

October 13, 2023

Election Administrator's Decision

Decision# 2023/B/22

I received three anonymous complaints that met the requirements for official complaints under the CSU regulations. All three deal with similar allegations against the same candidate. The candidate and students who filed the complaints all wish to remain anonymous.

The complainants allege that candidate Panveer Singh encouraged students to change their vote in his presence. The most credible of these complaints, which was filed by another candidate, was supported by two non-candidate witnesses, who also asked to remain anonymous. All three said that Mr. Singh approached them and asked them to vote for him and then motioned to their phones. Although Mr. Singh's manner was not aggressive or unpleasant, they all said that they took him to mean that he wanted them to vote for him then and there. They did not change their votes and after some time he walked away.

In the course of my investigation, I made contact with student [REDACTED] who told me that that Mr. Singh approached him in the quiet area of the library and asked him to change Mr. Singh's rank on his ballot on his laptop computer. He said he changed his vote because he felt pressured to do so.

I contacted campus security and they provided me with the attached image taken at the time and place described by [REDACTED]. The images show Mr. Singh standing over [REDACTED] and pointing at his computer (Image 1).

Campus security also sent me an image of Mr. Singh standing over another student with what appears to be his CSU ballot open on his laptop (Images 2, 3, and 4).

I contacted Mr. Singh to ask for his version of events and he replied as follows:

While I engaged in conversations about voting, it's important to clarify that I never attempted to pressure or compel anyone to alter their preferences in my favor. In the quiet area where the desks were closely situated, there's a possibility that when I shared information about myself and subsequently headed to the next desk, someone may have misconstrued my intentions, thinking that I was seeking an immediate change in my ranking.

CSU Procedure BD-06.1 includes the following provision on page 7:

- E. 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;

This rule prohibits not only pressuring electors to vote for a particular candidate but encouraging them to vote AT ALL in the presence of a candidate. This rule was strongly emphasized in the candidate orientation that Mr. Singh attended.

Taking into account all the evidence, especially the evidence of [REDACTED] and the security photos, I find that Mr. Singh has violated the rule against encouraging electors to vote in a candidate's presence. He is hereby disqualified.

The respondent has 48 hours from the time they receive this decision to submit an appeal in the manner set forth in CSU Procedure BD-06.1.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Ennis', with a stylized, cursive script.

David Ennis
CSU Election Administrator

Image #1: Panveer Singh leaning over [REDACTED] and pointing at his laptop



Image #2, 3, and 4: Panveer Singh leaning over and pointing to the laptop of an unidentified student in the library





