

**Elections Committee Meeting – Presidential Election & Referenda Fines**

**January 25, 2018**

**MSU Boardroom, MUSC 201**

<b>Present</b>	Ahmed, Bhatti, Lee, Nadarajah, Nwosu, Wong
<b>Late</b>	
<b>Absent</b>	Gupta, Lao
<b>Others Present</b>	C. Deraiche (CRO), S. Figueiredo (DRO), V. Scott (Recording Secretary)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The CRO announced that voter turnout was 28.8% this year. The CRO went over the procedure for the evening.

**REFERENDUM - OPIRG**

**a) NO SIDE – KEEP THE FEE**

**1. Sending Mass Email to McMaster Accounts**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that an email was sent out by a full-time staff member of OPIRG advocating for keeping the fee as it was.
- The Committee discussed the complaint and felt that this should be given a severe violation as they don't know how this would affect the votes.

**Moved** by Lee, **seconded** by Ahmed that the Elections Committee apply a severe violation with a fine of \$30 to the OPIRG Referendum No Side – Keep the Fee, for sending out a mass email, in violation of rule 4.16, according to rule 7.8.1

**Passes Unanimously**

**Moved** by Nadarajah, **seconded** by Bhatti that the Elections Committee apply a severe violation with a fine of \$30 to the OPIRG Referendum No Side – Keep the Fee, for having a non-MSU member campaign on their behalf, in violation of rule 2.6, according to rule 7.8.1

**Passes Unanimously**

**Disqualification Discussion**

**Moved** by Lee, **seconded** by Ahmed that the Elections Committee disqualify the OPIRG Referendum No Side – Keep the Fee from the OPIRG Referendum.

- The Committee discussed disqualification due to the fact that the Side had at least one severe violation. The Committee felt that the emails didn't impact the election and that it wasn't severe.

**Fails Unanimously**

**PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION****a) AYDIN, MUHAMMED****1. Campaigning in Facebook Group**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that the Candidate violated rule 4.17 by having someone post in the McMaster 2020 Facebook group. The CRO stated that when she followed up with the Candidate, they stated that it was an eager friend who wanted to help out.
- The Committee felt that this person should be added to the campaign team for this violation.

**Moved** by Nadarajah, **seconded** by Ahmed to add Hussien Obaid to Muhammed Aydin's campaign team.

**Passes Unanimously**

**Moved** by Lee, **seconded** by Wong that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 to Muhammed Aydin for campaigning in a Facebook Group (Class of 2020), in violation of rule 4.17, according to section 7.8.2

**Passes Unanimously**

**2. Sourcing Campaign Material Outside of MSU Underground Media & Design****i. Pens**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The CRO stated that the Candidate ordered pens through another source other than Underground, which is against the rules. The Candidate asked the CRO if this was alright after he had already ordered the pens. She added that the pens were included on the expense sheet.
- The Committee discussed the complaint. They wanted to know if the Candidate had paid fair market value for the pens, the CRO responded that the pens would have come in at a higher price at Underground. The Committee felt that this wouldn't affect the election.

**Moved** by Lee, **seconded** by Ahmed that the Elections Committee apply a severe violation with a fine of \$30 to Muhammed Aydin for sourcing campaign material (pens) outside of MSU Underground, in violation of rule 5.3, according to section 7.9.2

**Passes Unanimously**

**Moved** by Lee, **seconded** by Ahmed that the Elections Committee apply a severe violation with a fine of \$30 to Muhammed Aydin, for deliberately violating a rule according to section 7.9.8

- Lee stated that the Candidate knew that they were violating this rule and went through with it.

**Passes Unanimously**

- The Committee debated on fining the Candidate for 100% of going over the spending limit. They came to the consensus that they didn't know the overage, so they couldn't fine them for that. A member suggested giving them a severe violation with a fine of zero dollars.

**Moved** by Ahmed, **seconded** by Wong that the Elections Committee apply a severe violation with a fine of \$0 to Muhammed Aydin, for exceeding the spending limit according to section 7.9.1

**In Favour: 1 Opposed: 4 Abstentions: 0**

**Motion Fails**

ii. **Candy**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that all materials must be sourced through MSU Underground Media & Design. The CRO stated that candy can't be sourced through Underground.
- The Committee discussed the complaint. Some felt that the labels on the candy should have been sourced. It was pointed out that the labels looked like pieces of paper with tape. A member stated that the complaint was specifically about the candy and not the label, so they should be discussing that.

**Moved** by Ahmed, **seconded** by Wong that the Elections Committee apply a severe violation with a fine of \$30 to Muhammed Aydin for sourcing campaign material (labels) outside of MSU Underground, in violation of rule 5.3, according to section 7.9.2

**Fails Unanimously**

b) **D'SOUZA, LINDSAY**

1. **Pre-campaigning**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that the Candidate sent out messages on Facebook to consider voting for her. This would be a violation of rule 4.1.1. The CRO stated there were screenshots provided.
- The Committee discussed the complaint, and if the messages were recruiting or actively campaigning. The Committee decided that since the Candidate was asking for support by changing profiles pictures and voting for them that it would fall under pre-campaigning.

**Moved** by Ahmed, **seconded** by Bhatti that the Elections Committee apply a severe violation with a fine of \$30 to Lindsay D'Souza for pre-campaigning, in violation of rule 4.1.1

**Amendment**

**Moved** by Lee, **seconded** by Nwosu to amend the motion to read: "**Moved** by Ahmed, **seconded** by Bhatti that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 to Lindsay D'Souza for pre-campaigning, in violation of rule 4.1.1, according to section 7.8.2"

- Lee stated that it was just a standard violation, as he didn't think the Candidate did anything severe enough to warrant a severe violation.
- The Committee debated the amendment. It was brought up that this was a pattern of behaviour and that it was why it should stay a severe violation. A member stated that they couldn't assume how many times this was done as they only had two instances given, and that they shouldn't be speculating. The Committee felt that a standard violation would be more appropriate.

**Vote on Amendment**

**Passes Unanimously**

**Vote on Main Motion**

**Moved** by Ahmed, **seconded** by Bhatti that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 to Lindsay D'Souza for pre-campaigning, in violation of rule 4.1.1, according to section 7.8.2

**Passes Unanimously**

**2. Violation of Res Life Contract**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that the Candidate posted a picture in their residence rep suit, and that it broke the res life contract. The contract states that they cannot use their position for political gain. The complainant added that the photo had been photoshopped with a banner.
- The Committee asked what the response was to the violation. The CRO responded that the Candidate had discussed using the photo with Ms. Scott, and that she wasn't approached. Scott stated that the Candidate only came and asked if it was okay to wear the suit in reference to the Spark logo, and nothing else. The Committee felt that if the Candidate just posted the picture and said they were a Brandon Hall rep as part of their experience, then that wouldn't be in violation of the contract. They added that the logo was photoshopped onto the image of the res suit is more in line with the violation presented.

**Moved** by Ahmed, **seconded** by Bhatti that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 to Lindsay D'Souza for violating the RezLife contract, in violation of rule 4.9, according to section 7.8.2

**Passes Unanimously**

**c) FARAH, IKRAM****1. Instagram Stories/Snapchat****i. Misuse of Social Media**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that candidates cannot use Instagram stories, nor their campaign team. There were stories on Rachel Persaud's Instagram where the Candidate was wearing their colour during the campaign period. They felt that since Persaud was a PTM of the organization, and that they felt that this was active campaigning, the Candidate should be fined.
- The Committee questioned what campaigning meant to them, and if someone's face and name was campaign material. Some felt that these were just pictures of friends and that it wasn't campaigning at all. A member pointed out that that 'likeness' is considered to be campaign material under the definitions, and that the stories were deleted within a couple of hours.

**Moved** by Lee, **seconded** by Nwosu that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 to Ikram Farah for misuse of social media in violation of rule 4.12.1, according to section 7.8.2

**In Favour: 5 Opposed: 1 Abstentions: 0**  
**Motion Passes**

**Moved** by Ahmed, **seconded** by Bhatti to add Rachel Persaud to Ikram Farah's campaign team.

**Passes Unanimously**

**Moved** by Ahmed, **seconded** by Nwosu that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 to Ikram Farah for having a PTM not on a Leave of Absence on their campaign team in violation of rules 4.8.5 and 4.8.1, according to section 7.8.2

**Passes Unanimously**

**ii. Campaign Material on Instagram Story**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that campaign material was used on Instagram stories for promo. The CRO stated that two that posted were not McMaster Students, but one was.

**Moved** by Bhatti, **seconded** by Ahmed to add Hardip Singh on Ikram Farah's campaign team.

**Passes Unanimously**

**Moved** by Nwosu, **seconded** by Ahmed that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 to Ikram Farah for one Instagram story with promo material in violation of rule 4.12.1, according to section 7.8.2.

**Passes Unanimously**

**Moved** by Nwosu, **seconded** by Lee that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 to Ikram Farah for having a non-MSU member on their team in violation of rule 2.6, according to section 7.8.2

**Passes Unanimously**

**iii. Snapchat Violation**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that someone posted a picture on snapchat of the Candidate telling them to vote. The CRO stated that the individual was not on the campaign team.

**Moved** by Ahmed, **seconded** by Bhatti to add Dorcas Yeung to Ikram Farah's campaign team.

**Passes Unanimously**

**Moved** by Nadarajah, **seconded** by Ahmed that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 to Ikram Farah for Dorcas Yeung's snapchat story, in violation of rule 4.12.1, according to section 7.8.2

**Passes Unanimously**

**iv. Pre-campaigning – Instagram Story**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that the Candidate was wearing black and posted on an Instagram story before the campaign period. The CRO stated that there wasn't a screenshot provided.

**Moved** by Lee, **seconded** by Bhatti that the Elections Committee dismiss the complaint against Ikram Farah.

**Passes Unanimously**

2. Lack of Links/Hashtags for MSU Elections

i. Twitter

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that there were 9 instances of posts not having the election department website or hashtag. The CRO stated that three didn't have any evidence.

**Moved** by Nadarajah, **seconded** by Ahmed to dismiss the complaints against Ikram Farah for lack of links/hashtags due to no evidence.

**Passes Unanimously**

**Moved** by Bhatti, **seconded** by Ahmed to add Labika Ghani to Ikram Farah's campaign team.

**Passes Unanimously**

**Moved** by Nadarajah, **seconded** by Ahmed that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$31 to Ikram Farah for six instances of no elections links or hashtags in violation of rule 4.14 according to section 7.8.2

- The Committee discussed the complaint. They decided that having a fine for over \$90 was a bit much for missing links/hashtags, so they decided to reduce the fine to \$31.

**Vote on Motion**

**In Favour: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 1**  
**Motion Passes**

**Moved** by Nadarajah, **seconded** by Ahmed that the Elections Committee apply a severe violation with a fine of \$0 for incurring more than \$30 in fines for violations of the same nature of the same rule according to section 7.9.10

**Passes Unanimously**

ii. Bad Taste

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that the Candidate didn't include the correct URL of the election department, and instead put reference to the Candidate's name to be re-directed. The complainant stated that this happened repeatedly and felt that this was deliberately done and was taking students away from accessing all the candidates.
- The Committee discussed the complaint and didn't think this was done maliciously and, therefore; not in bad taste.

**Moved** by Lee, **seconded** by Nadarajah that the Elections Committee dismiss the complaint against Ikram Farah.

**In Favour: 5 Opposed: 1 Abstentions: 0**  
**Motion Passes**

### 3. Unapproved Social Media

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that the Buzzfeed quiz wasn't approved.
- The Committee discussed the complaint, and that Buzzfeed wasn't considered to be 'social media' and that it was shared on Facebook.

**Moved** by Nadarajah, **seconded** by Nwosu that the Elections Committee dismiss the complaint against Ikram Farah.

**Passes Unanimously**

### 4. PTM Campaigning While Not on a Leave of Absence

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that an email was sent from the Maroons Coordinator about not enough seating in MUSC and to vote for the Candidate. The CRO stated that no screenshot was provided. The CRO stated that when letting the Candidate know about the fine, they stated that they weren't on the team and didn't know why the email was sent.

**Moved** by Lee, **seconded** by Nwosu that the Elections Committee dismiss the complaint against Ikram Farah.

- Nwosu stated that they don't have any evidence, so it was hard to prove that this was done.

#### **Vote on Motion**

**In Favour: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 1**  
**Motion Passes**

### 5. Endorsements from Non-MSU Members

#### i. Non-MSU Member – Twitter

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that someone posted on twitter that if they were still an undergraduate at McMaster that they would vote for the Candidate, and the Candidate retweeted it.
- The Committee stated that they couldn't control what people tweeted out, but the Candidate retweeted this and it was now an endorsement by a non-MSU member.

**Moved** by Ahmed, **seconded** by Nwosu that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 to Ikram Farah for having a non-msu member campaign in violation of rule 4.23, according to section 7.8.2

**Passes Unanimously**

#### ii. Business Page on Instagram from Non-MSU Member

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that there was a post on a business page for eyelash extensions. The CRO stated that there was photographic evidence.
- The Committee debated on the rule violations stated for the complaint. They decided that it was in clear violation of having a non-MSU member campaigning for the Candidate. The Committee wasn't sure if they could fine the Candidate based on having it on an Instagram business page, as there weren't any rules about that yet.

**Moved** by Nadarajah, **seconded** by Wong that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 to Ikram Farah for having non-msu member endorse their campaign in violation of rule 4.23 in accordance of 7.8.2

**Passes Unanimously**

**Moved** by Lee, **seconded** by Ahmed to dismiss the complaint against Ikram Farah in regard to rule 4.17

- The Committee stated that this wasn't the same as posting in a Facebook group, and it was on them for not being explicit in the rules.

#### **Vote on Motion**

**Passes Unanimously**

#### **iii. Non-MSU Member Sharing Posts**

- The CRO went over the complaint. The complainant stated that a student who graduated from McMaster wrote a long post to vote for the Candidate and posted the Candidate's link, but not the Election department website.

**Moved** by Wong, **seconded** by Ahmed that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 to Ikram Farah for having a non-MSU member campaign in violation of rule 4.23, according to section 7.8.2

**Passes Unanimously**

#### **6. Endorsement from McMaster Womanists**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant explained that there was an endorsement on the McMaster Womanists Facebook page and stated that this went against WGEN's operating policy.
- The Committee decided that this fell under rule 4.17 as this was an MSU working group and the Candidate wasn't using their resources.

**Moved** by Nadarajah, **seconded** by Ahmed that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 to Ikram Farah for being endorsed by an MSU working group on Facebook, in violation of rule 4.17, according to section 7.8.2.

**Passes Unanimously**

#### **7. Pre-campaigning on Social Media**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that the Buzzfeed quiz was posted before the campaign period began and didn't have the election website link on it. The CRO stated that she confirmed with the Candidate that it was created before the campaign period but wasn't shared. She added that a screenshot for the date/time released wasn't provided.

**Moved** by Nadarajah, **seconded** by Lee to dismiss the complaint against Ikram Farah referencing rule 4.1.1

**Passes Unanimously**

**Moved** by Lee, **seconded** by Nwosu that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 to Ikram Farah for not posting a link to the MSU Election Website on their Buzzfeed quiz, in violation of rule 4.14, according to section 7.8.2

**Passes Unanimously**

**8. MSU Paid Staff Member Campaigning While Not on a Leave of Absence**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that Jasmine Ellis, who works at MSU Child Care Centre, didn't take a leave of absence.

**Moved** by Ahmed, **seconded** by Nwosu that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 to Ikram Farah for having a paid employee who didn't take LOA in violation of rule 4.8.1, according to section 7.8.2

- Nwosu felt that this was a severe violation, as other students had to choose whether to continue working or be part of a team.

**Amendment**

**Moved** by Nwosu, **seconded** by Ahmed to amend the motion to read: "**Moved** by Ahmed, **seconded** by Nwosu that the Elections Committee apply a severe violation with a fine of \$30 to Ikram Farah for having a paid employee who didn't take LOA in violation of rule 4.8.1, according to section 7.8.1"

- Nwosu felt that this wasn't fair as someone shouldn't be getting paid while campaigning. She added that some people didn't become part of a campaign team because of this.
- Nadarajah asked for the rationale for making this a severe violation.
- Ahmed explained that this person was already on the campaign team and wasn't put there by the Elections Committee.
- Lee explained that it should be severe as they deliberately violated this rule.

**Vote on Amendment**

**In Favour: 2 Opposed: 3 Abstentions: 1**  
**Motion Fails**

**Back to Main Motion**

**Moved** by Ahmed, **seconded** by Nwosu that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 to Ikram Farah for having a paid employee who didn't take LOA in violation of rule 4.8.1, according to section 7.8.2

**Passes Unanimously**

**Moved** by Ahmed, **seconded** by Nwosu that the Elections Committee apply a severe violation with a fine of \$30 to Ikram Farah for deliberate violation of a rule in accordance with 7.9.8

- Ahmed stated that this rule was laid out for everyone, and that they deliberately violated this rule.

**Vote on Motion**

**Passes Unanimously**

#### 9. Using Amplification Equipment – Acoustic Guitar

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that members from the Candidate's team were playing an acoustic Guitar in MUSC, and that it showed a clear violation of the rule as they stated that they didn't care anymore. The CRO added that there was photographic evidence.
- The DRO explained that she went to the table and tried to tell the team that they were in violation of this rule, and they interrupted her saying that they knew. The DRO added that she thought that the message was heard but the Candidate's team didn't stop.

**Moved** by Nadarajah, **seconded** by Wong that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15, to Ikram Farah for use of amplification equipment in violation of rule 4.18, according to section 7.8.2

#### Passes Unanimously

- The Committee felt that this was a deliberately violated rule and would fine according as such.

**Moved** by Nadarajah, **seconded** by Ahmed that the Elections Committee apply a severe violation with a fine of \$30, to Ikram Farah for deliberate violation of a rule in accordance with 7.9.8

#### Passes Unanimously

**Moved** by Nwosu, **seconded** by Bhatti that the Elections Committee apply a severe violation with a fine of \$30 to Ikram Farah for disrespecting the DRO, in violation of rule 2.1 according to section 7.8.1

- Nwosu stated that she would like to bring forward this motion as they ignored an election official, and the evidence presented shows that they were being obnoxious and rude.
- The Committee concluded that this was in bad taste from the DRO's account.

#### Vote on Motion

**In Favour: 4 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0**  
**Motion Passes**

#### 10. Poster Violations

##### i. Rave Cards

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The Candidate's team was handing out cards in MUSC, which is not allowed.

**Moved** by Nwosu, **seconded** by Ahmed that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 to Ikram Farah for handing out cards in MUSC, in violation of rule 5.10, according to section 7.8.2

#### Passes Unanimously

##### ii. Banner on Pillar

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. Posters cannot be affixed to windows, pillars, and doors in MUSC. She added that the team was made aware of this on January 17 and was away from the pillar for the rest of the campaign period.

**Moved** by Ahmed, **seconded** by Wong that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15, to Ikram Farah for having a banner affixed on a pillar in MUSC, in violation of rule 5.7.1 according to section 7.8.2

**Passes Unanimously**

**11. Campaigning in Bad Taste**

i. **Slander #1**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that a volunteer for another candidate was being asked questions by students, and then those students came back accusing them of lying about their platform points. It further stated that this candidate's platform was smeared by the Candidate's team. The complainant added that the volunteer was so shaken that the other candidate's campaign manager had to calm them down.
- The Committee felt that this was done in bad taste.

**Moved** by Nwosu, **seconded** by Ahmed that the Elections Committee apply a severe violation with a fine of \$30 to Ikram Farah for campaigning in bad taste, in violation of rule 2.1, according to section 7.8.1

- The Committee stated that they had a very detailed account of what happened, and that it was denigrating to the other candidate.

**Passes Unanimously**

ii. **Slander #2**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that the Candidate's team was discrediting their candidate's platform at their table in MUSC and pointing to their table.
- The Committee stated that this complaint wasn't very descriptive, and that having the Candidate be pointing to another table was vague. They added that there weren't witnesses to recount the story, and no direct quotes.

**Moved** by Ahmed, **seconded** by Bhatti that the complaint against Ikram Farah be dismissed.

**Passes Unanimously**

iii. **Campaigning in Front of Another Candidate's Table**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Elections Committee. The complainant stated that the Candidate's team was right in front of their table and was corralling people from their table.
- The Committee stated that this was a high traffic area, and that there weren't any rules about table space. They stated that since there wasn't an account of the volunteer being slanderous that the complaint should be dismissed.

**Moved** by Ahmed, **seconded** by Bhatti that the complaint against Ikram Farah be dismissed.

**Passes Unanimously**

d) OBAIDULLAH, RABEENA

1. Campaigning in Facebook Groups

i) ISA

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Elections Committee. The complainant stated that Zahra Kanji posted in a Facebook group, which was against the rules. The CRO added that there was evidence, and when the Candidate was confronted they denied knowing the person who posted.

**Moved** by Lee, **seconded** by Bhatti that Zahra Kanji be added to Rabeena Obaidullah's campaign team.

**Passes Unanimously**

**Moved** by Lee, **seconded** by Nwosu that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 for posting in Facebook group (ISA), in violation of rules 4.17 & 4.17.1, according to section 7.8.2.

**Passes Unanimously**

ii) BioMedical Discovery

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. She stated that Shaili Champaneria posted in a Facebook group, and was friends with the Candidate. The CRO passed around photographic evidence.
- Lee stated that this was the BDC President, and they have clout with the group. He added that this Facebook group was closed.

**Moved** by Lee, **seconded** by Nwosu to add Shaili Champaneria to Rabeena Obaidullah's campaign team.

**Passes Unanimously**

**Moved** by Lee, **seconded** by Ahmed that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 for posting in mass Facebook group (BDC), in violation of rules 4.17 & 4.17.1, according to section 7.8.2.

**Passes Unanimously**

iii) MMaIsa Fb Group

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. She stated that Sharon Shaji posted in a Facebook group, and was friends with the Candidate. The CRO passed around photographic evidence.

**Moved** by Lee, **seconded** by Ahmed to add Sharon Shaji to Rabeena Obaidullah's campaign team.

**Passes Unanimously**

**Moved** by Nwosu, **seconded** by Wong that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 for posting in Facebook group (MMaIsa), in violation of rules 4.17 & 4.17.1, according to section 7.8.2.

**Passes Unanimously**

**iv) ISS**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. She stated that Shweta Bhatia posted in a Facebook group, and was friends with the Candidate. The CRO passed around photographic evidence.

**Passes Unanimously**

**Moved** by Nwosu, **seconded** by Ahmed that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 for posting in Facebook group (ISS), in violation of rules 4.17 & 4.17.1, according to section 7.8.2.

**Passes Unanimously**

**v) Visual Ex**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. She stated that the Candidate's photographer posted their campaign material as art work in the Visual X Facebook group.
- Nadarajah stated that this was taken down the next day.
- Ahmed responded that if the Candidate's likeness is on it then it was campaign material.

**Moved** by Ahmed, **seconded** by Bhatti that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 for posting in Facebook group (McMaster Visual Ex), in violation of rules 4.17 & 4.17.1, according to section 7.8.2.

**Passes Unanimously**

- Lee stated that this was blatant posting in Facebook groups.

**Moved** by Lee, **seconded** by Nadarajah that the Elections Committee apply a severe violation with a fine of \$0 for deliberately violating a rule, according to section 7.9.8.

**Passes Unanimously**

**Moved** by Lee, **seconded** by Nadarajah that the Elections Committee apply a severe violation with a fine of \$0 for more than \$30 in fines for violations of the same nature, according to section 7.9.10.

**Passes Unanimously**

**2. Unsolicited Messaging on Facebook – Mass in Nature**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that they received a Facebook message that was duplicate in nature to others. She added that the complainant stated that a student who had already graduated was sent this message.
- The Committee discussed the complaint. They felt that it would qualify as a group chat if the message was the same. Nadarajah stated that the campaign team was allowed to send the message to individuals, but she was more concerned about the student who had graduated receiving a message. The Committee decided that this was a mass message sent through Facebook.

**Moved** by Lee, **seconded** by Ahmed that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 for sending out a mass Facebook message, in violation of rule 4.17, according to section 7.8.2.

**In Favour: 5 Opposed: 1 Abstentions: 0**  
**Motion Passes**

**3. Lack of Links/Hashtags for MSU Elections**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant submitted several posts referencing that they didn't have election links or hashtags.
- The Committee asked if the CRO spoke to the Candidate. The CRO responded that she told them when it happened. The Committee stated that they should be treated as separate incidences.

**Moved** by Ahmed, **seconded** by Wong that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$31 for 9 instances of failing to post the MSU elections links and hashtags, in violation of rule 4.14, according to section 7.8.2.

**Passes Unanimously**

**Moved** by Bhatti, **seconded** by Nwosu that the Elections Committee apply a severe violation with a fine of \$0 for more than \$30 in fines for violations of the same nature, according to section 7.9.10.

**Passes Unanimously**

**4. SRA Caucus Leader Actively Working while on LOA**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. She explained that Sunny Yun was on a leave of absence as Caucus Leader for ArtSci. The CRO stated that emails were still being sent from the SRA ArtSci email and hosted an event for Presidentials.
- The Committee discussed the complaint. They felt that while it was a volunteer position, they took a leave and shouldn't have been using MSU resources.

**Moved** by Bhatti, **seconded** by Nwosu that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 for a volunteer working while on an LOA, in violation of rules 4.8.1 & 4.8.2, according to section 7.8.2.

**Passes Unanimously**

**5. Candy being distributed in MUSC**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that chocolate bars were being handed out after painting something. According to the CRO the complaint was submitted five minutes after the campaign team started handing them out.

**Moved** by Ahmed, **seconded** by Wong that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 for breach of MUSC poster policy, in violation of rule 5.10, according to section 7.8.2.

**Passes Unanimously**

**6. Use of McMaster University Logo**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that a campaign team member was wearing a McMaster sweater in their photo on the campaign website, and the team photo. The CRO stated that she emailed all candidates stating that all logos need to be blurred. The CRO added that photographic evidence was submitted.

- The Committee discussed the complaint. They felt that the Candidate deliberately ignored this rule.

**Moved** by Bhatti, **seconded** by Lee that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 for having McMaster logo in campaign material, in violation of rules 5.1, according to section 7.8.2.

**Passes Unanimously**

**Moved** by Nwosu, **seconded** by Bhatti that the Elections Committee apply a severe violation with a fine of \$30 for deliberately breaking a rule, according to section 7.9.8.

**Passes Unanimously**

#### 7. Campaign Material Left in MSU Space

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant submitted pictures of two buttons in the MSU Underground Media & Design, hanging off of the printing posters.

**Moved** by Nadarajah, **seconded** by Lee that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 for leaving buttons posted in MSU Underground, in violation of rule 4.6.1, according to section 7.8.2.

**Passes Unanimously**

#### 8. Misrepresentation on Expense Sheet

- The CRO went over the expense sheet with the Committee. She explained that she and a Committee member noticed a discrepancy with the H-stakes, and that they were costed out at 75 cents per stake. The CRO stated that the Committee member knew that the stakes were more than a dollar each and could be sourced through MSU Underground Media & Design. The CRO explained that they then followed up with the seller and was quoted \$1.50 for each stake. When asked about knowing someone who had it for 75 cents the seller stated that it was a discounted price for her niece. The CRO added that they contacted Underground for a quote for the stakes, and it was \$1.29 each. The CRO stated that this was a misrepresentation of the Candidate's expense sheet.
- The Committee discussed the complaint. They felt that it wasn't fair to assume that Underground would be fair market value, but that since the Candidate would be fined for not having sourced their material from Underground that it would be unfair to fine for the value.

**Moved** by Nadarajah, **seconded** by Nwosu that the Elections Committee apply a severe violation with a fine of \$30 for misrepresentation on a candidate's expense sheet, in violation of rules 5.3 and 7.9.4, according to section 7.8.1.

**Passes Unanimously**

**Moved** by Nwosu, **seconded** by Ahmed that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 for producing campaign material outside of the MSU Underground, in violation of rule 5.3, according to section 7.8.2.

**Passes Unanimously**

#### 9. Campaign Material Not Sourced Through Underground

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that the chocolate bars being distributed in MUSC wasn't sourced through MSU Underground Media & Design. The CRO explained that chocolate bars cannot be sourced through Underground.

**Moved** by Nwuso, **seconded** by Lee that the Elections Committee dismiss the complaint against Rabeena Obaidullah.

**Passes Unanimously**

**10. Campaigning in Bad Taste**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that students came to their Candidate's table and saying that their platform points wouldn't happen and that they were lying to get votes. They were deeply upset about this as there were multiple attacks against their campaign, and it bordered on harassment. The CRO added that photographic evidence was submitted.
- The Committee went over the complaint. They felt that telling other students that another candidate was lying was slander and was campaigning in bad taste. The Committee agreed that it looked like based on the evidence that the Candidate's team was being hostile and attacking the other candidate's character.

**Moved** by Bhatti, **seconded** by Wong that the Elections Committee apply a Severe violation with a fine of \$30 for acting in bad taste, in violation of 2.1, according to section 7.9.5.

**Passes Unanimously**

**e) PINHEIRO, KYLE**

**1. Late Expense Sheet**

- The CRO stated that the expense sheet was handed in after the deadline.

**Moved** by Nwosu, **seconded** by Wong that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 to Kyle Pinheiro for a late expense sheet, in violation of rule 5.1.1, according to section 7.8.2

**Passes Unanimously**

**2. Pre-campaigning**

- The CRO went over the complaint. The complainant stated that the Candidate's profile picture changed the night before the campaign began.
- The Committee felt that this was a standard violation, as likeness was campaigning.

**Moved** by Nwosu, **seconded** by Wong that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 to Kyle Pinheiro for pre-campaigning, in violation of rule 4.1.1, according to section 7.8.2

**Passes Unanimously**

**f) WEBB, KIRSTIN**

**1. Campaign Material – Not Approved**

- The CRO explained that the video wasn't approved before it was posted and reached out to the Candidate to let her know.
- The Committee felt that this would be a standard violation as the rules do say that it would need to be approved within 24 hours of posting.

**Moved** by Ahmed, **seconded** by Wong that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 to Kirsten Webb for releasing unapproved campaign material, in violation of rule 5.2, according to section 7.9.6.

**Passes Unanimously**

**2. Lack of Links/Hashtags for MSU Elections**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that the Candidate didn't have a hashtag on two of their tweets.

**Moved** by Nadarajah, **seconded** by Nwosu that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$30 to Kirsten Webb for 2 instances of not including elections links in campaign material, in violation of rule 4.14.1, in accordance to section 7.8.2

**Passes Unanimously**

**3. Violation of MUSC Policy**

- The CRO went over the complaint with the Committee. The complainant stated that the Candidate was handing out candy in MUSC.

**Moved** by Nwosu, **seconded** by Nadarajah that the Elections Committee apply a standard violation with a fine of \$15 to Kirsten Webb for breach of MUSC poster policy, in violation of rule 5.10, in accordance to rule 7.8.2

**Passes Unanimously**

**g) WONG, CONNOR**

- No complaints were submitted for this Candidate.

**Disqualification Discussions**

**a) AYDIN, MUHAMMED**

- The Committee discussed disqualification due to the fact that the candidate had at least one severe violation. The Committee felt that the violations wouldn't have affected the integrity of the election, even though a rule was deliberately broken.

**Moved** by Ahmed, **seconded** by Bhatti that the Elections Committee disqualify Muhammed Aydin from the MSU Presidential Election.

**Fails Unanimously**

**b) FARAH, IKRAM**

**Moved** by Nwosu, **seconded** by Wong that the Elections Committee disqualify Ikram Farah from the MSU Presidential Election.

- The Committee discussed disqualification due to the fact that the candidate had at least one severe violation. They felt that the integrity of the election hadn't been compromised, and that the violations charged wouldn't have swayed voters.

**Vote on Motion**

**Fails Unanimously**

c) **OBAIDULLAH, RABEENA**

- The Committee discussed disqualification due to the fact that the candidate had at least one severe violation. Members felt that posting in Facebook groups would have a huge impact on the election as there were four posts in separate groups by separate people, and they didn't know if there were more. They added that those posting in the Facebook groups had a lot of clout within those specific groups. The Committee felt that there were a lot of rules broken to get votes, mass messaging, the h-stakes, and the bad taste violation, and that it compromised the integrity of the election. It was pointed out that only those who were in the closed Facebook groups would be able to report those violations, and they may not have.

**Moved** by Bhatti, **seconded** by Ahmed that the Elections Committee disqualify Rabeena Obaidullah from the MSU Presidential Election.

- Bhatti stated that the Committee discussed clout and the influence of club presidents promoting the candidate, and a lot of the posts seemed related. She added that they have been discussing this for awhile and it should be enough time to make a decision.
- Ahmed stated that they hadn't had enough time, and that they still needed to go over everything.
- The Committee further discussed the disqualification. They explained that they needed to go on the evidence that had been presented to them, and that they don't know the impact of those group posts. The Committee felt that the postings were done deliberately, which was why they were given severe violations, and there was a reason why they limited social media interactions.

**Vote on Motion**

**Passes Unanimously**

**RATIFY FINES**

**Moved** by Bhatti, **seconded** by Nadarajah that the Elections Committee ratify all fines.

**Passes Unanimously**

**RATIFY RESULTS**

**Moved** by Nadarajah, **seconded** by Nwosu that the Elections Committee ratify the results of the 2018 MSU Presidential Election and Referendum.

**Passes Unanimously**

/vs