

Student Elections

Official Election Violation Complaint

Complainant(s): Nathan Thokkudubiyapu

Respondent(s): SpeakUp UIC, Anthony Cruz, and Khushi Patel

Witness(es): Anyone with access to the UIC 2023 Snapchat Page

Date/Time Submitted: Complainant submitted on Wednesday, April 3rd at 1:52AM

Date/Time of Violation Occurrence: Complainant made aware of Monday, April 1st, 2024 at 8:50PM

Clause(s) Allegedly Violated:

2.5.1. – EPC expects candidates to run an issue-orientated campaign. This committee reserves the right to disqualify or sanction a candidate if it believes that the candidate or their campaign engages in libel (malicious, false print report) or slander (malicious, false verbal report).

Summary of Alleged Violations:

Complainant reported snapchat posts by the username “minnpenguin” who made posts that is described as, “slanderous, and is a clear goal to defame the members and the slate Impact UIC a whole. These snapchat posts were visible to a large body of UIC students that they believe is slanderous and misinformation spread.

EPC Review and Decision:

The EPC has reviewed the complaint, the accompanying screenshots, and invited the complainant to speak with the EPC board. The EPC board reached out to the respondents for a response, with an extended deadline granted, but did not receive one. The following decision has been made: EPC does not find SpeakUp UIC having violated 2.5.1., thus will be dismissing the complaint.

The EPC could not determine the identity of the Instagram user “minnpenguinn” with no concrete evidence presented as to the user’s identity. Furthermore, there is no concrete evidence presented that this user was affiliated with SpeakUp UIC – thus making this speculation. The EPC Board does recognize that clause 2.5.1. only applies to candidates, it does not apply to individuals who are not affiliated with the party slates as well as student organizations who support the slates.

Recommendation: The EPC Board has recommend the Dean of Students and the Undergraduate Student Government to update the EPC Handbook to include a statement of freedom of speech (1st amendment) and to send email to all candidates prior to campaigning reminding of rules.