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Harvard elects 'joke ticket' as president, vice pres. of student government

Posted by Matt Rocheleau November 22, 2013 05:01 PM

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(Clark-Mayopoulos campaign / Facebook)

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Harvard University students this week elected a so-called “joke ticket” as president and vice president of the school’s student government.

Running on a “You Could Do Worse” campaign slogan and promises of more tomato basil ravioli soup and thicker toilet paper, Harvard juniors and roommates Sam Clark and Gus Mayopoulos received about 43 percent of the 3,181 votes cast, beating out two other tickets with more serious agendas, according to the Harvard Crimson student newspaper.

In a statement on the Clark-Mayopoulos campaign’s well-‘Liked’ [Facebook page](#), the victors paused briefly to contemplate their suprising win.

“...really?,” the statement begins.

“Guys. We technically can’t yet, but as soon as we can, we hereby resign the offices of President and Vice-President of the Harvard Undergraduate Council.”

During their short-lived political push, the self-described “visionaries” and best friends promised students they would “ask the tough questions, like: what happened to Dean Evelynn Hammonds? She’s coming back, right?” and “When do normal shuttles stop and party shuttles start? Like. Existentially,” the Facebook page says.

“We’re also here to tackle the tough issues, like divesting from gender-neutral weekend shuttles and investing in immigration reform and not having water bottles anymore. We want to tackle fossil fuels and cheating scandals and hook-up culture,” the campaign wrote on its Facebook page. “We want to expand the endowment, shrink our carbon footprint, and probably do something about final clubs.”

“But most importantly, we’re here to represent you, the Harvard students, and your cross-registered voices, the MIT students. We want to hear what you want.”

Still, [the comedic duo](#) expressed that their effort aimed to highlight at least one serious issue: “Let’s face it: the UC needs fresh ideas.”

According to the Crimson, the council will move forward with plans to inaugurate Clark and Mayopoulos on Dec. 8. If either refuse to be inaugurated or if they immediately resign afterward, the council will vote to fill the positions at that same meeting, in accordance with council bylaws.

The other two tickets that ran in this week’s election were juniors [C.C. Gong and Sietse Goffard](#) and juniors [Chika-Dike O. Nwokike and Una Kim](#), the Crimson said. All four have served on the council before.

The Gong-Goffard ticket collected 155 fewer votes than the winning team, or about 38 percent of the total vote this week, while the Nwokike-Kim ticket received 18 percent of the vote.

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at mjrochele@gmail.com. Looking for more coverage of area colleges and universities? Go to our [Your Campus pages](#).

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