

## **Parties**

- Complainant - the CSGSA
- Respondent - Soumya Kulal - A candidate for the position of VP Academic in the GSA General Election 2024
- CRO - Sophie Shi

Dear Soumya,

I have evaluated the original complaint and your appeal.

### **Breach 1**

As to 'Complaint 1' the respondent does not contest this and according to *H.POL.15.7.a (The GSA ACB Hearing Committee may uphold or deny, in whole or in part, the Appeal and may make any order or take any action, including re-running an election or referendum, to ensure that the guiding principle of GSA Elections and Referenda is adhered to: "the fundamental principle underlying GSA Elections [and Referenda] is that they are to be fair, respect the wishes of voters, and conducted in a manner that reflects the excellent, positive reputation of the GSA" (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Sections I.BYL.1.1 and J.BYL.1.1))*. The ACB takes this infraction seriously and will therefore be increasing this deduction to 5% of votes.

### **Breach 2**

As to 'Complaint 2' the point of contention that you brought forward in your appeal was that you had no intention of asking for promotion and therefore were not pressuring any individuals. However, the ACB is in agreement with the CRO's decision. The messages in the slack thread asking "why" or "how" you can get the CSGSA's nomination can be seen as seeking and pressuring the endorsement of the CSGSA. Because this was not malicious and may have not been intentional the 10% deduction in votes is deemed fair.

### **Breach 3**

As to 'Complaint 3' your email correspondence here is deemed 'Campaign materials' as they mention your current campaign for the position of GSA VP Academic. In the CRO's ruling it was deemed that this was distributed via a 'Moderated mailing list' as students (who were not close contacts; see the screenshot of Sheila's response that includes her profile picture) on the CSGSA mailing list were receiving these replies. The respondent however provided adequate explanation to the contrary (timestamps of the responses) and therefore this deduction of 5% of votes will be nullified.

Additionally, the correspondence were sent to and from a ualberta email without CRO approval of the materials. This infraction violated I.POL.10.10.b and per the ERC a

5% vote deduction is warranted. Additionally, according to bylaw I.POL.10.14, the respondent should have sought clarification regarding campaign bylaws from the CRO directly.

In conclusion, after considering all 3 infractions your total deduction is 20% of votes.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Manerus." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laura Manerus  
GSA ACB Hearing Committee Chair