Final Report
- PGSS Winter By-election Referendums -

Contents:
Introduction & Purpose
Finance
Timeline
Ballot & Results
Items of Note
Conclusion and Reform

Introduction & Purpose

This document seeks to provide council, executives, and administration documentation and insight of the PGSS 2015 by-elections. Recommendations for regulatory change or standing procedures will be made in the context of a later report to the Policy and Structural Advisory Committee (PSAC).

It is of important note that these by-elections took place during a tumultuous time at PGSS, with the unplanned departure of the Secretary-General and the recent continued membership referendum in the Canadian Federation of Students. As such, these by-elections did not exercise the importance they traditionally do at the society. Furthermore, invoking articles 9:1:1 (Society Actives Manual) and 9:2:2 (SAM - note the word endeavours), the Chief Returning Officer modified certain prescribed timelines, procedures and directives within the discretion granted to this officer.

Finance

Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Budgeted</th>
<th>Paid</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Posters</td>
<td>300</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translation</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Contract translator no longer used. Translation done by CRO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Catering (Debates) 300 464.24
Includes recruitment events. $125 paid to MGSS for debate hosting.
New $100 campaign subsidy.

Candidate Expense 200 50.62
Contract graphic designer no longer used. Admin Coord produced posters.

Graphic Design 150 NA
MCGSS provided debate chairperson

Transportation (Mac) 75 0
Print posters no longer posted across campus.

Poster Distribution 75 0
New OVS carries an annual fee. System was not ready for by-elections.
Old system was purchased flat (no annual fee)

Online Voting System 0 0
Rushed timeline did not permit the use of Facebook advertisements.

Facebook Adverts 80 0
Rushed timeline did not permit the use of an incentive scheme. Student Life Coordinator did not suggest using a voter incentive scheme.

PGSA Incentive Scheme 300 0
Supplies, proofreading, IT, etc. Not needed

Misc 100 0

Total 1780 518.86

NOTE: PGSS Election Budget Line includes CFS referendum expenses.

Candidate Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Expense 1</th>
<th>Expense 2</th>
<th>Expense 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturnin N Ndandala</td>
<td>21.33 (printing) + 7.76 (campaign stickers)</td>
<td>11.49 (campaign picture)</td>
<td>10.04 Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yony Bresler</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Analysis & Suggestions

The allocated budget is more than sufficient to cover the expenses this office needs to occur, barring any extreme circumstances (several contested elections, full referendum teams, etc). It is disappointing that candidates continue to choose not to make use of funds to campaign, despite recent changes extending partial funding to candidates. Perhaps this can be attributed to the lack of competition (or sufficient competition) in elections. As publicity of the nominations is ample, this suggests that members choose not to run due to financial incapacity or time constraints.

Timeline

**Tue 27 Jan 2015**

**All day  Nomination Period : Période de nominations**

Description:
Forms due at 5:00 pm. of the 9th, to the PGSS Administrative Coordinator or via email, before 11:59 pm to the Chief Returning Officer (elections.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca). Formulaires doivent être remis par 17h00, le 9 février, à la coordinatrice des affaires administratives, ou par courriel au Directeur Général des Scrutins (elections.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca)

**Wed 28 Jan 2015**

**16:30 Information Session : Séance d’information**

Where: Thomson House Games Room, Main Floor : Thomson House, Rez-de-chaussé, Pièce des jeux.

Description:
Learn about how to run for PGSS's Executive. Catered with drinks! Apprendre comment devenir un membre d équipe de cadre supérieur de l'AÉCSUM. Des breuvages et hors d'oeuvres sont fournis

**10 Feb 2015**

**18:30 Candidate Training Session : Séance de Formation pour les candidat(e)s**

Where: TBD (Thomson House) À déterminer

Description: Please note this session is required. Veuillez noter que la présence est obligatoire.

**20:00 Downtown Debate : Débat au campus centre ville**

Where: Thomson House Ballroom : Salle de Bal, Thomson House

Description: Attendance is obligatory. Votre présence est obligatoire.

**Wed 11 Feb 2015**

**All day Campaign Period : Période de campagne de vote**

Description:
Candidates may only campaign after attending a candidate information session. Il faut que le(la) candidat(e) ait assisté à la séance de formation des candidat(e)s.
Tue 17 Feb 2015

09:30  MacDonald Campus Debate : Débat au Campus MacDonald
Where: Mac-Stewart Faculty Lounge
Description: Attendance is Obligatory Votre présence est obligatoire

23:00  End of Campaigning : Fin de période de campagne
Description: Campaigning must cease before midnight Il faut s'abstenir de mèner votre campagne de vote après 24h.

Wed 18 Feb 2015

All day  Voting Period : Période de scrutin
Where: Online : (ovs.pgss.mcgill.ca) : En Ligne

Thu 19 Feb 2015

08:30  Expense Deadline

Tue 24 Feb 2015

Last day  Voting Period : Période de scrutin
Where: Online : (ovs.pgss.mcgill.ca), polls closing at 5:00 : En Ligne

Wed 25 Feb 2015

All day
Contestation Period concerning Candidates : Période des plaintes pour les actions des candidat(e)s

All day
Contestation period concerning the byelection in its entirety : Période des plaintes pour l'ensemble de l'élection partielle

Sun 1 Mar 2015

LAST DAY
Contestation Period concerning Candidates : Période des plaintes pour les actions des candidat(e)s

LAST DAY
Contestation period concerning the byelection in its entirety : Période des plaintes pour l'ensemble de l'élection partielle

Mon 2 Mar 2015

All day  Results Confirmed and Officiated : Résultats Officiels
Ballot & Results

Image of Ballot

Voters were presented with the following questions, including the ballot statement (English, French):

This ballot will expire after minutes.

Secretary-General

You may select one of the following choices.
Click on each choice to read supporting statements.

Yorny Breiker

Hi, I’m Yorny Breiker and I’d like to tell you why I’m hoping to gain your vote.

Past experience:
- I have been a member of PGSS Council since 2012. During this time I have actively participated in various aspects of the legislation process, concerning our governance bodies, procedures, activities, and ongoing issues. In particular, I have been involved in the process of drafting, amending and debating motions.
- Outside of PGSS, I’ve served on the physics PGSS as VP social (2012-14), and as the chief returning officer (2014-15). This year I’ve also served on the University Appeal Committee for Student Discipline and Grievances.

The interim position does not afford much time for training, and this experience has given me the knowledge and qualifications to hit the ground running.

Agenda:
I have set out the following objective, which I believe to be realistic given the short term of this interim position:
- The recent disturbance at PGSS has impeded the society from running smoothly. I believe that with greater support and coordination from the secretary-general, we could achieve great things together. I’ve already had some fruitful discussions with our exco about what they wish to accomplish; we have a great team in place, and I look forward to helping them achieve those goals and move forward.
- Transparency, whether it is between our various governing bodies or to our PGSS members is an area I’d like to improve. I propose to achieve this aim by improving regulations, by introducing strict timelines for existing practices, such as the release of minutes, as well as by looking into new methods by which to increase the transparency of PGSS.
- In times of austerity measures and university budget cuts, our priority should be to negotiate with the university administration to preserve our existing student services.

I’m looking forward to this opportunity and I hope I’ll have your vote in this by-election.

Sincerely
-Yorny Breiker

No Opinion

Sukumal Mandal

My manifesto consists of:

1. Standing for the implementation of a funding minima for all postgraduate students
2. Restructuring the organizational management of the PGSS for an efficient transparency
3. Promoting pairing and mentorship between Canadian and international students
4. Fighting against sexual harassment on campus through campaign awareness and ethical programs
5. Organizing fundraising programs with the private sector in order to increment the PGSS’ budget
Scrutin électronique

ce scrutin expira au bout de minutes.

Sécretaire Général

Vous pouvez sélectionner un des choix suivants.
cliquez sur les choix pour lire les déclarations de motivation.

Tony Bresler
Bonjour, je m'appelle Tony Bresler, et j'aimerais vous expliquer pourquoi je mérite votre vote.

Expérience :
- Je suis membre du conseil de l'AÉCUM depuis 2012. Durant cette période, j'ai activement pris part à plusieurs aspects gérant la société, y compris la législation, la direction, les événements et bien plus. Je me suis aussi impliqué dans le processus de rédaction, d'amendement et de débat des éléments du conseil.


Le poste est à intérêt ne permet pas beaucoup de temps pour la formation mais je suis convaincu que l'ensemble de mes expériences passées m'ont donné la capacité et les compétences nécessaires pour remplir mes tâches, et ce, dès le début de mon mandat.

Plan :
Voici les buts que je me suis fixé, réalistement, étant donné le court terme de cette poste ;

- Le désordre récent à l'AÉCUM a entraîné au fonctionnement de la société. Après quelques conversations productives avec les membres de notre gouvernement, j'aimerais accomplir, croisant vraiment que le soutien du secrétaire général, nous pourrons atteindre ensemble nos objectifs et réaliser de grandes choses. Nous avons une équipe formidable, et je hâte de les aider dans l'événement de la société.

- Améliorer la transparence à tous les niveaux (soit entre nos conseils de gouvernement ou entre nos membres et) afin d'atteindre cet objectif, je propose que l'AÉCUM renforce et améliore ces règles, adopte des règles plus strictes pour les prêts-voisins et étendre la recherche sur d'autres moyens pour améliorer la transparence de la société.

- Aussi, dans le climat actuel des mesures d'assurance de Gouvernement et les coupures budgétaires de McGill notre priorité devrait être la protection des services des étudiants en place.

J'attends avec impatience cette opportunité et j'espère obtenir votre vote !

Sens Opinion
Saturnin Mandala
Mon manifeste :

1 – L'adoption d'un taux minimum de financement pour tous(les) étudiant(e)s de troisième cycle.

2 – Restructuration dans la gestion de l'AÉCUM afin de rendre la société plus efficace et transparente.

3 – Elaboration d'un programme de mentor entre étudiant(e)s canadien(ne)s et étudiant(e)s internationaux.

4 – Lutter contre le harcèlement sexuel à McGill par le biais des campagnes de sensibilisation et de programmes de formation éthiques.

5 – Organiser une collecte de fonds, en collaboration avec le secteur privé, pour augmenter les fonds de l'AÉCUM.
Results

Secretary-General

Saturnin Ndandala 282 (29.0)%
No Opinion 147 (15.1)%
Yony Bresler 541 (55.5)%
No Opinion 4 (0.4)%
TOTAL: 974

Note: The second no opinion option is the result of a system error dividing French and English No Opinion votes. In all communications, the votes in this category were merged in with the first No Opinion category.

Participation by department - programme - faculty:

Parameters: Cumulative - All polls Votes Percent of Fac. Percent of Tot.
Agricultural Economics: 0 of 13 0.0% 0.0%
Air and Space Law: 3 of 28 10.7% 0.0%
Anaesthesia: 1 of 3 33.3% 0.0%
Anatomy and Cell Biology: 7 of 40 17.5% 0.1%
Animal Science: 1 of 15 6.7% 0.0%
Anthropology: 3 of 52 5.8% 0.0%
Architecture: 17 of 104 16.3% 0.2%
Art History & Communications: 9 of 81 11.1% 0.1%
Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences: 8 of 60 13.3% 0.1%
Biochemistry: 22 of 150 14.7% 0.3%
Biology: 39 of 176 22.2% 0.5%
Biomedical Engineering: 11 of 90 12.2% 0.1%
Bioresource Engineering: 16 of 140 11.4% 0.2%
Career & Professional Develop: 0 of 2 0.0% 0.0%
Chemical Engineering: 19 of 114 16.7% 0.2%
Chemistry: 27 of 189 14.3% 0.3%
Civil Engineering: 16 of 141 11.3% 0.2%
Commun Sciences & Disorders: 8 of 76 10.5% 0.1%
Comparative Law: 1 of 9 11.1% 0.0%
Computer Science: 24 of 171 14.0% 0.3%
Dentistry: 10 of 87 11.5% 0.1%
Diagnostic Radiology: 0 of 2 0.0% 0.0%
Dietetics & Human Nutr: 9 of 86 10.5% 0.1%
Earth & Planetary Sciences: 6 of 52 11.5% 0.1%
East Asian Studies: 2 of 19 10.5% 0.0%
Economics: 8 of 56 14.3% 0.1%
Educational&Counselling Psych: 14 of 321 4.4% 0.2%
Electrical & Computer Engr: 37 of 357 10.4% 0.5%
English: 5 of 85 5.9% 0.1%
Epidemiology and Biostatistics: 24 of 163 14.7% 0.3%
Family Medicine: 6 of 33 18.2% 0.1%
Food Science&Agr.Chemistry: 4 of 94 4.3% 0.0%
French Language & Literature: 6 of 54 11.1% 0.1%
Geography: 11 of 71 15.5% 0.1%
History and Classical Studies: 15 of 101 14.9% 0.2%
Human Genetics: 19 of 127 15.0% 0.2%
Information Studies: 44 of 220 20.0% 0.5%
Ingram School of Nursing: 17 of 125 13.6% 0.2%
Institute for Study of Canada: 0 of 1 0.0% 0.0%
Integrated Studies in Ed: 37 of 479 7.7% 0.5%
Islamic Studies: 4 of 32 12.5% 0.0%
Jewish Studies: 0 of 9 0.0% 0.0%
Kinesiology and Physical Ed: 4 of 52 7.7% 0.0%
Language & Intercultural Comm.: 0 of 5 0.0% 0.0%
Languages, Literatures, Cultures: 6 of 40 15.0% 0.1%
Law: 16 of 123 13.0% 0.2%
Linguistics: 2 of 24 8.3% 0.0%
Management: 22 of 331 6.6% 0.3%
Mathematics and Statistics: 16 of 96 16.7% 0.2%
Medical Physics Unit: 2 of 16 12.5% 0.0%
Medicine: 32 of 382 8.4% 0.4%
Microbiology & Immunology: 11 of 83 13.3% 0.1%
Mineral & Materials Engineering: 32 of 189 16.9% 0.4%
Music: 18 of 277 6.5% 0.2%
Natural Resource Sciences: 14 of 100 14.0% 0.2%
Neurology and Neurosurgery: 4 of 63 6.3% 0.0%
Neuroscience, Integrated Pgm: 50 of 328 15.2% 0.6%
Obstetrics & Gynecology: 0 of 1 0.0% 0.0%
Oncology: 1 of 19 5.3% 0.0%
Ophthalmology: 0 of 9 0.0% 0.0%
Otolaryngology Head/Neck Surg.: 0 of 19 0.0% 0.0%
Parasitology: 6 of 77 7.8% 0.1%
Pathology: 0 of 8 0.0% 0.0%
Pediatrics: 0 of 5 0.0% 0.0%
Pharmacology and Therapeutics: 6 of 69 8.7% 0.1%
Philosophy: 8 of 38 21.1% 0.1%
Physical and Occupational Therapy: 12 of 269 4.5% 0.1%
Physics: 76 of 187 40.6% 0.9%
Physiology: 11 of 71 15.5% 0.1%
Plant Science: 9 of 54 16.7% 0.1%
Political Science: 9 of 87 10.3% 0.1%
Psychiatry: 8 of 96 8.3% 0.1%
Psychology: 15 of 77 19.5% 0.2%
Religious Studies: 7 of 64 10.9% 0.1%
Social Studies of Medicine: 0 of 4 0.0% 0.0%
Social Work: 14 of 151 9.3% 0.2%
Sociology: 5 of 54 9.3% 0.1%
Surgery: 14 of 114 12.3% 0.2%
Urban Planning: 8 of 63 12.7% 0.1%
TOTAL: 974 of 8,136 12.0%
Voter Turnout by Time

Items of Note

1) Candidate Saturnin - Candidate Statement

As per the below email thread, Candidate Saturnin alleged the CRO failed to properly include his candidate statement on the Online Voting System (OVS). While this candidate did not file a contestation, it is worth noting, for the sake of transparency, the details of this complaint:

RE: Voting Now Open
PGSS Chief Returning Officer
To:
Saturnin Espoir Ntamba Ndandala
Wednesday, February 18, 2015 11:13 AM

Hi Saturnin
Once the ballot is online, the system does not permit me to modify it. Also, as per the standing regulations, I cannot accept any changes to the write-ups after the deadlines. I know now that you wished to have the entire document on the ballot, but given the phrasing in the document you gave me, I have to consider my actions correct.

All this being said, here is what I propose: I will include in the reminder emails to people who have not voted the ENTIRE write-up. I normally do not do this, but the rules do permit me to include that if I wish.

I have also put the entire write-up on the website.

Thanks

Cheers,

Colby Briggs

PGSS - Chief Returning Officer
AÉCSUM - Directeur Général des Scrutins

Please note, the contents of this email are, unless specified as otherwise, intended only for the named recipient(s). Kindly treat them as confidential.

Ce courriel est une communication confidentielle et l’information qu’il contient est réservée à l’usage exclusif du(des) destinataire(s). Merci

________________________________________
From: Saturnin Espoir Ntamba Ndandala
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 2:29 PM
To: PGSS Chief Returning Officer
Subject: RE: Voting Now Open

Thus, could you also add the first part in my manifesto? There was a miscomprehension.

________________________________________
From: PGSS Chief Returning Officer
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 12:22 PM
To: Saturnin Espoir Ntamba Ndandala
Subject: RE: Voting Now Open

Hi Saturnin

You said in the request that your 350 word statement was exclusively the manifesto. Only the 350 word statement is put on the ballot. I have highlighted this from the document you submitted.
700 words statement:
I’m a PhD student and a member of McGill’s Policy Committee. Through my leadership as the ex-President of the Univ of Cape Town’s Student Society, Chairman of the NDP at the Univ of Toronto, a Fundraiser for Rotary Inter and a Campaign member of President Francois Hollande’s 2012 election, I’ve proven to be a pragmatic and a charismatic leader with a great sense of transparency, humility and responsibility. Regarding my academic achievement, my research papers have been accepted in international conferences held in prestigious institutions such as Harvard University. In addition to that, I’ve a M.A in Religion (Univ of Toronto-Trinity College), M.Sc in Management (Sorbonne Univ), M.A Sociology (Sorbonne Univ) and a B.Sc Hons in Economic Devpt.

350 words statement: My manifesto consists of:
1-Standing for the implementation of a funding minima for all postgraduate students
2-Restructuring the organizational management of the PGSS for an efficient transparency
3-Promoting pairing and mentorship between Canadian and international students
4-Fighting against sexual harassment on campus through campaign awareness and ethical programs
5-Organizing fundraising programs with the private sector in order to increment the PGSS’ budget

Colby Briggs
PGSS - Chief Returning Officer
AÉCSUM - Directeur Général des Scrutins

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From: Saturnin Espoir Ntamba Ndandala
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 12:08 PM
To: PGSS Chief Returning Officer
Subject: RE: Voting Now Open

Yes, but you haven't included the first part. Check my ballot, you will see the mistake.
From: PGSS Chief Returning Officer
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 11:13 AM
To: Saturnin Espoir Ntamba Ndandala
Subject: RE: Voting Now Open

Morning

This is the document you provided me with:

700 words statement:
I’m a PhD student and a member of McGill’s Policy Committee. Through my leadership as the ex-President of the Univ of Cape Town’s Student Society, Chairman of the NDP at the Univ of Toronto, a Fundraiser for Rotary Inter and a Campaign member of President Francois Hollande’s 2012 election, I’ve proven to be a pragmatic and a charismatic leader with a great sense of transparency, humility and responsibility. Regarding my academic achievement, my research papers have been accepted in international conferences held in prestigious institutions such as Harvard University. In addition to that, I’ve a M.A in Religion (Univ of Toronto-Trinity College), M.Sc in Management (Sorbonne Univ), M.A Sociology (Sorbonne Univ) and a B.Sc Hons in Economic Devpt.

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5- Organizing fundraising programs with the private sector in order to increment the PGSS’ budget

I copied directly the 350 word statement onto the ballot as per your directions. Yony requested more information be included on his ballot.

I hope this clears things up.

Cheers,

Colby Briggs

PGSS - Chief Returning Officer
AÉCSUM - Directeur Général des Scrutins
My only concern is that you have omitted to include all my information such as my leadership trajectory or experience. At the same, for Yoni every thing has been included. This is unfair and I would to present an objection.

Best

Saturnin

Good Morning

Voting for the 2014 - 2015 Interim Secretary-General Elections is now open.

Please take a few moments to cast your ballot at:

https://ovs.pgss.mcgill.ca/

A short candidate statement is included on the ballot. Polls close next Tuesday at 5:00 pm.

Thank you

Colby Briggs
Please note, the contents of this email are, unless specified as otherwise, intended only for the named recipient(s). Kindly treat them as confidential.

As per the previous email thread, it is evident the candidate failed to follow the directions regarding statement submission. Nevertheless, CRO attempted to palliate this error using alternative publicity. Given the results of the election, it is unlikely that the statement would have altered the results.

2) Candidate Saturnin - Prejudicially Misleading

Several individuals emailed the CRO to raise concerns with what they felt to be ludicrous or inconsistent statements made by this candidate with respect to his education and professional experiences. An official contestation was never filed. Nevertheless, as per the governance committee ruling (Election Reference 2013), the CRO may undertake an investigation for any reason. With respect to the case at hand, of note, members and staff alleged the following statements were claimed by Mr. Ndandala:

- Being the former President of University of Cape Town’s Student Association
- Being the former President of University of Toronto’s NDP Association
- Completing a Master’s degree in under six months (Sorbonne - Management)
- Completing a Master’s degree in under a year (Sorbonne - Sociology)
- Obtaining a Master’s degree in Religious Studies (University of Toronto)
- Working as a full-time religious leader (pastor) during a number of years
- Attempting to garner political sympathy from alleging having suffered from a terminal cancer
- Founding a NGO (IvoteCanada)
- Working on a PhD in Education (at McGill)
- Working on a PhD in Management and Higher Education (at McGill)
- Being a guest speaker at Harvard on multiple occasions
- Wishing to limit the rights of homosexuals and women in the social sphere
- Being an active member on PGSS council and committees
After extensive research, this office was able to confirm that Mr. Ndandala was indeed present at the aforementioned universities. This being said, we were unable to confirm his current education at McGill (but can confirm his student status and PGSS membership), nor any of his past experience working in the non-profit or student sector, apart from some political involvement in France. We could not confirm that he had obtained a management degree. We were able to confirm he was personally invited to Harvard for a symposium; however, it is unknown if this event was sponsored by the institution or if Mr. Ndandala was a keynote speaker. Lastly, it was eventually confirmed that Mr. Ndaldala was a new member of PSAC. Further campaigning clarified this.

It is further worth noting that Mr. Ndandala has absolutely no internet presence, in any variation of his name. This includes a complete absence of social media presence, and no record on google beyond recent PGSS involvement.

The PGSS Researcher was contracted to investigate the validity of Mr. Ndandala’s statements. After reviewing all available evidence, this employee concluded that no documented evidence could demonstrate inconsistencies in this candidate’s statements. As no official contestation was filed, and as few enumerated allegations could be confirmed to be attributed to Mr. Ndandala, the Elections Office did not pursue this issue. He is to be considered without fault and innocent of all allegations unless later proven otherwise. The deadline for contestations has since long passed, and cannot be retroactively opened.

**Conclusion & Reform**

This election was, relative to past elections, relatively uneventful. The only notable item that can be taken away from this election is a reminder that the office of the CRO does not have at its disposal sufficient resources to research certain allegations made during campaigning. This is a systemic failing that cannot be formally resolved without extensive and unreasonable spending. Indeed, it would be unthinkable that the PGSS allocate funding to sufficiently verify candidate statements to the extent that some parties may wish it be done. The CRO is not a private investigator. This being said, PSAC may wish to impose the burden of proof for campaign statements on the candidates in question. Furthermore, it may be useful to remind future parties to document any campaign statements they feel as being extraordinary during the course of the elections.

Thank you

- Colby Briggs
  PGSS Chief Returning Officer