

Team DiBrina vs. University Students' Council Elections Governance Committee

On Tuesday, January 31st, Team DiBrina submitted a violation complaint against Team Tobi on the basis of violating Rule #6 of the Flyers, Posters and Social Media section of the Policy on USC Campaigning in Residence, which reads:

“Candidates and campaign volunteers are not permitted to post on residence-managed social media platforms (e.g., building Facebook pages, Twitter feeds, etc.).”

The incident involved both candidates for Team Tobi, Mr. Solebo and Mr. Tulk, posting in the Ontario Hall and Hellmuth residence Facebook groups. In response, the Elections Governance Committee (EGC) deemed this to be a minor violation and sanctioned Team Tobi with four (4) demerit points.

However, the EGC failed to take into account multiple other posts in residence Facebook groups by campaign volunteers and arm's-length parties.

For example, [REDACTED] posted in the Saugeen Maitland Hall 2016-2017 group encouraging the group to vote for Team Tobi. Based on [REDACTED] LinkedIn profile she is actively involved with DECA U at Western, which is a club that endorsed Team Tobi before the voting period. Furthermore, there are pictures on her Facebook page where she is associating herself with a member of Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI), the fraternity that Mr. Solebo and Mr. Tulk belong to. Based on these two associations, there was a reasonable expectation that she would assist Team Tobi during the voting period and cannot be classified as a person beyond arm's length. Given that DECA U Western endorsed Team Tobi, they had a reasonable expectation to inform their members of how they could and could not support Team Tobi. Since they did not Team Tobi must be held responsible for [REDACTED] actions. All images regarding [REDACTED] post can be found in Appendix A.

Furthermore, [REDACTED] posted in the Medway Sydenham Hall 2015-16 Facebook encouraging students to vote for Team Tobi. According to their Facebook page, [REDACTED] is a member of Alpha Phi, a sorority within the Western Greek community. Alpha Phi endorsed Team Tobi at the beginning of the campaign period. Similar to the incident above, Alpha Phi had a reasonable expectation to inform its members on how they could support Team Tobi and what they could and couldn't post on social media during the campaign and voting period, an aspect they failed to do. Given the association between Team Tobi and Alpha Phi, Team Tobi had a

reasonable expectation that members of the sorority would help them throughout the campaign and therefore, must be held responsible for [REDACTED]'s actions. All images regarding [REDACTED] post can be found in Appendix B.

Overall, the Appeals Board should find that the EGC erred in not assigning demerit points for these two violations. The Appeals Board should determine these to be violations and sanction Team Tobi with a minor violation of four (4) demerit points, equal to the four (4) demerit points Team Tobi received for the other two residence Facebook group posts.