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# THE GATEWAY



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## inside



### Musical manipulation

A cappella group Naturally 7 mesh R&B, hip-hop, and gospel using nothing but their voices.

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### Failure in Fredericton

The Puck Bears fell short this weekend at CIS nationals, losing two games in a row and finishing their season without a medal.

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### Politician or kid?

It's hard to tell politicians apart from children. Our handy guide will help you keep track this election.

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## Yamagishi beats McBean for VPSL

SIMON YACKULIC  
Deputy News Editor

Colten Yamagishi was elected as the Vice President (Student Life) to the Students' Union executive Friday night with 50 per cent of the first-place votes, beating out rival candidate David McBean.

Yamagishi is looking forward to starting the job and working on bringing his platform to life. He plans to focus on the campus musical and the services that he had proposed during the election, such as a gender diversity centre and a campus thrift store. He said that he hoped to set up the thrift store by the beginning of the upcoming school year, and that he would try to maintain the momentum set by the previous Vice President (Student Life) in regards to large events.

"We've already seen excitement over dodgeball; now it's time to bring in new ideas to improve and enhance the SU. Also, the new services are things I'm going to be focusing on this summer, such as the summer U-Pass.

"I'm really happy and I can get to work now, despite being two weeks behind," he said. "The results were really, really close and I think that that's good and because David and I ran very strong campaigns."

Yamagishi joins the four other members of the Students' Union executive who had already been elected to their positions. The Student Life race was originally slated to take place with the other executive races. However the Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement (DIE) Board ordered a new election for the contest after candidate David McBean sent out an email to orientation volunteers that was incorrectly approved by Chief Returning Officer (CRO) Jaskaran Singh. Singh resigned from his position after the board's decision and Students' Council appointed Alena Manera to be the new CRO.

Competitor David McBean said he was happy with the calibre of ideas that were exchanged in the race, which was the only contested one in the entire executive election.

"It was close — we were only separated by a couple hundred votes. We both tried our hardest," McBean said. "We both know what needs to happen [with the Students' Union] and that showed in our similar platforms. I think there are some changes that need to be made, and I feel we both addressed this during the campaign and brought those [changes] to light."

Manera was impressed with the



AARON YEO

**HUG IT OUT** Yamagishi (left) received 50 per cent of first round votes.

relatively high turnout in this year's combined Students' Council and Vice President (Student Life) elections. While only 3,034 undergraduate students, or 10.5 per cent, voted in the election, this was a dramatic climb from the 1,740 students, or 6.1 per cent, who voted in last year's council election.

"I think it raises an interesting question: how do we ensure that the council election is getting turnout

like this? How do we ensure that the councillors going into council chambers have a clear mandate from voters and have a high enough percentage?" Manera asked.

"Some faculties are going at 20 per cent [voter turnout], which isn't ideal — you want 100 per cent in an ideal world — but 20 per cent is a pretty clear mandate to be walking into council chambers."

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## U of A lays off community relations director

AARON YEO  
News Staff

Despite recent tense relations between the University of Alberta and communities around campus, the U of A has laid off Michael Phair, the director of community relations, for reorganization and restructuring purposes.

Phair's position was formally eliminated as part of reorganization in the department of university relations. A new job for an executive director for university relations has been posted on the U of A's website, which slightly differs from Phair's position by including work beyond local community connections, in national and international relations.

Phair had been working with the

U of A for three years after leaving his post as city councillor, and said that he was surprised at the news.

"I had not realized that the position for community relations was being considered for elimination under the reorganization plan at all," he said. According to an article by the *Edmonton Journal*, his position was cut due to budget concerns, and Phair was offered a one-year contract to continue, but turned it down.

Provost Carl Amrhein and Vice President (University Relations) Debra Pozega Osburn were unavailable for comment as of press time. However, a memo was sent out by Pozega Osburn last week, explaining the situation to deans, directors, and chairs. It cited issues of redundancy

and overlap as reasons for "realigning existing resources."

"The new structure will ensure the integration and co-ordination of University Relations activities in support of the university's reputation building, relationship development, and community engagement objectives," read the memo.

There have been a number of ongoing disagreements between the U of A and communities surrounding its campuses, such as issues with the Go Centre at South Campus and a proposed parking lot at Campus Saint-Jean.

Phair said his efforts were mostly focused on building strong relationships with the Bonnie Doon and downtown communities around Enterprise Square, and he feels the

university needs to continue its efforts in those regions.

"There's no question that the relationship with the local communities is important for the university," he said. "I think that although there have been steps that we've taken over the last couple of years to grow that relationship, there were and continue to be a number of thorny issues that need to be handled, and I know the university will find a way to address those issues."

"They're doing things differently, and as a result the position is no longer needed."

Until an executive director gets hired, Phair's responsibilities will be divided up among the staff at the university relations department.