

March 12, 2020

Decision Re: Candidate Slating and Poster Violations – Hritik Vij & Amrinder Ranu

As Chief Returning Officer I am at times provided with complaints or information regarding the activity of various candidates. On March 11th, 2020 I received a few emails from individuals alleging that Hritik Vij and Amrinder Ranu were slating pointing to posts on Instagram (screenshots attached). In each case, the candidate has posted campaign materials of the other candidate, supporting the other candidate. Upon viewing these materials online, it was clear that neither of these candidates followed the regulations to request CRO approval before posting campaign materials.

Both of these rules are clearly laid out in the CSU Bylaws and Rules of Procedure and are highlighted by the CRO during the candidate orientation session each candidate attended.

Section VII, Article 14 of the CSU bylaws state:

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

Further, Section XVI, Article 3, Subsection 3c of the CSU procedures state:

... candidates are strictly prohibited from running in slates, real or apparent, or sharing expenses for campaigning and the cost of campaign materials. A slate shall mean a group of candidates who run for elected office for mutual advantage.

Article 3, Subsection 6(i) continues:

The following forms of campaigning shall be prohibited during elections and referenda: (vii) any campaigning where candidates work together for mutual benefit, use similar slogans, or otherwise act as a slate, real or apparent.

Article 3, Subsection 6(e) states:

All campaign material... must be approved by the Chief Returning Officer prior to its use (except as states in (viii)). The intent of this clause is to ensure that all campaign material is produced in accordance with these Procedures, and in particular to ensure that no candidate engages in the prohibited forms of campaigning, as outlined in (i) below.

Candidates enter into an election process that is a serious matter. By completing a nomination package that includes references to important clauses of the rules and regulations and informs prospective candidates to read the bylaws and procedures, the candidates take responsibility to read, understand and follow the rules and regulations.

Mr. Vij and Mr. Ranu have clearly violated these important rules and I find this to be serious violations that left untreated both compromise the elections and erode the trust of the general electorate.

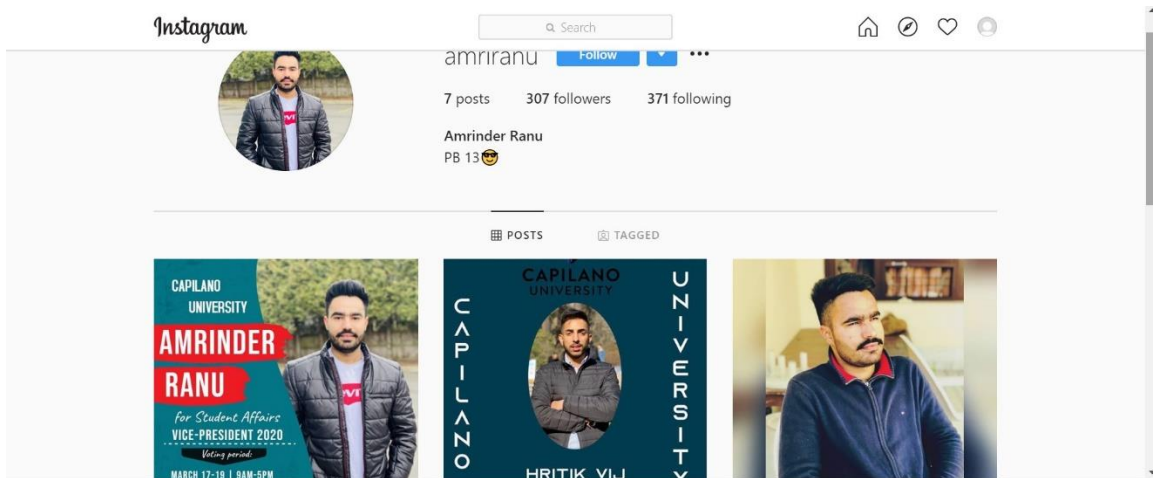
As such, I have no choice but to disqualify candidates Vij and Ranu.

I note that the candidate has 48 hours from the time they receive this decision to submit an appeal in the manner set forth in Section XVI, Article 10 of the CSU procedures.

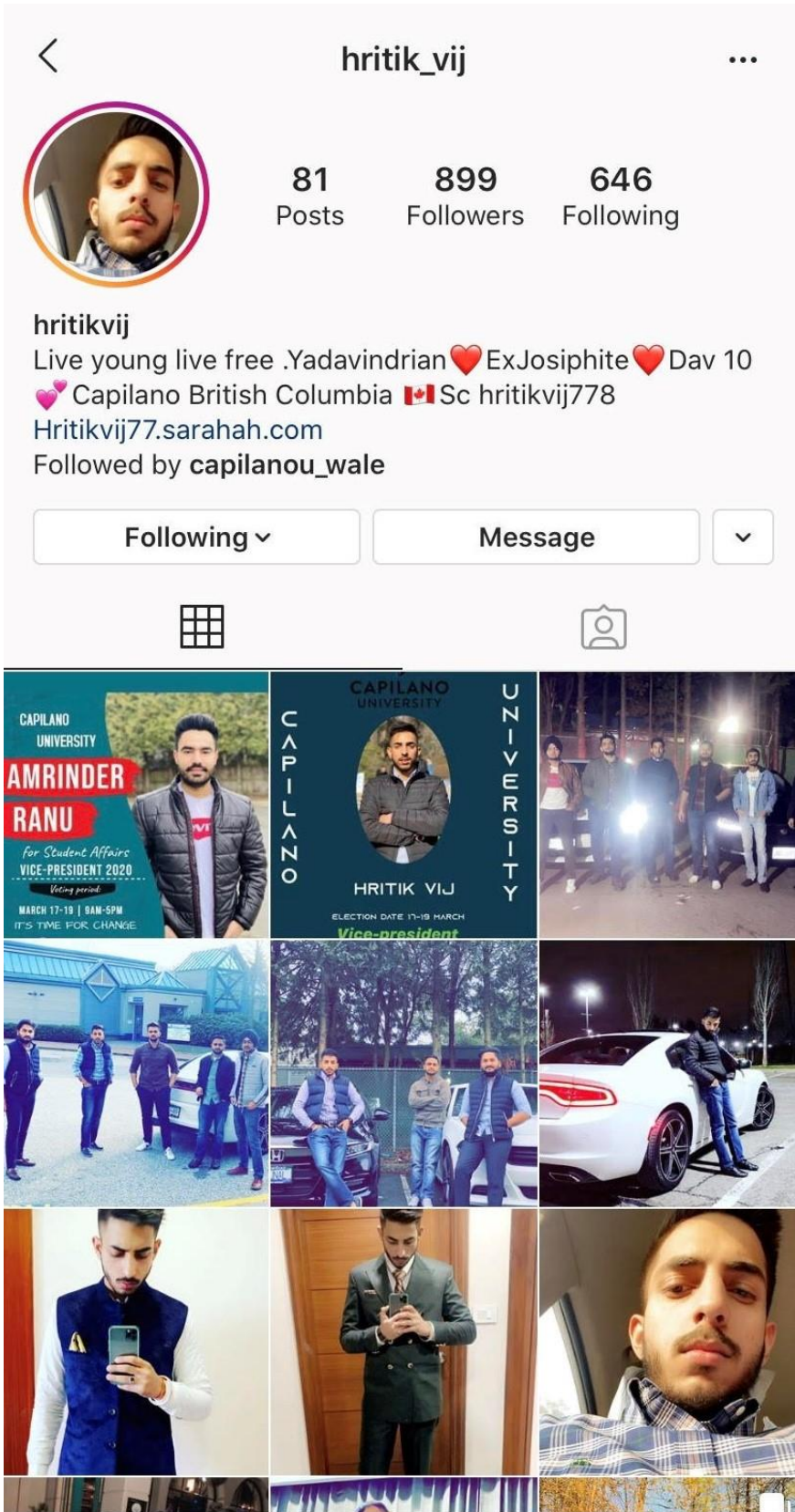


Ron Laufer
Chief Returning Officer

Screen Shot 1 – Mr. Vanu posting Mr. Vij’s poster on his Instagram page.



Screenshot 2: Mr. Vij posting Mr. Ranu's poster on his Instagram page



Screenshot 3: Mr. Vij posting Mr. Ranu's poster on his Instagram page

