

2024 GSA General Election

CRO Decision in the Matter of Benjamin Kucher and Avishek Chowdhury
Friday, February 23rd, 2024

A formal complaint was filed by Benjamin Kucher, a candidate for the position of Vice-President Student Life in the GSA General Election (hereafter “the Complainant”), against Avishek Chowdhury, a candidate for the position of Vice-President Student Life (hereafter “the Respondent”), on Thursday, February 22nd, 2024.

Complaint: The Complainant noticed that the Respondent uploaded an Instagram post that included a picture of a large University of Alberta sign (logo).

Response: The Respondent immediately rectified the situation and removed the post.

Relevant Bylaw and Policy:

I.POL.10.10.d.i Candidates will not use the University or GSA logos on any physical or electronic campaign materials.

Consultation with the Elections and Referenda Committee (ERC): The CRO dismissed the complaint as it was unfounded and therefore did not consult ERC regarding this matter.

Decision: Although this violates the policy, the U of A logo is not as niche as the GSA logo and would likely not affect voters who come across the post. The CRO decided to dismiss this complaint as the Respondent took immediate action.

Appeals: As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, “decisions of the CRO are subject to appeal to the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB)” (Section I.POL.11.6) and “candidate(s) or referendum campaign member(s) have twenty-four (24) hours from the time the CRO’s decision is deemed delivered to submit an Appeal (Section H.POL.15.2.b). “Deemed Delivered” is defined such that an email is deemed to have been delivered twenty-four (24) hours from the time it was sent (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section H: Definitions).