

SGA Election Commission Meeting
February 15, 2018
Meeting Start time 9:00pm

Everyone is here, minutes from last meeting have been confirmed.

- No motion to combine or throw out cases. Walker case : tabled until further noticed
- Case 1
 - Jade reads violation against the Unite Party out loud
 - Taylor Nye gives his opening and hands out paper (advisor opinion from the Supreme Court) to Election Commissioners and the Unite Party representative. Explains the violation further and provides evidence supported with specific statutes. Accusing the Unite Party of 26 scheduled 2 violations. Taylor Nye has 54 seconds left for his closing
- The Unite Party begins his opening, Vice Chair is the representative. Stating that there is no where in statutes that says that they may not publicize their candidates. They were following their right to freedom of speech. They also state that they shared their candidates as well in the exact same way. 1 minute and 46 seconds towards the closing.
- All members begin to read the advisor opinion from the Supreme Court that was handed out previously by Taylor Nye

Taylor Nye begins his eight minute presentation, clarifies his definition and understanding of the term campaigning.

- A member interrupts to ask if posting a member of a name is considered a call to action. He responds by stating that he is campaigning before campaign week so yes it is. Taylor Nye's argument is that, that it is a call to action, and that by publicizing a name is campaigning before campaign week stated in statutes and his interpretation of statutes
- Another commissioner states that the evidence only says "7 days ago" and gives no evidence that they were posted early. Nye responds by saying that he would be more than welcomed to show an exact Instagram post that gives the date.
- Taylor Nye continues on
- Another commissioner asks a question regarding the posting of the FSView. Ends with asking that the FSView can publicize the article but the Party cannot and that is considered objective.
- Another commissioner asks about the people sharing the posts are considered a violation against the party as well. Nye responds by saying yes it is a violation against the party.
- Presentation ends.

The Unite representative takes the stand to begin his statement and his eight minute presentation to the Election Commissioners.

- They state that they were just an RSO not a party
- Commissioner asks why wouldn't everyone just post their non election stuff as an RSO and just say it's not in the campaign window. Representative responds
- Representative believe Nye's claim toward them not having respect towards the statutes is not related to this case.
- Commissioner asks about campaigning before campaign week and representative responds by saying that they do not interpret that as a violation.
- Commissioner asks if they think that there is a different interpretation of the statute.
- Commissioner asks about the launch party, representative defends that there was no call to action or pressure to vote, they were simply notifying the school about their candidates who were running

- Commissioner refers to a diagram on one of the evidence given and questions how they don't see how it is not a call to action, then asks again if they have an alternate interpretation of campaigning/ call to action
- Another commissioner states that he is still confused how just because they weren't considered a party yet that publicizing their candidates isn't campaigning
- Presentation ends when final commissioner asks about his view of fairness by publicizing their candidates.

Nye responds to Unite Party

Unite representative gives closing and restates their argument that publicizing names is not a call to action and does not violate their interpretation of statutes and that it has been done in the past.

Closing was 1 minute and 21 seconds

Nye gives closing and states his argument again that they are violating statutes by not consulting supervisor of elections before posting their candidates and by campaigning before campaign week. Closing was 2 minutes and 17 seconds.

Commissioner made a comment to not be disrespectful.

Election Commission meets in discussion to make a decision

Election Commission makes the decision that Unite Party is guilty of scheduled one and scheduled two violations. Total fine 11,088 dollars against the Unite Party. The opinion will be posted within 48 hours. The Unite Party has 24 hours to appeal to the Supreme Court

There are 11 schedule two violations .

Case 2

Jade McGrath reads the violation against the Unite Party out loud

Taylor Nye begins his 5 minute opening

- Nye states his argument that the Unite Party is “blatantly ignoring student body statues”. Nye continues to explain what he saw and what occurred. He states the problem here is that they’re using Student Government resources. It presents “extreme unfairness of those who follow the rules”. Two minutes extra used for close

The Unite Party Representative begins his 5 minute opening

- Soar board is not apart of SGA but apart of Student activities. He states that an individual could have walked by and distributed the pin to the person mentioned previously. They did not use any SGA resources, and if a Unite member did give the person the pin, it was an honest mistake but wearing a pin is not necessarily endorsing the Party. A minute and twenty seconds towards the close.

A few commissioners question Nye before he begins the eight minute argument/defense

Nye begins his eight minute presentation

- Claims that Soar Board is a part of Student Government.
- Commissioners continue to question Nye on his claim that Soar Board is a part of SGA and that his argument is based on something there is no clear evidence for (a Unite member handing the pin to the Soar Board member).
- Nye continues, quickly interrupted by commissioner to ask if EC has jurisdiction over SOAR

Unite begins their eight minute presentation

- Soar is not a part of SGA but is apart of student activities, SGA members have to take the oath which Soar Board members do not do. Soar Board is made up of volunteers
- Commissioner asks questions
- Representative continues with defense, representative was a prior soar board member and made it clear that they are well aware that they are not to be affiliated with a political party.

Nye voids his response

Both groups void their closing

Election Commission makes the decision that the Unite Party is not guilty and there is no violation.

Meeting Adjourned, time 11:25pm