UASU Candidate Demographics Data
2004 - 2012
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Methodology

Research took place between March and December 2012. Undergraduate researchers used online resources publicly available an internal institutional memory to undertake research on current election results and undergraduate population demographics. The sex of candidates and representatives was based on information maintained in historic and media records and may not reflect the self-identified gender of individual candidates.

Summary

The undergraduate population at the University of Alberta has a greater number of female than male students[1]. In the 18-24 age group, 56% of full-time students are female. Across faculties, there are a greater or approximately equal number of females in each faculty, with the exception of Engineering in which 20% of full-time students are female. When examining the demographic survey results for the University of Alberta Students' Union (UASU), the participation of female candidates for Executive and Students' Council positions is not equal or proportionate to the sex ratio of the student body. In comparison to competitor institutions, this trend is more pronounced at the University of Alberta.

Executive Candidacies

Figure 1. UASU Executive candidates by sex from 2004-2012

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[1] http://www.registrarsoffice.ualberta.ca/General-Information/U-of-A-Facts-and-Stats.aspx
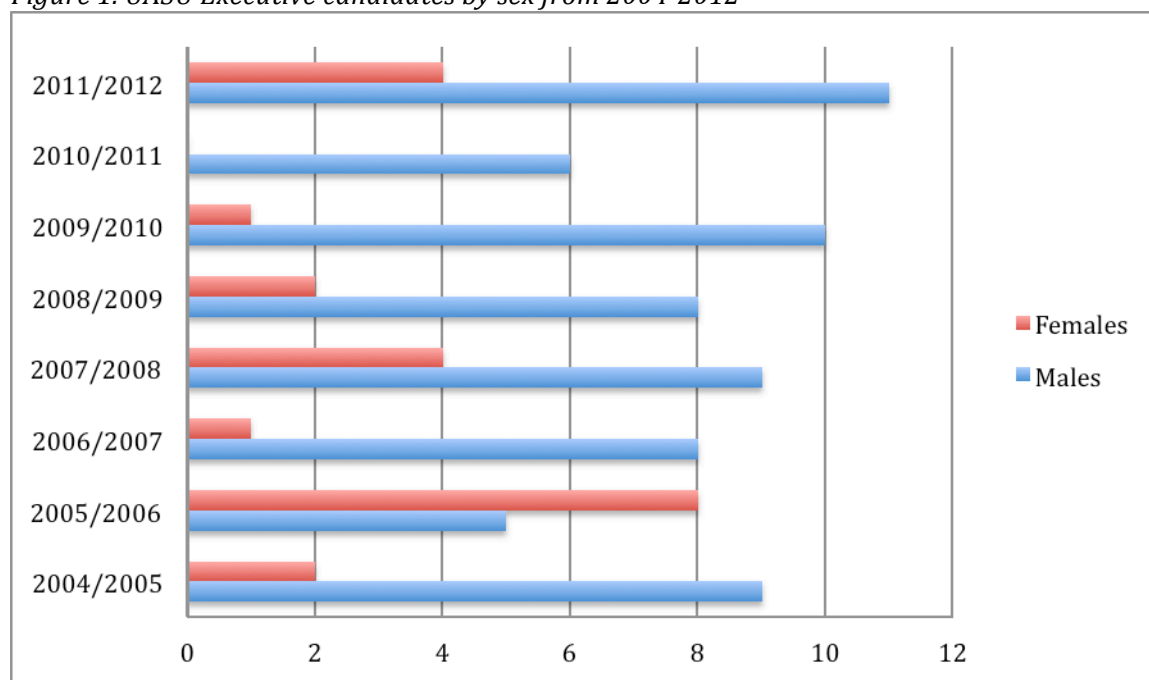
Figure 2. Sex of UASU Executive candidates by position, 2004-2012.

	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Males	9	5	8	9	8	10	6	11
Females	2	8	1	4	2	1	0	4

As illustrated in Figure 1, there are more male than female candidates for executive positions. From 2009-2012 the percentages of male candidacy range from 73-100%. For the entire studied period, they range from 38-100%, with average participation of males being 78%. This trend exists not only in the demographics of candidates that run, but also for candidates that are successfully elected into executive positions. With a few exceptions, a higher proportion of male than female candidates have occupied executive positions. In particular the past three years have elected entirely male executives. For each executive position, there appear to be demographic trends for candidacy. For the positions of President, Vice-President Operations and Finance, and Vice-President Student Life, 75-100% of successful candidates in the past 10 years have been male. In contrast, approximately 55% of successful candidates for the Vice-President Academic and Vice-President External positions have been male.

Overall, during the period spanning 2004-2012, there have been 85 executive candidates. Of those candidates, 22% have been female and 18% of successfully elected candidates have been female. Given 19 female candidates and 7 successfully elected female candidates, there is an attainment rate of 36% for females. In comparison, there is a 45% attainment rate for males.

Figure 3. UASU candidate sex demographics by executive position.

	President		VP Academic		VP External		VP Operations		VP Student Life	
Year of Election	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
2005	5	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1
2006	1	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
2007	2	1	2	0	1	0	2	0	1	0
2008	3	1	2	0	1	1	2	0	1	2
2009	3	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	2	0
2010	3	0	2	0	3	0	1	0	1	1
2011	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0
2012	3	0	2	2	2	1	3	1	1	0

Councilor Candidacies

Demographics for Students' Council historically demonstrated disproportionate representation of males over females. However, in the past two years, the male to female candidacy ratio has been more proportional (although males continue to outnumber female candidates).

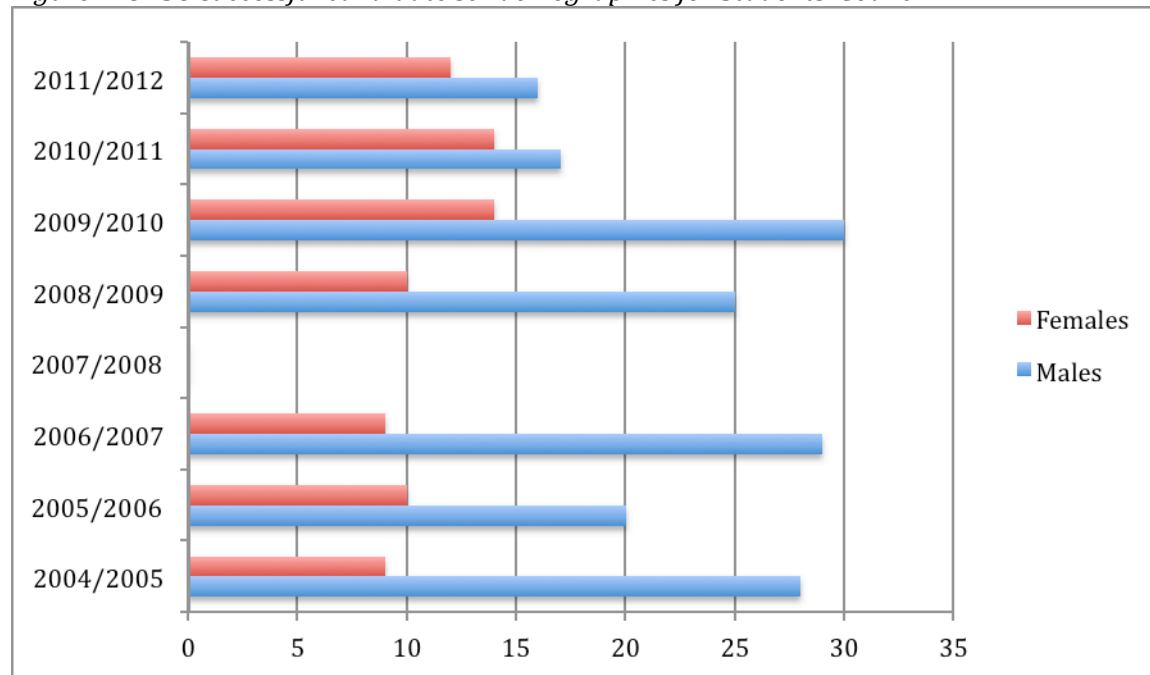*Figure 4. UASU successful candidate sex demographics for Students' Council.*

Figure 5. UASU successful candidate sex demographics for Students' Council.

	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12
Males	28	20	29	unknown	25	30	17	16
Females	9	10	9	unknown	10	14	14	12

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