

# **GSA By-Elections 2024-2025 Report**

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**by Vijay Kishore Asokan (CRO)**

**Election Overview:**

The GSA By-Elections 2024-2025 for the Directors at Concordia University was conducted with a high level of participation from the students, showcasing the vibrant democratic spirit within them. The election concluded with the successful selection of the Directors and a decision on several key referendum questions.

**Election Timeline:**

The election announcement was sent out on September 27, 2024, to all the students along with information about available positions, the election timeline, and the election process. And on October 18th a change was made to the timeline.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
September 27th, 2024	Announcement email was sent out.
October 7th, 2024	Nomination period began.
October 18th, 2024	Nomination period extended, notification sent.
October 27th, 2024	Nomination period concluded.
October 28th, 2024	Verification started.
October 29th, 2024	Verification ended.
October 29th, 2024	Candidates list announced.
October 30th, 2024	Campaign period started.
November 6th, 2024	Campaign period ended.
November 11th, 2024	Voting started
November 12th, 2024	Voting ended
November 14th, 2024	Election results announced by the CRO.
November 14th to 17th 2024	Contestation period
December 2th, 2024	Final results after the Contestation period.

## Voting Results:

Position	Choices	Vote Count
GSA Gina Cody School- Director	Adharsh Anand (Independent)	143
GSA Gina Cody School- Director	Manirathinam Palanivelu (Independent)	117
GSA Gina Cody School- Director	Divyanshu Jaggi (Independent)	50
GSA Gina Cody School- Director	Teja Venkata Venkata Sai Manikanta Sirigidi (Team Impact)	50
GSA Gina Cody School- Director	Rushin Dipak Makwana (Independent)	46
GSA Gina Cody School- Director	ANKUR SAHU (Independent)	44
GSA Gina Cody School- Director	James Agbonhese (Independent)	22
GSA Gina Cody School- Director	Abstain	15

## Election Summary:

Gina Cody School Directors: **Adharsh Anand**, an Independent candidate was elected, with 143 votes.

## Cost & Expenditure:

The election was conducted online, and as such, no cost was incurred.

## Contestations, complaints, and decisions rendered by the CRO:

1. The contestation was made by a non-GSA member Angela Meo and was therefore deemed invalid.

2. The contestations were received after the specified deadline and were therefore deemed invalid.

Both contestations were appealed and forwarded to the EJC. Despite multiple attempts to contact the individuals involved, no response was received. Consequently, the matter is considered closed.

**Decisions rendered by CRO:**

An independent candidate, Mohammed Fazil, who was contesting for the Gina Cody Director position in the GSA By-Election 2024-2025, was found distributing campaign posters without obtaining formal approval from the Chief Returning Officer (CRO). Upon inspection, the CRO issued a formal warning email to the candidate, citing the campaign rules and policies outlined in the GSA By-laws. Despite this warning, Mohammed Fazil continued to distribute the posters without seeking the necessary approval. This repeated violation of the regulations led to his disqualification from the election, as determined by the CRO in adherence to the established electoral guidelines.

**Referendum Questions:**

Advocacy Fee increase: Rejected with 172 votes against 157 votes in favor.

Daycare Fee increase: Rejected with 166 votes against 165 votes in favor.

**Referendum Question 1:**

Advocacy:

Do you, as a graduate student at Concordia, agree to increase the Advocacy Centre Fee Levy from \$3.32 per semester to \$4.00 per semester (an increase of \$0.68), annually adjusted to the Consumer Price Index of Canada, to increase support hours for graduate students at the CSU Advocacy Centre. The fee levy will be effective in the Winter 2025 (2244) semester and billed in accordance with the University's tuition, Refund, and Withdrawal Policy.

Yes	157
No	172
Abstain	15

**Referendum Question 2:**

Daycare:

Do you agree to implement a fee levy of \$2.50 per semester to support the CSU Drop-in Daycare, from all GSA members, to be implemented with registration for the Winter 2025 (2244) term in accordance with the university's tuition refund and withdrawal policy?

Yes	165
No	166
Abstain	13

**Next Steps:**

The Elected candidate will soon participate in transition activities, including meetings with outgoing officials and training sessions, to ensure a smooth transfer of responsibilities and a successful start to their terms.

**Conclusion:**

The GSA By-Elections 2024-2025 reflected a strong democratic engagement among graduate students at Concordia University, with substantial participation in both the electoral and referendum processes.