

Decision CSU 2022 #2 Re: Slating and Logo Violation

The attached complaint was received as timely and met all the requirements of an official complaint under the CSU regulations. The complaint alleges slating between candidates Lohit Goyal and Karandeep Singh as well as the unauthorized use of the CSU logo on Karandeep Singh's campaign material.

The complaint requests I make an investigation into the matter. I have allowed for both candidates in question to respond to the allegations and have noted other similar allegations published in the Capilano Courier.¹

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.

Indeed, on the face of the matter, these two posters look extremely similar, with the same colour scheme, font, and much of the layout. However, as acknowledged, the posters were retrieved from a common template program called "Canva" and this particular template was the first to show when I searched "election campaign".

The respondents did agree that they used the same template, but not on purpose and both highlight that there were a number of differences between their use of the template, though there was acknowledgement that they didn't change some of the original template wording.

The article in the Capilano Courier describes a few other similarities between various campaigns, such as various campaigns using a "hole in one" golf emoji as well as a reporting on tips that a few students saw some candidates campaigning together. This may be true and there could be a connection between all these elements, which could be slating, but without greater evidence, I'm simply unable to determine that slating did occur.

However, a separate complaint was received (Complaint #3), not about slating, but about the unauthorized use of the Capilano University logo. It included a screenshot of an Instagram post that was shared by Lohit (see Appendix 1). This post was created by an individual supporting both Lohit and Jashan. This post, in and of itself is a clear example

¹ See: <http://www.capilanocourier.com/2022/03/17/csu-executive-candidates-slate-like-behaviour/> Last accessed March 24, 2022

of slating. While Lohit did not create the post that campaigns for both Jashan Brar and Lohit, Lohit did choose to amplify it by reposting it. I repeated on numerous occasions during the candidate orientation meeting that slating is taken very seriously and is a serious offence. While looking at the evidence of concerns regarding possible slating together with this clear example of slating in Appendix 1, I have no choice but to disqualify candidate Lohit Goyal. I do not have sufficient evidence to do the same for Karandeep Singh.

Regarding the allegation that Karandeep Singh used the CSU logo in an unauthorized manner on his campaign material.

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;

It is plain and obvious that Karandeep used the CSU logo on his Instagram profile and he admits to the fact. This is a violation of the above-mentioned campaign procedures. Indeed, I did issue warnings to a few other candidates that made the same kind of violation and required them to remove them immediately, but I was not made aware of each of the candidates' violations. Given the fact that I've only been made aware of this violation after the election has been completed, I will not issue any sanction at all as I don't believe this infraction had an impact on the results of the election.

Given the above, this portion of the complaint is dismissed.

I note that the complainant and respondents have 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 blue ink, appearing to read "Ron Laufer", is written over a horizontal line.

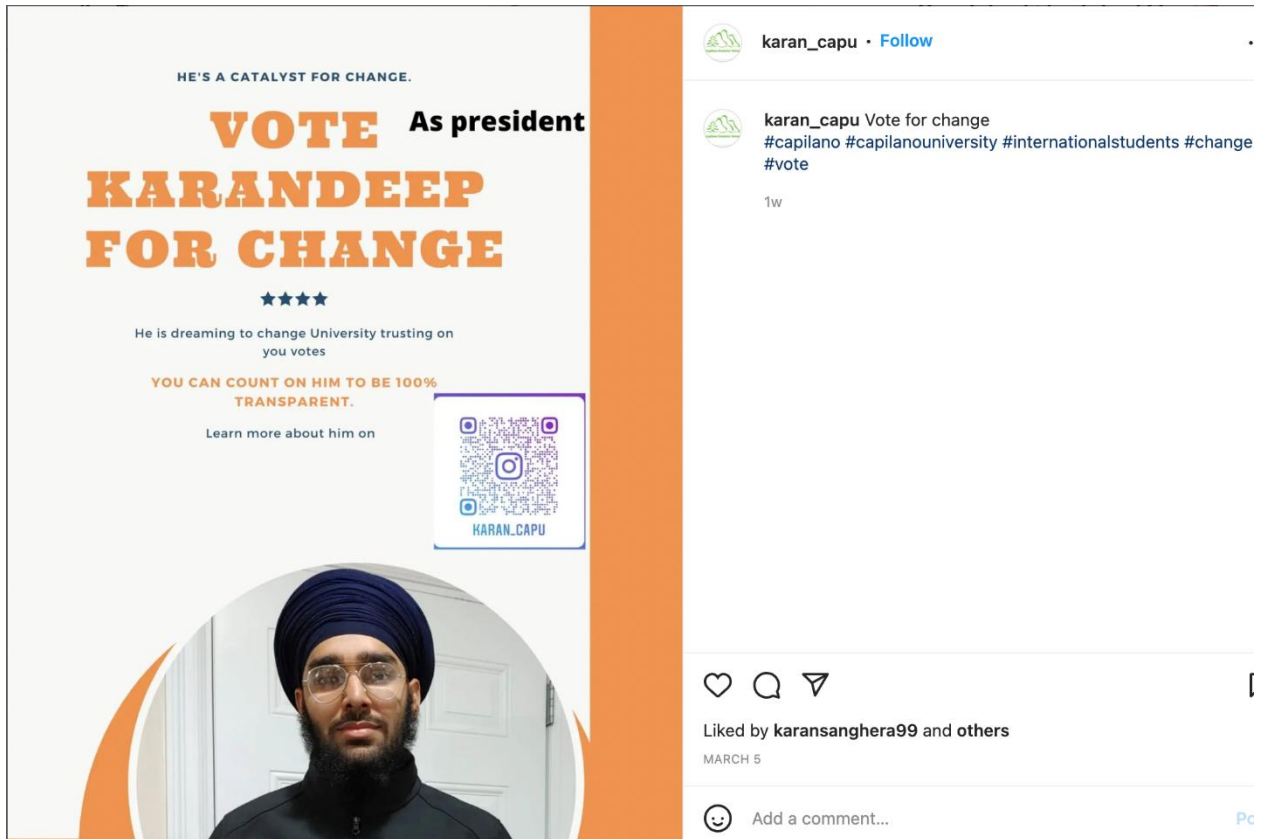
Ron Laufer
CSU Election Administrator

APPENDIX 1



Official Complaint and most pertinent other unofficial complaints

Complaint Date: 3/17/2022 18:41:54
Complainant: Mariana Sanchetta Lomelino
When issue occurred: 3/17/2022
Candidate: Karandeep Singh and Lohit Goyal
Complaint: Slating. Both candidates are using exactly the same visual identity on their campaign they are also using the same slogan. Karandeep also used the CSU logo on his instagram campaign without authorization.
Resolution requested: Slating is against the elections bylaws and should be addressed as such. I would like an investigation about this possible slating.





RESPONSE FROM LOHIT GOYAL

I see that the complainant has mentions the use of exactly same posters and slogan for campaign.

I would like to highlight the similarities and dissimilarities of both the posters. The red highlights are

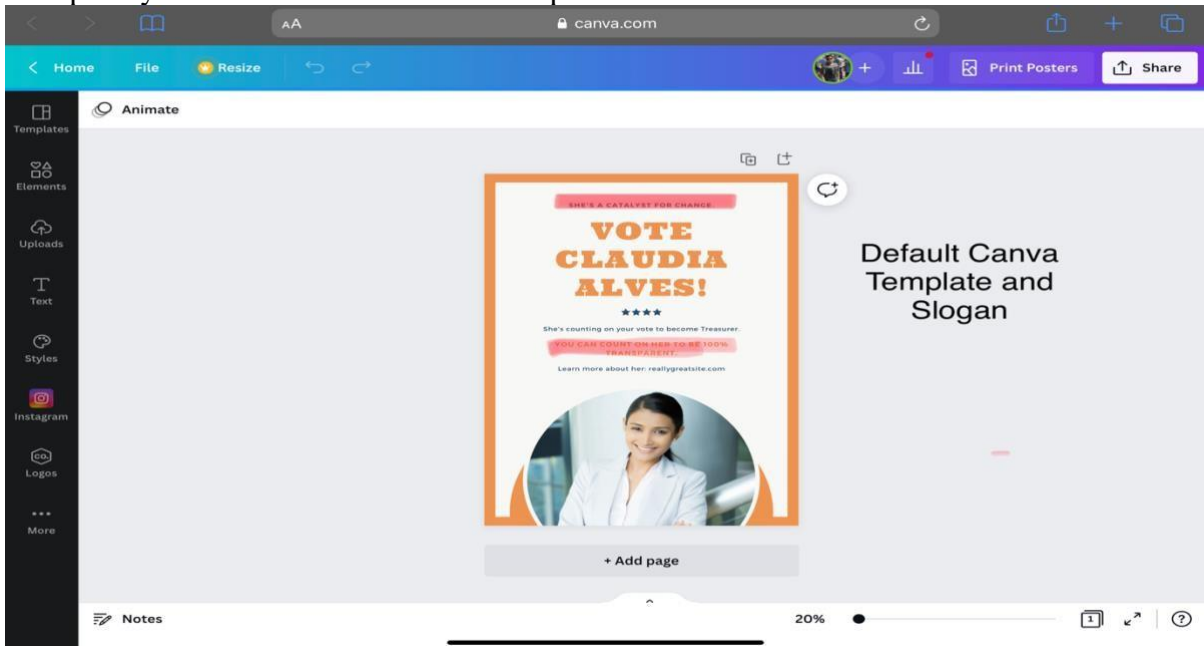


the only two similarities to be seen in the posters.

Similarity	Dissimilarity
Similar H3 header	Border layout
	Mention of voting period
	Placement of the picture
	IG username instead of QR code
	Different H1 header
	Different H2 header

As you can see that 98% of the poster is different based on the table above. For the 2% of the similarities that the complainant has mentioned as 'use of similar slogan'. I would like to highlight that this template has been picked up from an open source called Canva and the 'similar' slogan is a default template of Canva. The H3 slogan has not been brainstormed by me or the candidate, it has been picked up by default from the template (Original template below). I chose to leave the H3 slogan as default as it fit well with my overall poster strategy. I cannot speak for any other candidate but this was my reason to leave the default template slogan on my poster. Again Canva is an open web resource and it allows anyone to use their templates. Please refer to the Canva Original Template for the similar slogan.

Also please note that the poster on the billboards and the one used on social media is completely different for me and the other potential candidate.



[Canva Poster](#)

RESPONSE FROM KARANDEEP SINGH

to me

Hello Ron

First thing first, I made and posted this poster way earlier than Lohit Goyal so I hope it's clear that I did not copy from him. Next, it is just a template that I used from canvas application and anyone can copy from the application. I am providing you with images of the posters where the date is clearly mentioned that I posted that poster on 5th March and he posted the poster on 7th March. So I think in this case Lohit would be guilty for copying my format and it's not my fault as anyone can form the same poster using such applications. This can never mean it's slating, because if someone copies my poster and my opponent candidate files a complaint against me it's silly. Sorry to say, but this doesn't make any sense to me. Then I would like to point that I did not print this poster or distribute it anywhere.

Secondly, they pointed out that I used the CSU logo. Firstly, I didn't use any logo on my poster, I used one on my profile photo and I also set that on 4th March and I didn't receive any complaints or warning from your side. As many candidates got warning for using logo on their poster, but no one pointed me out so I didn't think it was such an issue. Other than that, I think if this is an offense then I should have also received a warning mail from your side like many other candidates received.

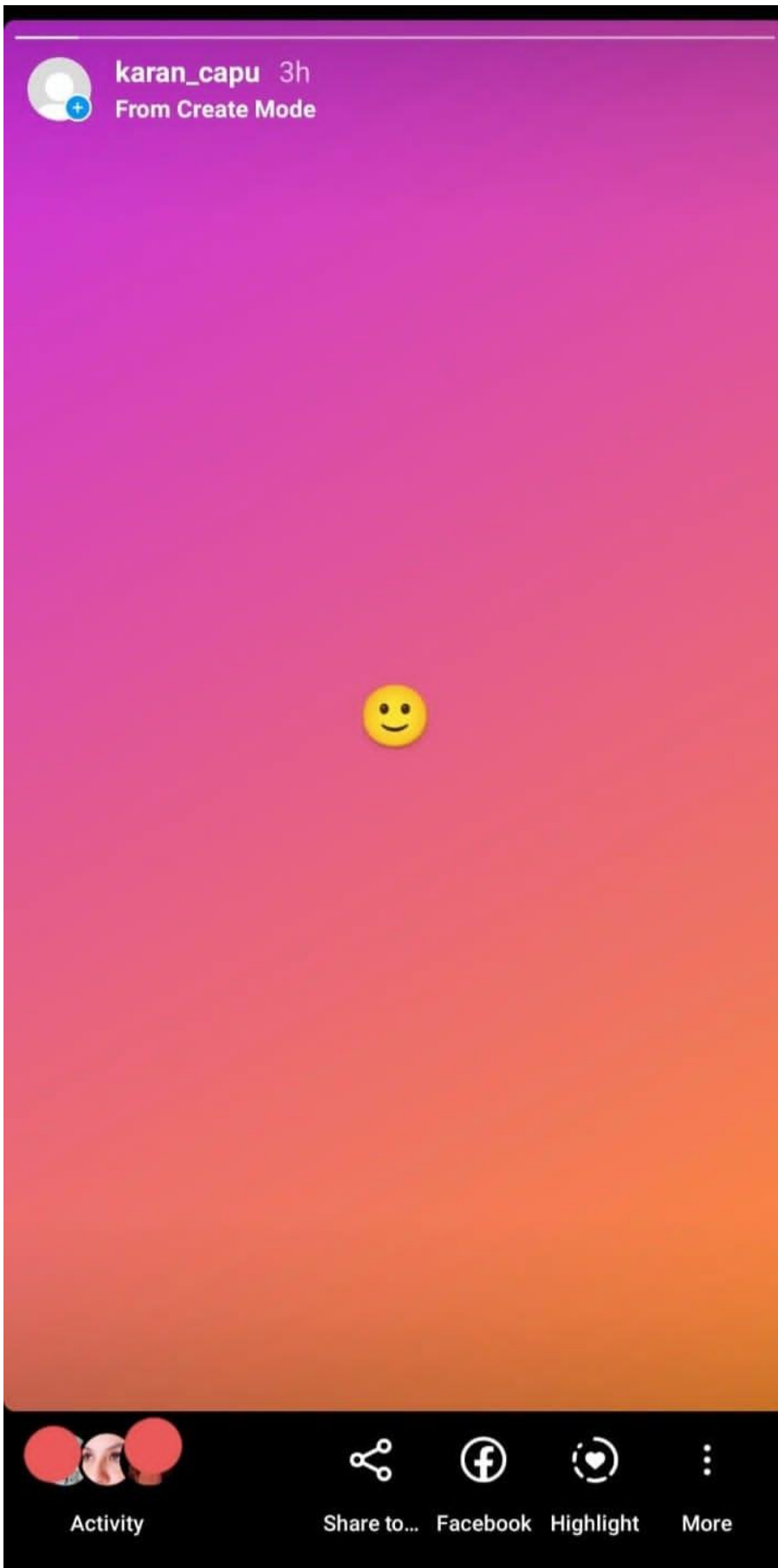
Now I really want to put your attention towards what is happening in reality. It's really disappointing to see such a rivalry attitude from my opponent as they just pointed my mistake after losing the election not before that. To stop such things from happening in the future I request you to put the complaint period for a while right after the voting period ends but just before the election results are declared. I really hope no other student has to go through such events just for standing and winning in the elections.

I respect that Maia really did good for everyone and for the university during their term. But now I feel that they are really misusing the power they had. They are using Capilano courier (website) to prove something wrong about me. They used my photos on their website without informing me, they are openly defaming my name in public using that platform and Maia and the chief editor of Capilano courier (Alisha Samnani) are spying my social media accounts or any other activity. They are even posting everything on their articles which I think is illegal as they don't have any right to spy at one's life and post one's life information at any open source without getting consent from them. I am shocked and don't know whether chief editor of the newspaper doesn't know this or does she just continue to practice this even after knowing the law. All these situations lead to disturbance of my mental health and I am having many problems in my daily life due to that. They openly defamed me in public without having any confirmed evidence and I would say this is mental harassment.

I really wanted to take legal action against these two but after thinking that this is university's matter I changed my mind and want to inform you about these political tricks played by them. I don't want to effect university's reputation because of the actions of these two, so I hope you will be concerned about their activities. I am providing all attachments that proves that these two are playing together and spying at me.

So that's all to say, I have cleared everything in front of you and will respect whatever your decision will be.

Candidate Karandeep Singh





capilanocourier 20h



Paid for by Maia Lomelino

Capilano Students' Union President

VOTE MAIA

- Students Rights advocacy
- Food Security
- Host Nations relations
- Improve communications
- Showcase the work of the CSU
- Equity, Diversity, Justice and Accessible Education
- Keep Improving University relations
- Raise student's voices



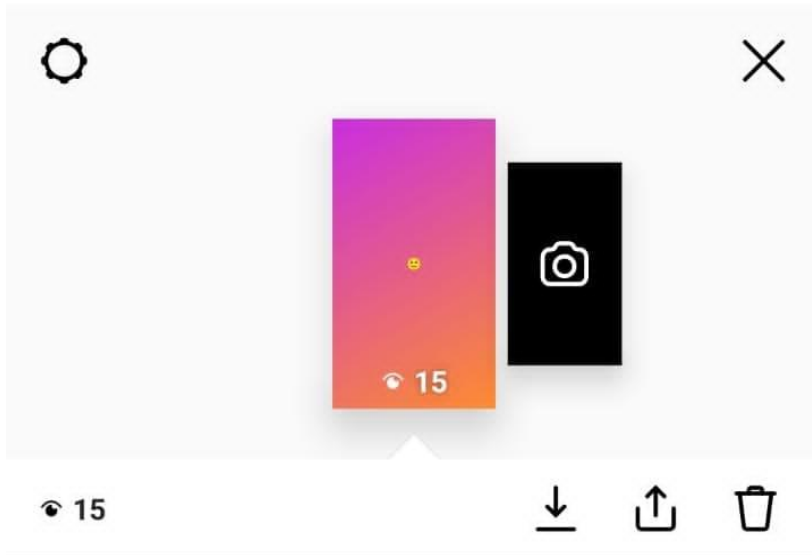
SCAN ME

- CSU President (2021)
- ABCS Director of Research and Campaigns (2021)


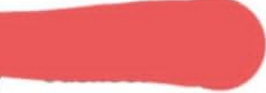























Elections: March 15 - 17

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Viewers

-    
-  **theanswer101010**
Maia Lomelino  
-   
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-   
-  **alishawsamnani**
ALISHA SAMNANI  
-   
-   





CSU PRESIDENT MAIA LOMELINO SHARES THEIR SUCCESSES OF THIS YEAR AND THEIR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

BRIDGET STRINGER-HOLDEN (SHE/HER) // NEWS EDITOR

“What I would most like students to know is that we are constantly working for them, even when they’re not seeing it,” said Maia Lomelino (she/they), Capilano Students’ Union (CSU) president.

Everyone knows about the parties and events, but there is also a great deal of other work going on behind-the-scenes — things that maybe students don’t know are the CSU’s doing.

“I think that our major challenges are the relationships we have inside the university,” they said, noting that while the CSU has a collaborative working relationship with the university executives, they aren’t yet at that point with other CapU groups. “It’s challenging, but also very rewarding,” said Lomelino. “[Fostering those relationships is] a great part of what I do on a daily basis.”

Lomelino has been part of the CSU since



lohit7747
Capilano University



Liked by **thinasingla** and **others**

lohit7747 It's not enough to just want change... You all have to go and make change by voting." 🚩... more

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7 March



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