

2020 ASI ELECTION COMPLAINT COMMITTEE DECISION

By SAMUEL N. JONES, chair

Members Present:

SAMUEL N. JONES, chair
DR. JESSICA MORENO, faculty representative
LEA MULAN CLARK, student representative
KAMERON YBARRA, student representative

Members Absent:

GURBAKHASH KAUR, student representative

MAY 1, 2020

JORDAN PARKER vs JOSEPH SAIS

Mr. Parker, brought a charge against Mr. Sais stating that Mr. Sais “bribed” a celebrity to make a video that supported his campaign.

Complaint: Unfair campaign strategy by bribing a celebrity to make a video that supported Mr. Sais campaign.

Statement of the complaint by complainant

Mr. Parker alleged that Mr. Sais paid celebrity Drake Bell at least \$54.99 to make a video through an app called Cameo, which he interprets as bribery. Mr. Parker further alleges that he expected a “fair” and “equal” election and that Mr. Sais was not honest or fair while campaigning. Mr. Parker believes Mr. Sais’s video by Drake Bell was “endorsing” his campaign.

Summary of the Election Complaint Committee Meeting

The committee members reviewed the complaint and references the following election codes:

- Article IX. Election Complaint Committee, Section E. Campaign Expenditures, Number 2. Specifically, the section addresses the amount of money that can be spent on a campaign should total no more than \$350.00.
- Article IX. Election Complaint Committee, Section H. Discretion of the Elections Complaint Committee to Hear Complaint. Specifically, this sentence: “If the Committee determines that the complaint cannot be heard for reason of lack of jurisdiction or the complaint is ruled without merit, the Committee shall issue in their decision the reasoning behind their determination, citing the relevant sections(s) of the Elections Code when applicable.
- Article V. Fair Campaigning and Publicity, Section I. Endorsement, Number 1 & 2. Specifically, Number 1: “In any given year, any individual directly involved with the planning and implementation of elections, (e.g. Elections Planning Group members), Elections Complaint Committee, and Appellate Council shall be prohibited from individually endorsing and candidate running for office. Additionally, ASI funded programs, University

departments and programs, college departments, faculty, staff, and administration shall be prohibited from endorsing any candidate running for office. Also, Number 2, In accordance with the responsibility of serving as a Board Member, currently serving ASI Board Members may not endorse any candidate, unless they are a candidate themselves.

Statement of the remedy requested

Disqualification under Article X., Section D.

Summary and reasoning supporting the Committee's conclusion

Under Article IX, the Committee has the discretion to dismiss a complaint if the committee members believe it does not have merit. The Committee members met and believe the election code, Article V does not prevent a student from obtaining a service/endorsement from a celebrity. The Committee viewed the video and did not hear an endorsement for the candidate. The video appeared to be an announcement for the candidate. The Article does not prevent a student from paying for a service announcement provided by a celebrity. The video, https://www.instagram.com/p/B-2zZs_gBtt/?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet, seen during the campaigning was paid for by the student as a service and within election expenditure guidelines.

Statement of the relief granted

The complaint has no merit to move forward to a hearing and thus is dismissed.