

March 2008 Voter-Funded Media Contest at Simon Fraser University (SFU)

The contest runs from noon March 1, 2008, through midnight March 31, 2008. Entry period is from noon February 16, 2008, through midnight March 15, 2008. We (the contest administrator[s], which for March 2008 is Mark Latham) may change the entry deadline, making it earlier or later than had been planned or announced.

Any person, group or organization, whether affiliated with SFU or not, may apply to enter the contest, but we reserve the right to deny any application. In particular, we may limit the total number of contestants. We may disallow some contestant names, for example if they are so similar to other names as to be confusing. Contest void where prohibited by law.

Contest entry fee: \$10, non-refundable. At the discretion of the contest administrator[s], the entry fee may be waived for the first 10 entrants with websites showing the contest name and a prominent link to <http://www.votermedia.org/sfu>.

Contestant Entry Form (fax to 604-608-9779, or scan & email to mark[at]votermedia.org, or attach this file to an email with responses in the email text to be binding as a signature)

Applying to enter contest as: (check one)

an individual; OR

a group of people, whose names are _____
_____ ; OR

an organization called _____.

Contestant Name: (to appear on ballot; maximum 64 characters)

Contestant Website URL: (if any; to appear on VoterMedia worksite)

I hereby apply for entry into the March 2008 Voter-Funded Media Contest at Simon Fraser University, and have read and agree to the attached Terms and Conditions, on behalf of myself (if as individual), or on behalf of the group or organization named above which has given me the authority to so apply and agree.

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Print Name of Signer | Signature | Date |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Signer's Email Address | Signer's Phone Number(s) | |

Terms and Conditions

1. We (the contest administrator[s]) may contact you (the signer above) by email and/or phone regarding the contest. If we contact you, you agree to respond.
2. The contest ballot is the Polls section of the VoterMedia worksite available at <http://sakaipilot.sfu.ca/portal> to anyone with an SFU computing ID (instructions at <http://www.votermedia.org/sfu/howtovote.html>).
3. If we accept your entry:
On the ballot and possibly elsewhere, we will show your contestant name, in a layout of our choosing.

On the ballot and/or elsewhere, we may show, in a layout of our choosing:

- your contestant website URL
- your real name
- whether you entered as an individual, a group or an organization
- if you entered a group, the group members' names
- if you entered an organization, the organization's name

4. There are no formal requirements for contestants other than completing this application. They are free to compete in any way they choose (subject to any applicable laws). We use the term "media" based on what we think contestants will do, but we do not actually require contestants to act like media. This contest is designed to benefit the voting community, and many types of benefit are possible. We think contestants will win high ratings by providing such benefits as websites giving insight on important SFU issues, especially issues to be decided by vote. This includes the media contest itself – contestants could publish evaluations of each other.

5. Anyone with an SFU computing ID can access the ballot and vote in the contest. Voters can rate each contestant on a scale of 10 (best) to 0 (worst). Voters are of course free to rate contestants using any criteria they choose. Some people may have more than one SFU computing ID, thus enabling them to vote more than once, but we do not encourage this. The ballot's software platform allows each SFU computing ID to vote once on each contestant. It does not allow revising one's vote after submission. It does not show us which voter made which voting choice.

6. The vote tally (list of total votes so far for each rating on each contestant) may be available linked to the ballot continuously throughout the contest. We will publish the tally soon after the end of the contest, on the web linked from <http://www.votermedia.org/sfu/index.html>.

7. **Vote Aggregation Method: Adjusted Interpolated Median** – The concept of this adjustment is to count each non-vote as half a vote for "0". We will implement this concept as follows:

- (i) Identify the contestant with the most votes received.
- (ii) For each other contestant, add to their votes for a "0" rating a number of votes equal to half the difference between their total votes received and the total votes of the contestant with the most votes received.

We then find the median of each contestant's adjusted ratings, where each vote is interpreted to be distributed uniformly across an interval from 0.5 below the selected rating to 0.5 above the selected rating.

Example calculations are in cells R18 through V18 of the vote tallying spreadsheet posted at <http://www.votermedia.org/sfu/tallyvotes.xls>. We may publish the tally and rankings part way through the contest as well as after the contest ends.

8. **Prizes** will be awarded based on the ranking of contestants' adjusted interpolated medians in the final vote tally at the end of the contest. The contestant with the highest adjusted interpolated median will receive \$200; second highest, \$160; third, \$120; fourth, \$80; fifth, \$40. In the case of ties, those contestants will receive the average of the tied places' awards.

9. Because this contest is a new and developing idea, it involves uncertainty. Many things could turn out differently from our expectations or your expectations. For example:

- (a) information technology systems could malfunction;
- (b) information technology services could be suddenly interrupted;
- (c) the voting process could be corrupted by improper influence or people voting multiple times;
- (d) people may vote in unexpected ways for unexpected reasons;
- (e) voter turnout may be very low;
- (f) contestant could get lower ratings than deserved;
- (g) contestant's reputation could be harmed.

You agree to accept all such risks without recourse.

10. We may reasonably alter or cancel the contest in the event of a technical failure, fraud or other circumstances beyond our control.

11. Because this contest is a new and developing idea, it involves discussion. We may discuss the contest and contestants publicly. We may discuss the goals of creating the contest, and the extent to which specific contestants are or are not serving those goals. Some people may interpret this as our favouring one contestant over others. To explicitly permit such discussions, we reserve the right to favour any contestant over others in our discussions and statements.

12. If there are SFU Voter-Funded Media contests in future months, their terms and conditions may be different from this month's.