

2024 GSA General Election

CRO Decision in the Matter of Gary Godinho and Mariam Mughees
Thursday, February 29th, 2024

A formal complaint was filed by Gary Godinho, a candidate for the position of Vice-President External in the GSA General Election (hereafter “the Complainant”), against Mariam Mughees, a candidate for the position of Vice-President External in the GSA General Election (hereafter “the Respondent”), on Thursday, February 29th, 2024.

Complaint: The Complainant alleges that the Respondent is in violation of their scholarship issued by the Government of Pakistan and provides the contract as evidence. They have also consulted a coordinator of sponsored students at University of Alberta International who was able to verify the Respondent’s status as a recipient of this scholarship.

Response: The GSA and CRO have no jurisdiction over this complaint, and therefore the Respondent was not required to submit a response.

Relevant Bylaw and Policy:

n/a

Consultation with the Elections and Referenda Committee (ERC): The GSA and CRO have no jurisdiction over this complaint, and therefore ERC was not consulted.

Decision: The GSA and CRO have no jurisdiction over this decision. The DEO positions are not considered “employment” and the GSA does not have any authority to interpret the scholarship’s contracts. The CRO and ERC may only interpret GSA Bylaw and Policy. If the Respondent is in violation of their contract, it is under the purview of the scholarship issuer and any other relevant parties involved in the contract. This complaint is unfounded from the GSA’s side and is therefore dismissed.

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).