2025 ASI ELECTION COMPLAINT COMMITTEE DECISION

By SAMUEL N. JONES, chair

Members Present:
SAMUEL N. JONES, Vice President for Student Affairs designee (chair)
NITIN ROY, Faculty Senate designee
DREW HARRIS, student representative
LEILA BERANIA, student representative
DHRUV SINGH, student representative

Members Absent:
NONE

MAY 14, 2025

ARMANDO PEREZ vs ARANJOT KAUR, RICHARD ANGULO

I. Statement of the complaint

Perez brought charges against Kaur and Angulo stating they received endorsement from a University program/department. Specifically, the following policy:

Article V: Fair Campaigning and Publicity

I. Endorsement

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 any 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.

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

Perez presented the Committee with testimony documents stating that Kaur and Angulo received an endorsement from Combat U and stating it was a University program.

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

Kaur and Angulo presented the Committee with testimony and documents sharing Combat U was not and never was a University program. They presented a letter from the Director of Athletics stating the Department of Athletics does not sponsor Combat U as one of its 21 NCAA athletic programs. Also, they presented a letter from the Assistant Director for Student Organizations and Leadership stating the five Combat U groups: Boxing, Jiu Jitsu, Kick Boxing/Muay Thai, MMA, and Wrestling are sports clubs that are recognized through Student Organizations and Leadership.

IV. Summary of witness testimony

a. Perez provided the Committee with one witness. Chaaya Vikash stated Combat U endorsed Kaur and Angulo.
b. Kaur and Angulo provided the Committee with three witnesses. The witnesses were Joseph Jimenez, Brett Butson, and Nikita Akhumov. The witnesses testified that Combat U was a sports club and not a University program. The witnesses stated Combat U was run by students and have specific officers as required by Student Organizations and Leadership such as a President, Vice President, etc.

   In rebuttal closing statements, Perez shared that Combat U was a University program and when the complaint was filed, they removed the word "program" from their website.

   In rebuttal and closing statements, Kaur and Angulo stated the endorsement was by a sports club recognized by Student Organization and Leadership.

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 Perez to meet the burden of clear and convincing proof because he was not able to establish that Combat U was a recognized NCAA sport within the Department of Athletics.

VIII. Summary and reasoning supporting the Committee's conclusion

The Committee unanimously found that the burden of proof was not met by the complainant. The two supporting letters and testimony stated Combat U has always been a sports club under the department of Student Organizations and Leadership.

IX. Statement of the relief

The Committee denies the statement of relief.