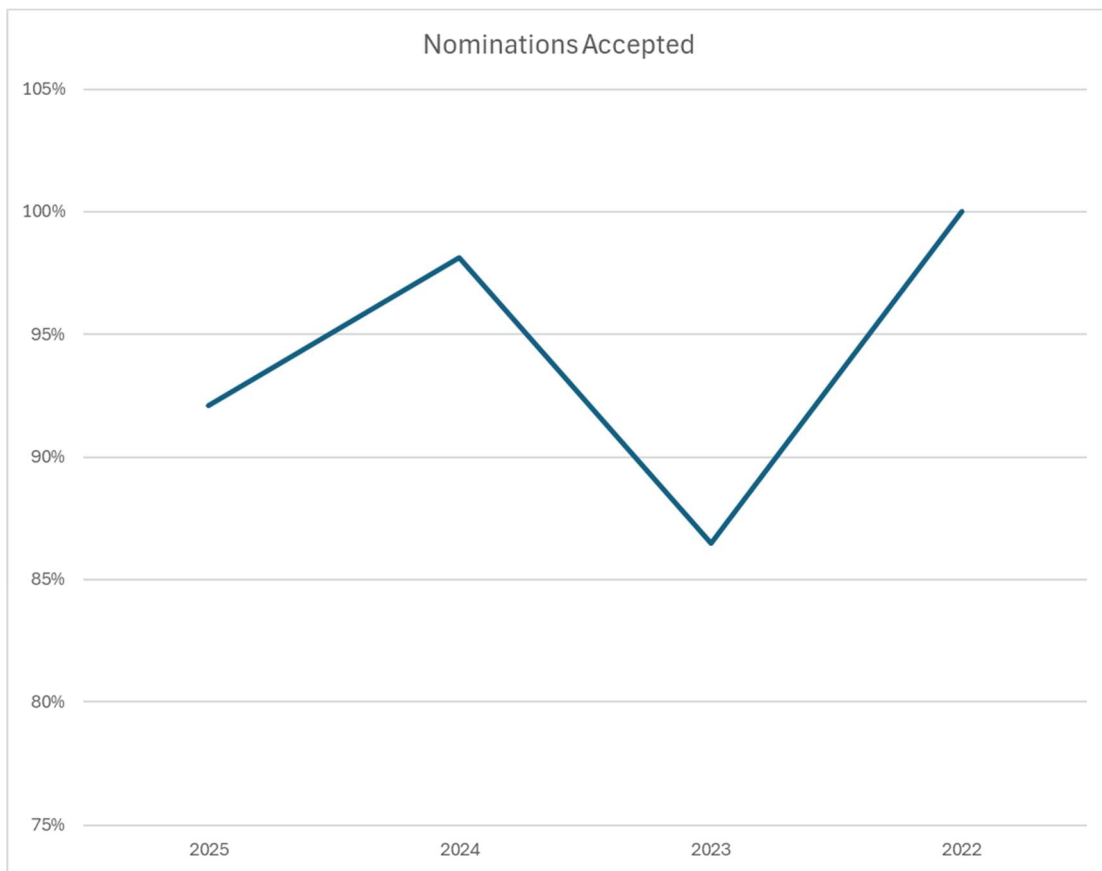


Figure 4: Nominations Accepted (2022-2025)

## Recommendations

1. Nominations - it is recommended that the nomination process is evaluated and improved, specifically so that:
  - a. There is concerted effort to increase the participation by domestic students as candidates
  - b. Candidates are clear on the importance of the veracity of the claims they make on their nomination documents
  - c. The Accessibility Justice Coordinator role should be for an individual who self-identifies as a member of that category
  - d. There should be clarity on what qualifies a candidate as a 'Mature and Parent Students Liaison'
  - e. The candidate statements (Biography and Campaign Platform) sections on the nomination form need to be set up so that they automatically limit the statements to the specified character counts
  - f. The impact of the mandatory Candidate Orientation is positive and should be continued
  
2. Campaigning - considering the ongoing complaints related to specific issues, it is recommended that some changes are implemented on a permanent basis:
  - a. There should be no campaigning permitted in the Library Commons and the Library itself
  - b. The banning of campaigning during the voting period is effective and should be continued
  - c. Clear guidelines need to be established on social media use – during the campaign period and during the voting period
  - d. Since some individuals have been banned from running as candidates and/or participating in campaigning, the list of these individuals should be made available to individuals submitting nominations for themselves
  - e. The candidate forums appear to work well and should be maintained as mandatory
  
3. Voting – although several changes have been made that seem to be effective and should be implemented on a permanent basis, there are a few additional recommendations:
  - a. The voting process with students needing to go to specific polling areas increases voter privacy and should be continued. However, once a voter uses their device for 2 factor authentication, it should be mandatory that the voter then places the device upside down in full view of election officials. This is to ensure that voters do not take a photo of how they voted.
  - b. Candidates should be asked to refrain from staying in the voting area once they have cast their votes
  - c. Due to concerns about safety, it is recommended that a security presence is arranged for the duration of each day's voting period
  - d. There needs to be a concerted effort to increase the participation by domestic students as voters
  - e. Consideration could be given to provide an incentive for students to vote such as the opportunity for three randomly selected students to win a \$100 gift card each
  
4. Complaints – the process is rife with complaints, often frivolous. While there may often be a genuine concern by a complainant regarding personal safety, this section needs to

be evaluated as almost every complaint comes in with the complainant asking for anonymity.

5. Appeals - since the number of appeals is quite high, it is recommended that:
  - a. The appeal form has a section for the appellant to provide a date
  - b. The appeal form should also have a section where the appellant must indicate the complaint decision the appeal relates to
  - c. Anyone filing an appeal needs to be made aware that each person is allowed to file only one appeal per complaint decision

In general, this was an excellent opportunity to witness “democracy in action” and with each iteration over the years, changes and improvements have been made and will likely continue to be made.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at [ksolanki@gamechangerssolutions.com](mailto:ksolanki@gamechangerssolutions.com)

With best regards,



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President and CEO**