

# 2026 ASI ELECTION COMPLAINT COMMITTEE DECISION

By JOSE M. BALLESTEROS, chair

## Members Present:

JOSE M. BALLESTEROS, Vice President for Student Affairs designee (chair)

KIMBERLY CHISM, Faculty Senate designee

ZOYA ALTABAA, Student Representative

## Members Absent:

XITLALY BERNAL, student representative

ALEC HUNTER, student representative

May 18, 2026

## **Bahia, Harpreet Kaur vs Diaz Lopez, Kenni Jocabet**

### **I. Statement of the complaint**

Kenni Jocabet Diaz Lopez brought charges against Harpreet Kaur Bahia stating that she failed to accurately disclose campaign expenditures. Specifically, the following policy of the ASCSUS Election Code:

#### Article V: Fair Campaigning and Publicity

##### E. Campaign Expenditures

All independent candidates, Presidential Tickets, Slates members and Interested Student shall be required to turn in personally to the ASI Government Office, a Campaign Expenditure Form listing all their campaign expenses, regardless of the amount of money spent and/or even if no money is spent. One (1) Campaign Expenditure Form per recognized Presidential Ticket and/or Slate members must be turned in personally by one member of said Presidential Ticket and/or the Slate Manager, but signed by the slate members, to the ASI Government Office. This form must be received by the ASI Government Office by 4:00 pm Pacific Time on the Monday following the elections. This statement must be time-stamped to be considered “turned in.” Failure to submit a Campaign Expenditure Form shall be a violation of the Elections Code and WILL result in disqualification.

The Campaign Expenditures Form shall include:

- a. The receipts of all items purchased must be included. These shall include the name and telephone number of the seller. Failure to provide receipts as provided for in this part for all purchased items is a violation of the Elections Code and may result in disqualification.

### **II. Summary of the testimonial and documentary evidence received at hearing in support of the complaint**

Diaz Lopez presented the Committee with testimony stating that Bahia had donuts present at the campaign table on both days of the ASCSUS Elections, April 22-23, 2026. It was alleged that the donuts were distributed to students as part of campaign engagement.

Review of the Bahia Campaign Expenditure Form did not list donuts or provide receipts for the donuts. The form was shown by the ASI Director and no donuts appeared on the form.

Donuts used in the campaign are a campaign resource and should be noted in the Campaign Expenditure Form. Withholding the expenses presents an unclear advantage in a close election.

Multiple eye witness accounts, including ASI staff member Annalisa Vazquez, were aware of the presence of donuts. A picture presented as evidence shows the Bahia and their campaign team at a table with two containers of donuts.

### **III. Summary of the testimonial and documentary evidence received at the hearing in opposition or rebuttal to complaint**

Bahia presented the Committee with her opening statement sharing that she nor her volunteers distributed donuts to students during the campaign period.

Bahia confirmed that donuts were present but were for the campaign workers and were not distributed after being told by ASI Director that they couldn't hand out food items that were not individually wrapped. Six boxes of donuts were purchased and a receipt from Krispy Kreme in amount of \$50.94 was provided.

Receipts for candy were provided and these receipts appeared on the Campaign Expenditure Form for the Bahia campaign.

### **IV. Summary of witness testimony**

- a. Diaz Lopez presented three witnesses: Sandra Delgado, Aadil Bhatt and Shivjyot Singh Brar. Delgado testified that she saw donuts on the table and that she saw current ASI President, Aranjot Kaur, giving out donuts. Bhatt witnessed the donuts on both dates of the election and stated that they were not allowed. They witnessed donuts present by 8:30am and through 5pm on April 22, 2026. Brar testified that they witnessed the presence of donuts and Aranjot Kaur gave out donuts.

Rebuttal was provided by Bahia to the complainants claim that donuts were given away to voters. Bahia stated that no donuts were purchased on the second day and if donuts were handed out it was to the campaign supporters at her table. Bahia mentioned that some donuts may have been distributed during the morning of the first day before they learned that the donuts were not allowed but this was ceased when they found out they could not hand out food that was not individually packaged and that receiving donuts did not directly translate to votes.

- b. Bahia provided the Committee with two witnesses: Mona Munch Harutejyen and Rameet China. Harutejyen testified that they were with the Bahia campaign at 8am on the first campaign day and were told by they could not hand out donuts at 9:30am. The donuts were instead repurposed to use for the campaign helpers present. China testified that only chips and candy were handed out by the campaign and that donuts were for volunteers only and that no one was forced to vote in exchange for donuts. China testified that Aranjot Kaur didn't participate in campaigning and didn't hand out any donuts.

Lopez Diaz called a rebuttal to respond to the validity that donuts were present. They testified that donuts were present on both days and that it was their intent to hand out donuts to get student votes. Lopez Diaz testified that witnesses shared that donuts were given in other areas and that open food is not allowed to be given out, it has to be pre-packaged.

In closing statements, Diaz Lopez asked the integrity of the elections is maintained by following the election code and all candidates be held to the same standards. It was reiterated that the complainant saw donuts present on both days.

In closing statements, Bahia stated that it was not her intention to break the election code and she took action to fix the issue when she found out donuts were not

allowed. After finding out donuts could not be distributed, Bahia asked her campaign to not hand out donuts to students and that disqualification would not be the appropriate consequence.

**V. Statement of the remedy requested**

Disqualification under Article X. Remedies for Complaints, Section D

**VI. Statement of the burden of proof the complaining party or parties was required to meet**

Clear and convincing proof is required for the Committee to award the remedy of disqualifying a candidate. Clear and convincing evidence is defined as that which “leaves no substantial doubt as to the veracity of the claim.”

**VII. Conclusion as to whether the complaining party met the applicable burden of proof**

The Committee did not find the evidence presented by Kenni Jocabet Diaz Lopez to meet the burden of clear and convincing because she was unable to provide a preponderance of evidence to show that items that were not included in the campaign expense report, six boxes of donuts, were handed out to students to increase campaign engagement.

**VIII. Summary and reasoning supporting the Committee’s conclusion**

The Committee unanimously found that the burden of proof was not met by the complainant. Additional witnesses and/or evidence would have been needed to meet the required threshold.

**IX. Statement of the relief**

The Committee denies the statement of relief. However, they agreed with the recommendations provided during the hearing that the AS Election Code campaign guidelines be reviewed for clarity around the usage of food items during ASCSUS Elections.