

**2025 General Election and Election of the Associate Vice-President Labour**  
CRO Decision in the matter of Aashish Kumar and Haseeb Arshad  
Friday, February 20, 2025

**Summary of alleged or discerned breach**

- The complainant alleges that the respondent shared a private screenshot of a campaign conversation without their consent. The complainant also alleges that this action was defamatory, as it accuses them of slating. Further, the complainant notes that the respondent filed several complaints against him and misrepresented facts.
- The evidence presented by the complainant included a screenshot of the private conversation and the list of candidates publicly available on the GSA website.

**Parties to the complaint or breach**

- Complainant: Aashish Kumar
- Respondent: Haseeb Arshad

**Summary of decision making process**

- As per I.POL.11.4.a, the CRO reached out to the respondent for a response.
  - The respondent notes that the complaints filed previously were in accordance with GSA Bylaw and Policy and would only be accessed by the CRO and ERC, therefore not constituting defamation. The respondent also states that the complainant's complaint appears retaliatory. He also notes several reasons why his previous complaints were not frivolous or baseless, in addition to the fact that the complaints were not dismissed, but instead the respondent was issued two separate written warnings.
- The CRO provided ERC with both the complaint and response.
  - Members of ERC unanimously agreed to dismiss this complaint.

**Applicable GSA Bylaw and Policy and interpretations, other applicable policies/laws**

- I.BYL.1.1 and I.POL.6.1 The fundamental principle underlying GSA elections is that they are to be fair, respect the wishes of voters, and conducted in a manner that reflects the excellent, positive reputation of the GSA.
- I.POL.6.3 Candidates will treat the Chief Returning Officer, Deputy Returning Officer, members of the GSA Elections and Referenda Committee, GSA Officers, management, staff, and fellow candidates with respect.
- I.POL.7.7 By signing nomination forms, all candidates acknowledge that they have read and agree to abide by GSA Bylaw and Policy on elections, which is posted in full on the GSA website.

**Decided upon penalties and/or remedial actions**

- The CRO does not have jurisdiction to rule on violations of the University of Alberta Information Technology Use and Management Policy. This complaint is dismissed.

**Appeal process and time limit**

- The appeal process is outlined in I.POL.11.6.