

# 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 publicly claimed and received endorsements not noted on the Endorsement Form. Specifically, the following policy of the ASCSUS Election Code:

### Article V: Fair Campaigning and Publicity

#### I. Endorsements

i. Before an independent candidate, Presidential Ticket, Slate or Interested Student can claim an endorsement from any individual or organization, they must turn in a wet signed Candidate Endorsement Letter on behalf of their endorser to the ASI Government Office no later than 12:00pm on the Friday before voting begins. No faxed or electronic copies of Endorsement forms shall be accepted. Physical submission of endorsement forms is required to ensure authenticity, prevent falsified or unauthorized endorsements, and maintain a verifiable chain of custody for all election materials. This process upholds transparency, protects endorsers from misrepresentation, and preserves the integrity of the election record. Independent Candidates Presidential Tickets, and Slate members may request a copy of their endorsements after the submission deadline.

## 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 violated article V.i. of the ASCSUS Election Code as a wet signed endorsement form is needed that includes all endorsements. They claimed that the Sikh Student Association was not included in the endorsement form, this was confirmed during the hearing. They showed evidence that on April 20, 2026 the Sikh Student Association posted a post in support of Bahia, including language that the Sikh Student Association endorses Bahia. A WhatsApp chat was shown that included a video of the Voter Guide Ballot and showed how to go to the page to vote for Bahia.

Diaz Lopez stated that it is the responsibility of the candidate to turn in the endorsement form. The endorsement form for Bahia was time stamped on April 16, 2026 and was due on April 17, 2026;

the form did not include the Sikh Student Association.

### **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 the Sikh Student Association did support her campaign and that the endorsement form submitted did not contain them as endorsers. Bahia stated that it was human error and displaced the endorsement form from the Sikh Student Association; this was her responsibility. They found out that they were not endorsed by the ASI Director and promptly removed the posts.

Bahia testified that any impact on the election is speculation as the postings were only up for a short period of time.

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

- a. Diaz Lopez presented two witnesses: Aadil Bhatt, Sandra Delgado. Bhatt indicated that they had been approached by Sikh Student Association members and encouraged to vote at approximately 3pm of the second day of voting. Delgado testified that she witnessed students from the Sikh Student Association asking students to vote for Bahia on the afternoon of April 22<sup>nd</sup> and the on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Bahia provided a rebuttal that the Sikh Student Association students supported her campaign, even in the absence of a club endorsement.

- b. Bahia provided the Committee with four witnesses: Ghada Shargill, Sameron Kanh, Kampher Para and Hasan Abid. Shargill stated that they ere the Vice President of the Sikh Student Association and that he signed the form for his club to endorse Bahia. Kanh is the Secretary of the Sikh Student Association and stated that he saw Shargill sign the form the Wednesday before the endorsement deadline. Para stated that they were not part of the endorsement process as they are not part of the club board and was not asked to get votes for Bahia. Abid stated that they are a classmate of Bahia and was not asked to get votes for Bahia.

Diaz Lopez provided a rebuttal to respond to Bahia's testimony that the WhatsApp message was taken down. They testified that the posting remained active after Bahia was notified that the endorsement was not received from the Sikh Student Association.

In closing statements, Lopez Diaz asked for fairness and integrity in the election process. They claimed that Bahia benefitted from the endorsement without an official Sikh Student Association endorsement. Lopez Diaz pointed out that the Sikh Student Association won the Cash for Clubs vote in the election.

In closing statements, Bahia stated that the Sikh Student Association supports her campaign and didn't intend to falsely endorse. They stated that they promptly removed the postings and any note of the club endorsement when notified. The respondent stated that not including the Sikh Student Association was a procedural mistake, and not deliberate.

### **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 evidence because she was unable to provide a preponderance of evidence to show that the postings had an influence on the outcome of the election.

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

The Committee did find proof that Harpreet Kaur Bahia violated the ASCSUS Election Code related to claiming and receiving endorsements without required documentation. The Committee unanimously found that the burden of proof was not met by the complainant to warrant disqualification. 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 requested. However, the Committee unanimously found that the respondent violated the ASCSUS Election Code and will receive a Letter of Reprimand that identifies the violation and requires 8 hours of community service identified by the ASI Executive Director.