

2026 General Election and Election of the Associate Vice-President Labour

CRO Decision in the matter of Mohamed Sabeq and Muhammad Faizan

Friday, February 20, 2026

Summary of alleged or discerned breach

- The complainant alleges that the respondent breached GSA Election Bylaw and Policy by embedding a QR code in campaign posters that directs voters to a Google Form containing, among other links, the voting link for the current GSA election. The complainant alleges this constitutes unauthorized distribution of the voting link through campaign material in violation of a CRO directive issued at the All-Candidates Meeting (ACM). Additionally, the complainant alleges that respondent violated GSA Bylaws and Policies subsection I.POL.10.9.a.i, I.POL.10.9.b, I.POL.10.9.c.i, I.POL.10.9.c.ii, I.POL.10.3, I.BYL.1.1 and I.POL.6.1. The complainant requests immediate remedial action including removal of the voting link, imposition of demerit points, formal reprimands, and consideration of disqualification.

Parties to the complaint or breach

- Complainant: Muhammad Faizan
- Respondent: Mohamed Sabeq

Summary of decision-making process

- As per I.POL.11.4.a, the CRO reached out to the respondent for a response.
 - The respondent denied the alleged breaches. The respondent stated that the campaign poster bearing the QR code was submitted to and approved by the CRO prior to distribution. The QR code links to a Google Doc (not Google Form) containing his campaign biography, with the voting link included among several other informational links at the bottom of the document. He stated that no written prohibition on sharing the voting link exists in GSA Bylaw and Policy, the ACM slides, or the demerit system. The respondent does not recall any verbal directive prohibiting sharing the voting link. He stated that the voting link is public information distributed by the GSA to all eligible graduate students requiring individual authentication.
 - The CRO verified that the campaign poster containing the QR code was submitted for approval and was approved prior to distribution, as required by I.POL.10.9.a.i.
 - The CRO acknowledged that a verbal directive discouraging the distribution of the voting link through campaign materials was communicated during the ACM as part of general guidance on maintaining election integrity. However, this directive was not incorporated into the formal demerit system.
 - All graduate students received the link on their University of Alberta email addresses along with individual passwords, preventing anyone from casting a vote without the required passwords provided by the GSA staff.
- The CRO provided ERC with both the complaint and response.
 - The CRO after consultation with members of the ERC decided to dismiss the complaint.

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

- 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 (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I.BYL.1.1).
- I.POL.10.9.a.i Campaign materials that are physically posted or distributed will require the approval of the CRO.
- I.POL.10.9.d When approving campaign materials, the CRO will ensure they comply with I.POL.10.2 and I.POL.10.3, above, and any other relevant GSA Bylaw and Policy.
- I.POL.11.3.d The CRO, DRO or Acting DRO can dismiss a complaint if it is unfounded, frivolous, or vexatious.

After reviewing the complaint, respondent's written response, and the supporting evidence, it was determined that the complaint was unfounded and therefore subject to dismissal under I.POL.11.3.d.

Decided upon penalties and/or remedial actions

- This complaint is dismissed, as the CRO confirmed that the respondent submitted the campaign poster containing the QR code to the CRO for approval, and the CRO approved it prior to distribution. Although the respondent's claim that the voting link is public information is incorrect, the inclusion of the voting link at the end of the Google Doc does not affect the voting process.

Appeal process and time limit

- The appeal process is outlined in GSA Bylaw and Policy section I.POL.11.6.