

2024 GSA General Election

CRO Decision in the Matter of Benjamin Kucher and Ajibola Adigun

Thursday, March 7th, 2024

A formal complaint was filed by Benjamin Kucher, a candidate for the position of Vice President Student Life in the GSA Re-Election of the Vice President Student Life (hereafter “the Complainant”), against Ajibola Adigun (Jibs), a candidate for the position of Vice President Student Life in the GSA Re-Election of the Vice President Student Life (hereafter “the Respondent”), on Tuesday, March 5th, 2024.

Complaint: The Complainant filed a complaint against the Respondent regarding “concerning early/unsanctioned campaigning/posting”. They provide an Instagram post from the Respondent’s account of a screenshot of the email sent to graduate students with the official results as well as the announcement of a re-election. The caption mentions that the ACB has called for a rerun and the Respondent signs off with their name and “Candidate for GSA Vice-President (Student Life) once again”. The other screenshot submitted as evidence is a story posted by the Respondent of a quote about their character, with his photo and name, along with “VP Student Life for GSA”.

Response: The Respondent notes that “reposting someone’s comment on my page does not warrant a campaign” and “information about a rerun is information for the public”. They also noted that for good measure, they have taken the post down.

Relevant Bylaw and Policy:

I.POL.10.1 “The campaign period will last at least seven (7) calendar days and will begin no earlier than the day following the All-Candidates Meeting” (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I.POL.8.6).

Consultation with the Elections and Referenda Committee (ERC): ERC recommended consequences from a warning to a 5% vote deduction for early campaigning. As it is still early in the election process, the CRO felt that a different form of penalty would fit the circumstances.

Decision: The announcement of candidacy is not perceived as an issue. However, the screenshot of the quote with the candidate’s name and position they are running for would have been considered campaign material during the campaign period, therefore it can be considered as such now. For this, the Respondent is being issued a \$10 spending limit deduction (i.e., they can only spend \$140 maximum out of the \$150 allowed). This penalty has already been issued in response to an earlier complaint.

Appeals: As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, “decisions of the CRO are subject to appeal to the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB)” (I.POL.11.6) and “[parties] have twenty-four (24) hours from the time the CRO’s email is deemed delivered for an emailed appeal to be received

by the Chair of the GSA ACB” (I.POL.11.6.a). Please note that all parties may file an appeal to ACB, and ACB decisions are final and binding (H.POL.15.7.b).