

Decision CSU 2022 #4 Re: False Endorsements & Slating

The attached complaint was received as timely and met all the requirements of an official complaint under the CSU regulations. The complaint alleges the candidates Manpreet Kaur used wording that created a possible perception of endorsement from the CSU. Furthermore, the complaint states that the candidates were both supported by an Instagram account (capilano\_confession) and were also seen helping each other during the campaign.

The complaint requests I disqualify the candidates for the alleged infractions. I have allowed for both candidates in question to respond to the allegations.

CSU Procedure BD-06.1 states:

The following forms of campaigning are prohibited: ... (e) using the logo of the Capilano Students' Union, Capilano University, or a national or provincial student organization, or of any of their services, divisions, departments, or student groups, so as to suggest an organization's endorsement of the candidate's campaign;

The posters in question do not use the logos of the CSU or Capilano University, but use the words Capilano Students' Union. This is not a violation of the CSU procedures and in fact, I state explicitly during the candidate orientation that candidates may use the words "Capilano Students' Union". Indeed, if there was a very specific phrase that gave the average reader the notion that the candidate was endorsed by the CSU, this would be deemed a violation, but I don't believe the phrase "Capilano Student's Union invites you to Elections 2022" provides any sense of an endorsement.

CSU Bylaws Section VIII, Para 14 states:

Slates shall not be allowed in any elections to the Board.

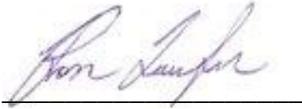
CSU Procedure BD-06.1 states:

Pursuant to the bylaws, slates of candidates and slate-like behaviour by candidates, real or apparent, are prohibited. Each candidate must run an independent campaign for election, and candidates must not share campaign resources or expenses. A "slate", in these rules, means two or more candidates who run together for elected offices for mutual advantage.

The complainant also suggests that Manpreet and Jashan were helping each other during the campaign, however the complaint provide no evidence to this end.

Given the above, this complaint is dismissed.

I note that the complainant has 48 hours from the time they receive this decision to submit an appeal in the manner set forth in CSU Regulation BD-06.1.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ron Laufer", is written above a solid horizontal line.

Ron Laufer  
CSU Election Administrator

## **Official Complaint and most pertinent other unofficial complaints**

Complaint Date: 3/18/2022 0:22:27

Complainant: Alea Rzeplinski

When issue occurred: 3/17/2022

Candidate: Jashan Brar and Manpreet Kaur

Complaint: Unofficial Capilano University branded account posting election material for select candidates that were seen helping each other during election campaigning. Additionally on Manpreet's poster it states that "Capilano Student's Union invites you to", which creates a false endorsement from the Capilano Students' Union regarding the candidate in question.

Resolution requested: Disqualification



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**RESPONSE FROM JASHAN BRAR**

**Jashan Preet Singh Brar**

Mon, Mar 21,  
11:23 PM

to me

Hi Ron,

I hope you are doing well.

I would like to highlight that the 'Unofficial Capilano University branded account' is an independent account that I do not have any control over. The administrator of that account is an unknown identity. Any post that was posted by this unofficial account was posted solely at their own discretion. I did not approach the unofficial Capilano university branded account to post or mislead the students on my behalf. This is something beyond my control. Also, the complainant says that "select candidates were seen helping each other during election campaigning." This statement is completely vague without any supporting evidence or proof.

*Additionally on Manpreet's poster it states that "Capilano Student's Union invites you to", which creates a false endorsement from the Capilano Students' Union regarding the candidate in question.*

Unfortunately, I cannot speak for somebody. The potential candidate may serve you with an answer.

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**RESPONSE FROM MANPREET KAUR**

No response