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Election enters run-off

by Joe Gidjunis and Trevor Martin
Hatchet Staff Writers

About 1,500 students came out to vote Wednesday in the hotly contested run-off Student Association presidential election between Josh Singer and Phillip Robinson. The turnout is a jump of 25 percent from the first day of last week's regular election, according to the Joint Elections Committee.

On Monday, the JEC declared a run-off election three days after Josh Singer was announced the winner of the race. The deciding factor: a double-counted study abroad ballot cast for Singer.

The run-off election, which started Wednesday and ends Thursday, comes after a Tuesday Student Court hearing on another controversial Singer vote sent over e-mail.

The JEC plans to announce the final results Thursday night.

The JEC announced Singer won the election last Friday, with 867 of 2,167 votes, which put him over the necessary 40 percent mark by one vote.

Former JEC Chairman Scott Sheffler, who stepped down Monday because of mid-term pressures, said one study abroad student sent e-mails to both the JEC offices and the Office of Study Abroad.

The vote was disregarded,



Michael Itti/photo editor

A member of SA presidential candidate Josh Singer's campaign, Phoebe, tries to persuade voters outside J Street Wednesday.



Michael Itti/photo editor

Former SA presidential candidate Dani Greenspan (r.) and Phillip Robinson (l.) speak to freshman Phillip Zeck. Greenspan, who took 17 percent of last week's vote, supports Robinson in the run-off.

and Singer's total fell just under the amount required for a victory. The JEC declared a run-off Monday morning.

Singer then argued in Student Court Tuesday night that a vote cast by graduate student P. Francisco Semiao should have counted.

The Court issued a summary judgement, throwing out the case, at 1:45 a.m. Wednesday morning.

If the Student Court authorized the vote, Singer would have once again receive a 40 percent majority, making the run-off unnecessary.

Semiao, president of the Public Health Student Association, said he was away in Atlanta for a chronic disease conference during the election. A friend in the Singer campaign informed him he could vote in the election over e-mail, Sheffler said.

The JEC received the e-mailed vote at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, an hour and a half after the 5 p.m. deadline for absentee votes.

Singer argued the deadline was not made public to non-study abroad students, according

to court documents.

The JEC claimed Semiao does not fit the guidelines for an absentee voter.

Senior Rosalyn Metz, who assumed the duties of JEC chair after Sheffler stepped down, said in the past students who were away from school could register their departure and plan to vote. But there was no such provision made this year.

Singer declined to comment following the decision.

"We believe that an innocent elector was disenfranchised," said senior Dan Ericson, Singer's legal counsel. "All we want to do is prove our case."

Candidates' supporters gathered outside the Marvin Center Wednesday for one last push.

"I'm really nervous for Josh," said newly elected EVP Eric Daleo. "But I think because Josh won the election already he can do it again."

Robinson said he was confident.

"I think the totals are good, but it's going to come down to the wire again," he said.

Send comments to news@gwhatchet.com

Files misplaced in recycling bin

by Jason Steinhardt and Trevor Martin
Hatchet Staff Writers

More than 250 Elliott School student folders containing sensitive information and marked "confidential trash" turned up in a newspaper recycling bin outside FSK Hall last weekend. But University officials said they are unsure how the records got there.

"I haven't a clue," said Tony Dillard, coordinating manager for General Services. Dillard, who oversees Housekeeping Services, said housekeeping employees pick up sensitive information upon departmental request and dispose of them.

Student records found in the Francis Scott Key dumpster include social security numbers, high school and college transcripts, photocopies of checks with bank account numbers, a list of professors' home addresses, course evaluations, academic advising notes

about students and financial statements for international students. The files' dates are as current as last year and as far back as 1991.

Jim Fry, director of advising at the Elliott School of International Affairs, said his office cleaned out the file room two weeks ago. He said a request was made to pick up the files, but he was unsure when it was made or acted on.

Fry said current student records are locked in a file room, and old files are cleared out every three or four years.

Once the purged files were boxed Feb. 21, he said, they were kept in the Elliott School office suite in Stuart Hall until they were picked up.

"We can vouch for (the files) as long as (they) were in our possession," Fry said. "We went through the normal routine."

Associate Vice President for Academic Planning Craig

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Kicked to the Curb

About 300 confidential ESIA student files were placed in an open 20th St. recycling bin

They include...

- for students who have transferred, withdrawn or graduated:
 - ✓ Original applications
 - ✓ Transcripts
 - ✓ Any type of academic or disciplinary probation
- for students who have transferred out of ESIA:
 - ✓ Social Security numbers on file
 - ✓ E-mails and other correspondence within the Elliott School
- Three files with about 100 course evaluations of current professors
- Several files with bank and checking account numbers

GW investigates generator failure

by Tricia Parker
Hatchet Reporter

GW building officials said failures in New Hall's emergency light system last week were caused by an elevator that malfunctioned before power in the building went out. When power cut off last Wednesday night, exits signs and an elevator emergency call box failed, leaving one student trapped in an elevator and rooms dark for about an hour.

Courtney Flaherty, associate director of Property Management Services, explained that the building's emergency generator started when the power went out at about 10 p.m. Since an elevator circuit was broken by the downed elevator, the generator quit and "denied power to the emergency lighting system," she said.

Walter Gray, director of Facilities Management, said the

problem has been fixed. Maintenance workers have been running tests on the generator all week.

"We've been trying to make sure it doesn't happen again," Gray said.

Gray said his department tests emergency generators in all GW residence halls monthly.

John Petrie, recently-hired assistant vice president for public safety and emergency management, said he did not know about the emergency generator failure, but it "worries" him.

"We'll find out what's going on," he said.

Michael Peller, managing director of business services, said last Friday he would look into the problem. He was unavailable for comment.

Officials said D.C. code does not require buildings built before

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Grant Wernick/senior photo editor

DYNAMIC DUO

Cokie (l.) and Steve Roberts chat with students after discussing Daniel Pearl's death at the Kalb Report Monday night at the National Press Club. Read the story online at www.GWHATCHET.com

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