



Judgment of the USC Appeals Board in the matter of:

***Western Crafting for a Cure v. USC Clubs Governance Committee,
2016:2***

Judgment Date: February 22, 2016

Panel: Adrita Shah Noor (Panel Chair), Andrew Tam, and Sukhbir Thind

Reasons for Judgment: The Board

I. Overview

1. The Petitioner, Western Crafting for a Cure, seeks review of a January 20, 2016 decision of the USC Clubs Governance Committee [hereafter the "CGC"], in which it found Western Crafting for a Cure in violation of sections 3.01(8) and 3.01(10) of the *Club Executive Terms of Reference*, as well as sections 2.01, 2.06, 6.02, and 7.06 of the *Club Event Planning and Risk Management Procedure*.
2. Consequently, the CGC decided to place Western Crafting for a Cure on probation for eleven months and eleven days. The probation period is targeted to end on December 31, 2016, provided no further violations by the Petitioner occurs. As part of the probation, the CGC requires the President of Western Crafting for a Cure to meet with the Compliance Coordinator or the AVP Clubs each month for review, with the exception of May, June, July, and August.
3. This appeal is brought pursuant to section 6.00 of the *Club Hearings and Sanctions Procedure*. The USC Appeals Board can overturn the decision only if it finds that the CGC erred in law or arrived at an unreasonable conclusion.
4. This Board can find no such grounds for quashing the CGC's decision. The appeal is dismissed for the reasons that follow.

II. The Issues

Issue 1: The Reimbursement Request

5. As per sections 3.01(8) and 3.01(10), each USC Club Executive is required "to abide by the Club Event planning and Risk Management Procedure" and is responsible for ensuring "that the Club abides by all University Policies and Procedures."

6. Section 2.01 of the *Club Event Planning and Risk Management Procedure* states that “All clubs shall submit an event proposal to the Compliance Staff through the Club portal system prior to holding any event for the purpose of the club or its members.” Section 2.06 holds that “Failure to submit an event proposal or holding an event where the proposal for said event has been rejected shall result in potential sanctions of the club and or club members.”
7. The USC Compliance Coordinator received a reimbursement request totalling \$172.68 for the purchase of craft supplies for volunteer events hosted by Western Crafting for a Cure. The uncontested evidence on this point is that a proposal had not been submitted on Western Link prior to the event, nor was a budget received.
8. The Petitioner posits that the relevant members in charge of submission were new and unaware of the finer details regarding club policies, especially those regarding event proposals.

Issue 2: The Scarves-Selling Event

9. The USC Compliance Coordinator viewed the club selling scarves in the USC atrium. The uncontested evidence on this point is that no proposal, budget, or fundraising information was submitted by Western Crafting for a Cure on Western Link for this event.
10. The Petitioner submits that the proposal was completed, but a miscommunication between the VP Events and President resulted in the proposal not being uploaded.

III. Analysis

11. Ignorance and miscommunication are no shields for illicit behaviour. The appropriate protocols have been covered in the mandatory clubs training sessions.
12. Furthermore, while Western Crafting for a Cure is in its second year of ratification, its President has actively participated in other clubs in the past and even sat on the USC Policy Review committee last year. The CGC was aware of this uncontested fact.
13. Western Crafting for a Cure also contends that the duration of the probation would severely impact their club mission of offering crafts to children in hospitals dealing with mental or physical health problems.
14. This Board disagrees. As per the terms of the probation, the President of Western Crafting for a Cure must meet monthly with the Compliance Coordinator or AVP Clubs. The Board does not view this requirement as unreasonably heavy-handed or strict. The prohibition imposed by the CGC simply seeks to ensure Western Crafting for a Cure abides by club protocols in the future. The sanction imposed does not prevent Western Crafting for a Cure from fulfilling its club mission. Nor does it prevent the Petitioner from holding legitimate events it would have otherwise have held.

IV. Conclusion and Disposition

15. The Board finds that the USC Clubs Governance Committee’s decision to put Western Crafting for a Cure on probation was both reasonable and in accordance with the *Clubs Hearings and Sanctions Procedure*.

16. For these reasons, the Board upholds the decision to place Western Crafting for a Cure on probation for eleven months and eleven days.

DISPOSITION SUMMARY:

The appeal is dismissed.