

OFFICIAL APPEAL, ELECTIONS COMMITTEE DECISION

Empower Executive Ticket

Elizabeth Davis, Campaign Liaison

elizabeth.davis26@uga.edu

(770) 543-9491

Decision Appealed: *Official Elections Complaint, filed by the Empower Executive Ticket on Saturday, March 2; hearing on March 3 at 2 p.m.*

Cause of action of the original complaint: *The ACT Executive Ticket comprising of Asim Ahmed for President, Charley Claudio for Vice President, and Wesley Tillman for Treasurer has violated the SGA Elections Code via the campaign activity of Tarun Ramesh, an unregistered staff member who solicited an endorsement of the ACT Executive Ticket from Roosevelt @ UGA.*

Articles Violated by the ACT Campaign in the original complaint: *SGA Elections Code, Chapter 704, Article 8, Sections A, D, and E*

Explanation of the original complaint: *Upon investigation, members of the Empower Executive Ticket and their staff discovered that Tarun Ramesh participated in campaign activity for the ACT Executive Ticket without being registered as a staff member. On Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 11:16 a.m., Ramesh sent a text message to Jessica Ma, Executive Director of Roosevelt @ UGA, soliciting an endorsement from Roosevelt for the ACT Executive Ticket. Ramesh asked, "Can asim cop a Roosevelt endorsement? (sic)," to which Ma replied, "we can't do that :((" Ramesh replied, "why. Just read the bylaws." As the conversation continued, Ramesh asked Ma a second time for concrete support from Roosevelt for the ACT Ticket: "Can Roosevelt do a similar thing [to sharing an article as Ramesh claims Foundation Fellows/Ramsey did]," to which Ma replied, "sorry I just don't think it would be in line with our org commitment to nonpartisanship."*

This solicitation of support for the ACT Executive Ticket falls under the category of campaigning as defined by Elections Code 704.1a, which states that, "Campaigning shall be defined as any and all actions intentionally undertaken with the purpose of promoting, publicizing, and securing support for a candidate(s) as defined by the Elections Committee."

Due to the obvious solicitation by Ramesh for an endorsement from Roosevelt @ UGA, the Empower Executive Ticket believes that the ACT Executive Ticket has violated the SGA Code of Elections, specifically 704.8a, d, and e, which state: "a. All individuals who are actively representing an individual or party are considered to be staff and must be registered with a Statement of Intent or Party Affiliation. ... d. All individuals participating as campaign staff must be registered with the Elections Committee no later than 24 hours before the beginning of the voting period. e. The participation of unregistered staff members will result in disciplinary action from the Elections Committee." Ramesh has participated in campaign activity in a way that would lead the recipient of his message to believe that he is actively representing the ACT Ticket, which is consistent with the definition of "campaigning" referenced in the above

paragraph and defined by the SGA Elections Code. By this definition from the Elections Code, Ramesh was not registered with proper documentation, and he participated as an unregistered staff member, which calls for disciplinary action as per the Elections Code.

In conclusion, the Empower Executive Ticket believes that the ACT Executive Ticket has committed a violation of the SGA Elections Code, specifically 704.8a, d, and e. Due to this violation, the Empower Executive Ticket seeks that immediate legal disciplinary measures be imposed on the ACT Executive Ticket comprising of Asim Ahmed for President, Charley Claudio for Vice President, and Wesley Tillman for Treasurer.

Articles Violated by the Elections Committee: *SGA Elections Code Chapter 704, Article 8, Section E; Chapter 707, Article 3, Section A*

Cause of action for the appeal request: *In the Election Committee's ruling on March 3, the committee claims that "Ramesh was not 'actively representing' the interests of the ACT campaign, and thus could not be considered an unregistered staff member of ACT." However, per section 704.1a Ramesh's solicitation of an endorsement definitely represents the interests of the ACT Campaign. As per the attached evidence referenced above, and based on the definition of campaigning included within the Elections Code, which includes "securing support for a candidate," the complainant (the Empower Executive Ticket) has done its due diligence in providing evidence from both text messages and the Election Code, satisfying the requirement that the burden of proof rests on the complainant. This proof shows that Ramesh was participating in the campaign in this manner as an unregistered staff member.*

*Because Ramesh operated as an unregistered staff member, it would have been the duty of the Elections Committee to act upon this behavior as per 704.8e of the Elections Code, which states: "The participation of unregistered staff members **will** result in disciplinary action from the Elections Committee." Due to their failure to act upon this section, the Elections Committee has violated 707.3a, which states that a duty of the Committee is that they, "Shall interpret, execute, and enforce all election laws provided in this Elections Code." The Committee has failed to enforce 704.8e via their failure to impose disciplinary action on the ACT Executive Ticket as per the actions of an unregistered staff member.*

Because the Elections Committee has failed to perform their aforementioned duty, we request that the Supreme Court grant an appeal hearing concerning the decision of the Elections Committee hearing on March 3.