

DIE Board Hearing Application

Please note that this information will all be public. While the UASU's practice is to redact email addresses and phone numbers from publicly posted DIE Board hearing applications, the information provided may be kept, used, and disclosed in keeping with the operations of the DIE Board, UASU Bylaws, and Alberta's Personal Information Protection Act.

If necessary, the Students' Union DIE Board Registrar may contact you to confirm that you are a student.

NOTE: Under the DIE Board Protocols, the DIE Board reserves the right to reject applications that it judges to be frivolous or vexatious.

Name	Andie Hansen
E-mail	[REDACTED]
Phone Number	[REDACTED]
This application is for a:	<div>DIE Board Hearing</div>

Reason for Application

Describe the specific violation of a bylaw or rule, your specific interpretation question, or the specific errors made by the DIE Board or the CRO. If you want the Board to issue some kind of order, explain what you think the Board should do. You may also attach additional written submissions or supporting documents at the end of this form.

Reason

I've attached a PDF for an amended appeal to HA03 with several corrections. Notably, irrelevant respondents and witnesses have been removed. It is meant to replace the existing document, but due to the late notice an optional link will be provided to the Board during today's hearing in case this is not possible.

Proposed Respondent(s)

List the individual(s) alleged to have infringed a rule or who are otherwise adversely involved in interest to your application. If you are appealing a CRO Ruling, list the CRO and any candidates involved.

Proposed Respondent

Jacob Verghese

Anticipated Witnesses

List other individuals involved in the case who can contribute to the Hearing, if any.

Signature

Andie Hanson

Attach File

Although not required, you may attach additional written submissions or supporting documents for the Board to consider, including any relevant facts, a copy of any Students' Union legislation or rules relevant to your arguments, and your position on the matters in issue. These submissions will help the Board understand the nature of your complaint or request for interpretation. The Board may rule against you if you do not provide sufficient reasons for your application.

Please submit as a single document.

If you're unsure of how to combine multiple separate documents, you can save all documents as a PDF and use [PDF Merge](#).

File upload



Appeal Regarding the CRO'spdf

Direct any questions to:

DIE Board Registrar

governance@su.ualberta.ca

SUB 6-24

To: Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement (DIE) Board

From: Andie Hansen

Subject: Appeal Regarding the C.R.O.'s Handling of Unofficial and Final Election Results

Reason for Appeal

This appeal addresses concerns related to the Chief Returning Officer (C.R.O.) and Deputy Returning Officer (D.R.O.)'s handling of unofficial and final results during the recent Students' Union elections, specifically referencing Bylaw 330.08. The failure to clearly distinguish between these result types has potentially misled the student body and affected the rights of candidates as outlined in the Students' Union bylaws.

Bylaw Interpretation

[Bylaw 330.08](#) explicitly differentiates between the posting of unofficial and final election results.

The C.R.O. or at least one (1) D.R.O. shall

a) supervise the counting of ballots electronically, when necessary;

b) post final results within two (2) Business Days of all complaints and appeals being resolved;

c) notify the Speaker of the Students' Council and President of the Students' Union of the final results in writing;

d) for GFC Elections, notify the Vice President (Academic) of the Students' Union and the GFC Secretary of the final results in writing;

e) post unofficial results at any time, including during counting; and

f) store the ballots in a secure place for at least two (2) weeks after completing the last recount.

The provision to post unofficial results "at any time" contrasts with the requirement to post final results "within two (2) Business Days of all complaints and appeals being resolved." This distinction implies that final results, carrying an official and conclusive weight, should not be released until after the resolution of any election-related disputes.

Background

On March 8, *The Gateway* [reported](#) on the results of the election. The results were not specified as unofficial, and even implied the opposite due to the communication from the Elections Office and the D.R.O.

*“Layla Alhussainy, a fourth-year sociology and religious studies student, won the vice-president (academic) position over Farah Elgaweesh, a first-year nursing student. The SU Elections Office did not release the number of votes counted in the race, as they were removed from counting. **Sithara Naidoo, the SU’s deputy returning officer, confirmed that Elgaweesh was disqualified from the race.**”*

The same article later states: *“At 10:50 p.m., the SU posted that Alhussainy was named the interim-elect, but confirmation will come after a Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement (DIE) Board hearing.”*

Implications

The handling of the election results, reported by *The Gateway* and subsequent actions by the SU Elections Office, raises concerns over compliance with Bylaw 330.08.

Notably:

- The premature announcement of election outcomes without clear labeling as “unofficial” may have prematurely influenced perceptions of the election's integrity and finality.
- The specific instance involving candidates Layla Alhussainy and Farah Elgaweesh, as reported, lacked the necessary clarity regarding the status of the results, leading to potential confusion and unfair treatment.

The absence of clear communication regarding the unofficial nature of preliminary results may have compromised the transparency and fairness expected in the electoral process. This oversight may have impacted candidates' rights to due process ([Bylaw 320.16](#)), especially for candidates with less institutional knowledge. It also undermines the trust of the student body in the electoral system's integrity.

Suggested Remedy

To address these concerns and uphold the principles of fairness and transparency, I propose the following remedies for consideration by the DIE Board:

- Formal acknowledgment by the SU Elections Office of the oversight in distinguishing between unofficial and final results in their communications.
- Implementation of a standardized protocol for announcing election results, including explicit labeling of “unofficial” or “preliminary” for any results announced prior to the resolution of all complaints and appeals.
- Reaffirmation of candidates' rights to appeal and the impact of such appeals on the finality of election results, ensuring future communications reflect these provisions.

- Review and clarification of Bylaw 330.08 to provide more detailed guidance on the communication of unofficial and final results to prevent future ambiguities.
- Account for the potential negative impact of unofficial election results on candidates' rights to due process in any relevant and upcoming hearings ([HA02](#), [HA04](#), [HA05](#), [HA06](#), etc.).