

Cause of Action: The executive ticket consisting of Rachel Byers for President, Melissa Hevener for Vice President, and Navdeep Singh has violated the SGA Code of Elections through their campaigning at [redacted student organization] on February 18, 2019, exactly one week before the Elections Code delineated the campaign period. This action was done with the sole purpose of confirming support and publicizing their ticket to the [redacted student organization] Executive Board. Articles Violated: SGA Elections Code, Chapter 704, Article 1, Sections A, B, and C, Chapter 704, Article 3, Section A, Subsection iii, Chapter 704, Article 5, Section C.

Explanation: Upon investigation into a persistent theme of campaigning to multiple organizations before the beginning of the campaign period, members of the ACT Executive ticket received a text message from the Executive Director of [redacted student organization] , [redacted name], with regards of a measure to ensure “all fairness of elections...[and] to present platform ideals” to the [redacted student organization] ’s Board like the Empower executive ticket did. This text message was received on February 14th (screenshot of message attached). After speaking on the phone with [redacted name], we were informed that specific members of the Empower executive ticket, Rachel Byers and Melissa Hevener, and members of the Empower executive ticket staff, Katy Warren (member of [redacted student organization] Executive Board), did in fact speak with the [redacted student organization] Executive Board Meeting on February 18, 2019 about ways to “better serve [redacted student organization]”. This will be shown by the messages from [redacted name] encouraging our ticket’s participation in the sanctionable actions.

While a defense could have been made that Byers and Hevener were simply there to listen to what issues affect the [redacted student organization] ’s organization, this claim is undermined by their open-expression of being intended President and Vice President then proceeding to discuss various specific platform points and ways to remain in contact with the two and the Empower campaign in general. In particular, a member of the UGA [redacted student organization] executive board direct testimony and eyewitness account of the incident will corroborate the information disseminated by Byers and Hevener of the Empower executive ticket.

Furthermore, these facts will be demonstrated with the screenshots from [redacted student name] and [redacted name]. Due to the actions of Hevener, Byers, and Warren, the ACT Executive ticket believes that the Empower Executive ticket did violate the SGA Elections Code Chapter 704, Article 1, Sections A, B, and C. These portions of the Code specify that “[c]ampaigning may begin for candidates and parties on the date and time specified by the Elections Timelines” and delineates campaigning as “any and all actions intentionally undertaken with the purpose of promoting, publicizing, and securing support for a candidate(s).”

In addition, the ACT Executive ticket believes that the Byers, Hevener, and Warren, all members of the Empower executive ticket, did violate the SGA Elections Code Chapter 704, Article 3, Section A, Subsection iii. This portion of the code reads as any usage of campaign material that is “intentionally disseminated with the intent to promote the electoral prospect of a particular candidate, party, or ticket. Campaign material shall also include, but will not be limited to the following: i. An electoral advertisement ii. A printed document containing an electoral matter (a how-to-vote card, a candidate or party platform, etc.) iii. A message presented in a way which is intended to promote an electoral matter, candidate, party, or ticket...”

Once arriving at the [redacted student organization] ’s Executive Board meeting a week before campaigning begins, Byers and Hevener of the Empower Executive ticket did disseminate specific

policy points and “two major campaign topics” they seek to address and publicize their specific role within the Empower executive ticket as “president and vice president.”

Finally, based on the inappropriate behavior by Melissa Hevener and Rachel Byers, and pursuant to the SGA Elections Code, Chapter 704, Article 5, Section C, which states, “An executive ticket will be held accountable as one entity, and not as individual candidates,” the ACT Executive ticket seeks that immediate legal disciplinary measures be imposed on the executive ticket comprising of Rachel Byers for President, Melissa Hevener for Vice President, and Navdeep Singh for Treasurer. The ACT Executive ticket has noticed a pervasive theme of openly campaigning by the Empower Executive ticket at multiple organizations, specifically the [redacted student organization]’s incident, and we seek to ensure truly fair elections by their abidance to the laws stated in the SGA Elections Code.