

October 10, 2023

Election Administrator's Decision

Decision# 2023/B/17

Candidate Gurjot Singh submitted the attached appeal from my decision to disqualify him (see decision #2013/B/8) as a candidate for the At-large CSU Board position. In my decision, I found that Mr. Singh, and others working with him, were violating the rules governing campaign activities, including pressuring voters to vote in his presence, and taking electors' phones in their hands and casting votes for them. Although the appeal was submitted by email rather than on the complaint form, I accepted it as a valid appeal.

My finding that Mr. Singh violated the rules was based on several factors, including the large number (10) of similar complaints filed against him, testimony of non-complainant witnesses, video and picture evidence submitted, and the security camera footage. Of the 10 complainants, nine asked to remain anonymous. I took their anonymity into account as I considered the evidentiary value of the information they gave me.

Considering the totality of the evidence before me I found that Mr. Singh violated the following prohibition on from page 7 of CSU Election Procedure BD-06.1:

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, with a violation of this prohibition always deemed a serious offence;

Mr. Singh's ground for appeal is that he never pressured anyone himself and that did not have anyone working on his campaign and so cannot be held responsible for anyone else's actions.

CSU Procedure BD-06.1 provides, page 6 that:

3. A candidate is responsible for the conduct of everyone working their campaign, and any offence committed by a campaigner is an offence by the candidate.

It is significant that this rule does not require that a person be registered as a campaigner, only that they be working on the campaign.

I concluded, based on the evidence given by the complainants and the CSU security camera footage that several of Mr. Singh's associates were indeed campaigning for him even though they were not registered campaigners. I have attached a series of photos from the security camera footage that show Mr. Singh and another man approach a student sitting in the library. Mr Singh sits across from the student while the other man stands over them. Two other men who were previously seen with Mr. Singh are standing close by. Although it is not shown in these photos, moments later, Mr. Singh stands up and walks away. The man in grey then takes the student's phone for about 1 minute, then hands it back to him, shakes his hand, and walks away in the same direction as Mr. Singh. I am convinced that these men, and particularly the one in grey standing above the student, are working on Mr. Singh's campaign. Although Mr. Singh did not personally take the student's phone, he is responsible for this offence.

For these reasons, Mr. Singh's appeal is dismissed. CSU Procedure BD-06.1 allows no further appeal from this decision.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Ennis', written in a cursive style.

David Ennis
CSU Election Administrator

ANNEX 1 – TEXT OF APPEAL (by email)

On Sat, Oct 7, 2023 at 3:04 PM, Gurjot Singh <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Good afternoon Dear sir, First of all i am very sorry that you have to deal with these many complaints against me, to be honest i think it is a conspiracy against me. as far as i know i met so many people around the election and campaign time i cannot even recall where this happened and when . the main complaint you mentioned was about my associate trying to hold a students phone to vote for me. so as i told you that i met many people during elections and i did mention them to help a brother out to ask for votes but never in a pressured way. So i never told anyone to be my campaigner, i alone stand up for the actions i committed not somebody else whom i met or just asked to vote for me, if you find anything that connects me directly to pressurised by my hand i stand accuse for that but not for anyone whom i never mentioned as my campaigner in the first place. so for identification purpose i would kindly ask you send me or just identify the person who asked for votes from the complainant and his statement is also important as my statement for the purpose if i asked him specifically to go ask votes for me and while taking the phones of the student in his hands. For other complaints i would ask you to tell me more about them. this is what i have to say, because as you mentioned but i cannot recall that i was there in the first place. and my appeal would be this i cannot be held accountable for the things i might never did. i am writing this to you so late because i was so under the mental pressure i could not even think, so this would be my appeal to ask the person that was with me. Thank You very much Sir.

ANNEX 2 – SECURITY CAMERA PHOTOS



