

## Ruling #5 Summary

Campaigning on an unapproved account and posted content on her account that the election office did not approve.

## Parties to the Ruling

- Jacob Verghese, Chief Returning Officer
- Farah Elgaweesh, candidate for Vice President Academic

## Elections Office Jurisdiction

This ruling refers to campaign activity within the election. It falls under the jurisdiction of the rules established by the Elections Office in the Nomination Package.

## Applicable Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations

- Bylaw 320, section 17.2: "Penalties available to the C.R.O. shall include (a) a fine to be counted against the Candidate's or side's Campaign Expenses..."
- Bylaw 320, section 17.3: "The C.R.O. shall draft a schedule of fines and penalties as an appendix to the rules and regulations concerning this bylaw."
- General Election Nomination Package, page 8: "Like physical materials, campaign materials used on social media must be approved by the CRO before being made public."
- General Nomination package, page 8: "Candidates must provide the CRO with a list of all account URLs for social media platforms; the CRO needs to follow or otherwise track those accounts before they can be used for campaigning."
- General Election Nomination Package, page 11: "While the Bylaws require disqualification in several situations, they also give the Chief Returning Officer significant latitude to enforce penalties as appropriate in other situations, including a fine to be counted against the candidate's campaign expense limit."
- General Election Nomination Package, page 13: Unapproved campaign materials incur a counterbalancing fine of "Materials confiscated" and a punitive fine of "\$2.00 per material."
- Used previous CRO cases to make judgment decisions based on these offences.

## Findings

Students at large notified the elections staff of this. We saw multiple posts about this which weren't approved or allowed on her Instagram account.

- Will send the DIE Board the photos if requested because we did not want to put her personal account to the public.

## Ruling

The post was contrary to the rule requiring campaign material approval in advance.

The account was not given to the election office.

## Penalty

The CRO contacted the candidate and ordered the post taken down.

\$50 dollars for unapproved campaign material plus 10 dollars for extra post:  $10 \times 6 = 60$ .  
Total for unapproved campaign materials is 110 dollars.

\$50 dollars for an unapproved campaign account.

The total fine allocated is \$160 dollars.

## Appeal

Rulings of the CRO may be [appealed to the DIE Board](#) by current undergraduate students, using the DIE Board Application Form, within 12 working hours of the ruling being posted. This ruling was posted at 4:00 PM on Thursday, March 7th and the deadline for appeal is 12:00 PM on Monday, March 11th.