

Decision CSU 2022 #3 & #10 Re: Voting Solicitation Violation

The attached complaints were received as timely and met requirements of an official complaint under the CSU regulations.

Complaints #3 & 10 state that Manbir Singh violated the CSU election policy on “applying pressure, encouragement, or a requirement for a voter to cast an electronic vote in the presence of a candidate, or passing around devices upon which a voter is pressured, encouraged, or required to vote.”

The allegations brought by the member are concerning, but it’s uncertain if a breach of the CSU election regulations occurred. Complaint #3 states that “manbir was trying to attract votes making fake and unrealistic promises... He is even seen holding mobile phones of students while casting votes for them.” In this complaint, the complainant listed a witness that also happens to be the complainant in Complaint #10.

Complaint #10 states that the they initially voted independently as they wished, but were later approached by people campaigning for Manbir who asked the member to vote in front of them even though they said they already voted. The campaigners allegedly stated they votes can be changed and “cornered me and kept on insisting in a threatening way until I opened my phone and showed them I had changed my vote. I was scared of the situation so I changed it in front of them and then later revoted for my preferred candidate.”

The initial portion of complaint #3 describes an unfortunate campaign practice, that is not uncommon, but is also not contrary to the CSU election rules. However, if Manbir was holding mobile phones of students while casting votes for them and if in fact this took place of voters to cast a ballot for him occurred that would be grounds for sanction. Indeed, the secrecy of the vote is a primary foundation of any election. As well, the ability to cast ones vote without duress is critical. However, complaint #3 lacks compelling evidence to prove these incidents occurred.

Complaint #10 also lacks compelling evidence to prove the incident occurred. The complainant states that they re-voted. However, in viewing the logs from Simply Voting, there were over 200 re-votes logged during this election, but none were attributed to the complainant.

Given this lack of evidence, the 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.



Ron Laufer
CSU Election Administrator

ANNEX 1

Official Complaint

Complaint Date: #3 - 6/10/2022 17:37 #10 – 8/10/2022 12:25
Complainant:
When issue occurred: #3 - 5/10/2022 #10 – 6/10/2022
Candidate Manbir Singh
Complaint: #3: manbir was trying to attract votes making fake and unrealistic promises. All the students who are innocent and don't know much about the working of university are trusting him and giving him votes. He is even seen holding mobile phones of students while casting votes for them. promises to decrease international fees are highly volatile issue that is attracting a lot of international students but it is an unrealistic promise and this issue is acting as an emotional bribe.

#10: I had voted for my preferred candidates and closed my ballot but then two people approached me and started campaigning for themselves. at first they said vote for Manbir he will decrease international tuition and I said okay and started going away but they insisted that I have to vote right now so I became frustrated and said I had already voted. They got all serious and said you can change the vote and then cornered me and kept on insisting in a threatening way until I opened my phone and showed them I had changed my vote. I was scared of the situation so I changed it in front of them and then later revoted for my preferred candidate. At first I thought I had corrected my vote so it didn't matter but then I realised there must have been other students who might have been manipulated this way. So I am filing this complaint

Resolution requested: Disqualification

RESPONSE FROM MANBIR SINGH RE: COMPLAINT #3

Manbir Singh

Sat Oct 8,
11:18 PM

to me

This is a fake complaint against me which is made with the intention of pulling me down from the elected position. I'm unsure why the complainant claimed my raised points as unrealistic and fake. I'm very much interested in decreasing international student's fees and I will work on the promises I have made. There are no fake or

unrealistic promises. It is a right of every student to raise an issue and work on it. Even Aryanna, the current VP External and candidate from last year made promises of decreasing international tuition too (there were no complaints then) and they are working on it. This shows that the complainant is unaware of the current scenario which made him/her to reach the conclusion that my promises are fake, unrealistic, and emotional. It is uncertain to say that this is against campaigning standards because I just raised and promised the issues that represent and fulfill the interests of the students.

While campaigning, I immediately left the spot after stating my agenda to students. I did not take any phones from any students to cast vote for myself or helping them to vote. Neither I pressured nor encouraged someone to vote for me. I just asked them to vote for deserving candidate after considering and evaluating the points, agenda and they voted whoever they wanted. All this fits into the grounds of reasonable campaigning.

Thank you for giving your time to read my response.

Best Regards,

Candidate VP equity and sustainability

RESPONSE FROM MANBIR SINGH RE: COMPLAINT #10

Manbir Singh

Sat Oct 11,
11:31 PM

to me

Hello Ron,

I didn't take any help from any student (campaigner) while campaigning for me during the elections. Even, I didn't gave any name of the campaigner for me, because I didn't took any assistance. So, there is no way someone is campaigning for me and asking for votes. This is unreal, cooked story that came up after 5 days of the elections. This is another fake complaint. The time of the complaints (i.e. after I won the elections), the content (tone and un-evidenced), overblown words in the complaints made me so confused and made me to think that these complaints are unreal which are being used to snatch my elected position from me. I didn't had any campaigner for me, so I cannot explain this fake complaint more than this.

Even the complaint is unfolding its own untrue statements. Serious, cornered, continuous threatening, and scared are all significant words which should have been addressed earlier, immediately after the incident. Isn't it confusing that how an aware student was being cornered and threatened and he/she never called the security or addressed the situation earlier? Ron, all this is bad politics, which is using uncertain, unrealistic complaints which is in-turn delaying the results.

All in all, and I'm repeating, this is totally fake complaint. I didn't have any campaigner for me so there is no possibility of the situation which is stated by the complainant. It is cooked and planned complaint.

Thank you so much for your time. Please let me know when you'll receive this email and also, I didn't get any response of my last email from your side. Hoping for your earliest response.

Sincerely,

Manbir Singh