Elections & Rules Committee
Meeting: May 1, 2015

Begin: 1:00pm
Adjourn: 3:00pm

Present: Alex Miller (CLI), Steven Wendeborn (Chair), Rahul Bhide, Max Freedman, Bella Rowe.

Public portion of the meeting
Issue #1: Unallowed posting
• Received a complaint against Anthony Downer II and Nina Katemauswa who had a poster hung of themselves in Cathey Dining Hall
  o The manner in which the poster was hung went against posting policy clearly featured in the candidates' packet
  o Nina and Anthony responded:
    ▪ Nina: she had nothing to do with poster, though she is featured on it
    ▪ Anthony: before he hung poster, he received verbal permission from a staff member in the Cathey Dining Hall
    ▪ As soon as he received notification of this complaint he personally went to Cathey Dining Hall to remove poster

Issue #2: Collusion of slates
• Everyone with formal complaint against them has received notification, and been adequate given time to respond
  o Mike Viola: There were points where candidates agreed on topics during the debate on Monday. By this logic, this should be punishable as collusion, too
    ▪ He never used this petition as a platform to promote his campaign
    ▪ Sees bar of collusion as very low, by his understanding every slate would have been kicked out by this point
  o Mark Sands: created this petition, and distributed it for signatures
    ▪ He was bothered by cabinet proposals which (One and Open Minds, specifically) laid out cabinets as a “fait accompli”
    ▪ He believes this misrepresents process of student government
    ▪ Thought it would be good for CC/assembly to remind student public of their role in that process, clarify it
    ▪ He drafted letter with this in mind. Didn’t name slates “by name” because thought ‘issue’ was important. Began to solicit signatures. Language changed slightly, message stayed same
    ▪ In soliciting signatures, framed issue as problematic, “as Open Minds has done” because it was most well-known reference point
    ▪ Wasn’t commenting on Open Minds as a slate, or imply they were breaking rules, but wanted to raise awareness of the actual role SG would have in the process
    ▪ Has never said any particular slate was solely at issue, nor that any other slate should be supported instead
    ▪ Sees it as ‘issue-focused’ not ‘slate-focused’
Issue #3: Complaints (multiple) addressing United Progress’s use of many things including use of all-student email, sponsored Facebook posts. Complaint alleges that such activity is a misuse of funds given that it is paid for through student life fee
  - Tyler Kissinger: has not sent all-student email. Used opt-in newsletter
    o Was confused by this complaint. Using sponsored FB posts has been year-long practice
  - Cannot shut down operations as a SG during the campaign
    o Everything on social handled by Communications (Alita Carbone) who is not involved in campaign, has been deliberately removed from campaign process
      ▪ Kissinger has been especially careful. April post around students receiving payment for leadership positions in RSOs was removed from Facebook after review
    o Kissinger doesn’t understand complaints other than that they (UP) are incumbents. No funds have been used to promote their campaign
  - No sponsored posts have mentioned UP specifically. Just around the operations of Student Government, which need to continue

-- Deliberations --
  - Issue #1: Unallowed postering
    o Candidates must ask University housing/dining office permission to poster, asking a staff member is not sufficient
    o Downer alleges he asked a dining hall worker verbally, but we obviously cannot prove this
    o Rule: Minor infractions, such as (…) unallowed postering, may result in a 5% deduction in overall vote total for candidates.
      ▪ Motion: issue 5% reduction in overall votes for Anthony Downer II
      ▪ Unanimous agreement
      ▪ No infraction for Nina as she did not place poster, has no access to dining halls as off-campus student
  - Issue #2: College council petition
    o Motion: issue warning to be careful about what could be perceived as collusion, in spirit of election
      ▪ Warning applies to everyone who signed petition and who is also implied to be in support of a specific slate
  - Issue #3: Potential promotion of UP as incumbents
    o Motion to dismiss complaint
    o Unanimous

Minutes submitted by Bella Rowe