

DIE Board Respondent Application

Submission Date 2019-03-13 06:31:53

Name Ilyas Gora

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Phone Number [REDACTED]

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gora', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized, with a large 'G' and a horizontal line extending from the 'a'.

File upload [DIEBoardRespondant_CRO.pdf](#)

TO: DIE Board
FROM: Ilyas Gora, Chief Returning Officer
DATE: March 13, 2019
RE: Allowance of DFU Referendum/Plebiscite Questions



Dear DIE Board Members:

I am writing in response to DIE Board Application Hearing 2018-10 (Allowance of DFU Referendum/Plebiscite Questions). The applicant in this case has misconstrued Student's Union Bylaw and their allegations of negligence against the office of the Chief Returning Officer are baseless.

Here is a full account of my process:

1. On November 8, 2018 I met with Rebecca Taylor, Manager of Discover Governance, to review the established Elections Office procedures as they relate to Dedicated Fee Units ("DFU"). We also reviewed the relevant Students' Union Bylaws, particularly noting that:
 - a. Students Council has the authority to call a plebiscite or referendum without a petition¹
 - b. Prior to being approved by Council, all plebiscite and referendum questions must be drafted by the Bylaw Committee²
 - c. If a DFU fails to submit a renewal question by November 15 of the year prior to the one in which the election is to be held, Bylaw Committee will assume responsibility for drafting the plebiscite question³ and bring it to Students' Council⁴
 - d. Upon ratification by Students' Council, the chair of Bylaw Committee shall notify the Chief Returning Officer of an approved plebiscite question⁵
2. I maintained regular communication with Michelle Kim, Chair of the Bylaw Committee, to ensure I was apprised of any developments related to forthcoming plebiscite and referenda questions
3. Upon receipt of the final plebiscite and referenda questions from the Bylaw Committee on January 10, 2019, I reviewed the appropriate Students' Council meeting minutes and confirmed that the questions had passed. I noted in our records that:
 - a. The Student Legal Services Fund Plebiscite question was passed unopposed by Students' Council on Tuesday, November 27, 2018 with the support of the Bylaw Committee; and
 - b. The Aboriginal Student Council DFU referendum question was passed unopposed by Students' Council on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 with the support of the Bylaw Committee
4. Once I confirmed that the plebiscite and referenda questions had successfully passed the scrutiny of Students' Council, I posted a call for the registration of campaign sides as required by Bylaw 2200

At every juncture, I sought to ensure that my staff and I were in compliance with the both letter and spirit of Students' Union Bylaws. I ask that you dismiss the claims in this vexatious application.

Sincerely,

Ilyas Gora
Chief Returning Officer
University of Alberta Students' Union

¹ UASU Bylaw 2200 §6.6

² UASU Bylaw 2200 §6.7

³ UASU Bylaw 6100 §4.3

⁴ UASU Bylaw 6100 §4.4

⁵ UASU Bylaw 6100 §4.5