



ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Student Government Association

OFFICIAL COMPLAINT FORM

As per Chapter 711 of the Elections Code, any student shall be able to submit complaints about Elections Code violations and shall be responsible for representing his or her position in any possible resulting hearing.

- However, pursuant to Chapter 711.1ai of the Elections Code, the Chief Counsel shall be the only person permitted to submit complaints on behalf of his or her respective campaign.

The Elections Committee must act on all complaints within two (2) school days after they are received, or by any deadline for action assigned by the Elections Code, either by dismissing them or by calling a hearing.

The Elections Committee may dismiss a complaint for the following reasons:

- If the complainant does not file the complaint in a manner that all hearings and deliberations will be completed, and all sanctions and remedies will be assigned, by the certification of the General Election Results on Wednesday, Feb. 25th, at 5 p.m. (or by the certification of the Run-Off Election Results on Friday, Feb. 27th, at 5 p.m. if applicable).
- If the Elections Committee lacks jurisdiction over a subject or a party in the dispute.
- If the complaint fails to state a cause of action for which relief may be granted.
- If the complaint is not submitted in good faith and is primarily for the purpose of harassment.
- For lack of evidence or refusal of the complainant to testify or elaborate via hearing.
 - o Any person who files a complaint shall be required to attend the possible resulting hearing.
 - o A candidate/Ticket member(s) shall not be required to attend any hearing so long as this candidate/Ticket member(s) has a Chief Counsel who attends and represents the campaign instead.

Hearings shall be formatted in a way that all parties are represented equally and that the information necessary to make a decision is provided.

All decisions by the Elections Committee must be clearly reasoned and explained using citations from the Elections Code, and/or any other governing documents of the Student Government Association.

The complaining party shall bear the burden of proof.

Ignorance of the Elections Code, either by candidates, members of a Ticket, staff members, or by members of the Elections Committee, shall not be an acceptable defense in response to any offense committed in any election governed by the Elections Code.

A campaign's Legal Team, led by the Chief Counsel, shall represent the campaign in any case, hearing, appeal before the Elections Committee and/or the Supreme Court. More information about regulations on Legal Representation in hearings and appeals can be found in Chapter 711.4 of the Elections Code.

No person appearing before the Elections Committee or Supreme Court may knowingly or willfully make any false statement or representation, knowingly or willfully create or present false or doctored evidence, conceal any fact, obstruct (or endeavor to obstruct) the activities or investigations of the Committee or Court, or obstruct (or endeavor to obstruct) any disciplinary action imposed.

The Elections Committee shall hold the ability to request attendance of specific individuals in hearings to take necessary action to enforce the Elections Code.

A decision or ruling is reached when a majority of the Elections Committee concurs with such a decision or ruling.

The Elections Committee has the discretion to take any action that is deemed appropriate with regard to any complaint.

Any original complainant/defendant of a hearing may petition the Supreme Court to hear their case for an appeal of the decision of the Elections Committee if the petitioning party believes that the Committee did not adhere to the Elections Code and/or other governing documents in making its decision. This request for appeal must be submitted to Chief Justice Etinosa Ogbomo (Etinosa.Ogbomo@uga.edu@uga.edu) within 24 hours of the Elections Committee's release of its decision.

The Supreme Court may reject an appeal for failure to cite the Elections Code, lack of standing, lack of jurisdiction, or failure to file the complaint with adherence to deadline requirements.

More information regarding the formatting of and procedure by which a hearing or appeal operates can be found in Chapter 711 of the Elections Code.

The Complaint Form can be found on and after the third page of this document, and those pages are the only pages required with submission.



ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Student Government Association

OFFICIAL COMPLAINT FORM

Full Name: Deepthi Palvai

UGA Email Address: pp53209@uga.edu

Telephone Number: 404-844-3122

If you are filing on behalf of an Executive Ticket or individual candidate, please indicate said Ticket/campaign: Amplify

Cause of action and time of occurrence (if over 48 hours have passed you must provide an explanation for the delayed submission):

Formal complaint against the Reimagine ticket for blocking, impeding, and otherwise disrupting the flow of foot traffic to promote their ticket. They have acted in this manner as part of a repeated pattern.

Occurrence #1: Tuesday, 2/17 at around 1:26PM

Explanation for delayed submission:

The purpose of this complaint was to demonstrate a pattern of **repeated behavior**. After receiving additional pictures of named staff members improperly campaigning at around 12PM on 2/19, the Amplify ticket decided to go forward with this complaint, and the video from 2/17 is essential to show this **pattern**. Additionally, all videos were received and the complaint was completed within the 48-hour period, but Chief Counsel Ms. Palvai was having issues with submitting videos to Attorney General, Ms. Zeitlin. Ms. Palvai reached out to Ms. Zeitlin before the end of the 48-hour period, demonstrating concerns with submitting the videos, as they could not be attached to the complaint form.

Occurrence #2: Wednesday, 2/18 at around 12:53PM

Occurrence #3 Thursday, 2/19 at around 12:20PM

Article(s) Violated (please include which governing document(s) was violated, as well as specific section numbers):

Election Code § 705.4(i)(ii)(1)

“However, no campaign materials may be physically distributed person-to-person, and candidates/members of Tickets and staff may not stand in common areas (such as but not limited to hallways, bathrooms, entrances and exits, etc.) **and/or block, impede, or otherwise disrupt the flow of foot traffic or harass occupants of a building/location in order to promote a candidate, Ticket, or other electoral matter.**”

Explanation (please be as detailed as possible; these details will be necessary in making a fair and accurate ruling on the case):

Elections Code Article 705.4(i)(ii)(1) states that “no campaign materials may be physically distributed person-to-person, and candidates/members of Tickets and staff may not stand in common areas (such as but not limited to hallways, bathrooms, entrances and exits, etc.) **and/or block, impede, or otherwise disrupt the flow of foot traffic or harass occupants of a building/location in order to promote a candidate, Ticket, or other electoral matter.**”

This code is very specific. An individual **can not** stand in common areas, including any “location,” to disrupt the flow of foot traffic. Sporadically between 2/17-2/18, the “Reimagine” ticket has been campaigning outside of the Main Library, but they have been positioning themselves in a manner that disrupts the flow of foot traffic. Additionally, on 2/19, the vice president candidate on their ticket, along with named staff members, followed this same pattern.

Previous to campaigning on Monday, the Amplify ticket reached out to the Main Library Facilities Manager, Ayden Williams, who stated that harassing students as they walk by is prohibited (see Exhibit A). We maintain that the Reimagine ticket did not follow that provision, as well as what was specifically outlined in the Elections Code.

On 2/17, two named staff members on their ticket positioned themselves directly in the middle of the pathway leading from Brooks Hall to Main Library. Individuals walking to class had to walk around them to get by (see Exhibit B-D). That is clearly violating rule 705.4(i)(ii)(1). As opposed to standing to the side, these staff members went into the middle and even crossed over to the other side to stop people.

On 2/18, an additional two named staff members, one including their Vice Presidential candidate, David Nelson, also displayed this behavior. (See Exhibit E-F). Mr. Nelson and the other staff member were, again, standing in the middle of the walkway from Brooks Hall to Main Library, blocking the flow of foot traffic.

On 2/19, this pattern of behavior continued. While tabling at the Tate Student Center, Mr. Nelson and a group of other named staff members positioned themselves directly in the middle of the covered area. (See Exhibit G-H).

This repeated obstruction of foot traffic has not only violated the Election Code, but has also afforded the “Reimagine” ticket an unfair advantage during the campaigning period. By impeding the flow of traffic, they have pressured people to stop and talk to them who otherwise would not have if the “Reimagine” ticket was standing properly to the side of the breezeway. Because of this clear violation of Election Code § 705.4(i)(ii)(1), we ask that the Election Committee make a fair and accurate ruling on this case, finding in favor of the petitioner.

Evidence/Supporting Documents (may be included at the end of this Form or on the submission page on the Involvement Network as an attachment; please label each item as “Exhibit A, B, C, etc.” and refer to these items as such in your explanation)

(See below)

Exhibit A: Attached to this email

Exhibit B: A video taken of a named staff member impeding the flow of traffic outside of the main library. Occurred on Tuesday February 17th at 1:26 PM.

Exhibit C: A video taken of a named staff member impeding the flow of traffic outside of the main library. Occurred on Tuesday February 17th at 1:23 PM

Exhibit D: A photo taken of a named staff member impeding the flow of traffic outside of the main library. Occurred on Thursday February 18th at 12:53 PM



Exhibit E: A photo taken of a named staff member and Mr. Nelson impeding the flow of traffic outside of the main library. Occurred on Thursday February 18th at 1:05 PM



Exhibit F: A photo taken of a named staff member and Mr. Nelson impeding the flow of traffic outside of the main library. Occurred on Thursday February 18th.



Exhibit G: A photo taken of a named staff member impeding the flow of traffic outside of the Tate Center. Occurred on Thursday February 19th



Exhibit H: A photo taken of a named staff member impeding the flow of traffic outside of the Tate Center. Occurred on Thursday February 19th



By signing and submitting this Form, it is hereby agreed to by the signatory that:

- I understand that this Complaint is a public document and shall therefore be available for public inspection, but that all contact information shall be redacted to respect the privacy of the Chief Counsel, and that all information regarding any personal information or the involvement of any third-party individual(s) that is not intended to be public knowledge shall be subject to redaction by the Elections Committee in order to protect the privacy of said involved individual(s).
- I understand that, if my initial Complaint is denied by the Elections Committee, or if I do not believe that the Elections Committee has adhered to the [Elections Code](#) or other governing documents, I have the ability to petition the Supreme Court of the Student Government Association for an appeal of the decision of the Elections Committee.
- I affirm that all information reflected, and all evidence included, in this Complaint is accurate and truthful, and that I have not knowingly or willfully:
 - Made any false statement or representation; or,
 - Created or presented any false or doctored evidence; or,
 - Falsified or concealed any fact through any form of deception.
- I affirm that I will not knowingly or willfully:
 - Obstruct, or endeavor to obstruct, any investigation or proceedings of the Elections Committee; or,
 - Obstruct, or endeavor to obstruct, any disciplinary action imposed.
- I affirm that, as Chief Counsel, I, or the candidate(s) or a registered individual on the Legal Team acting as Chief Counsel, shall attend any hearing that results from the filing of this Complaint, and that failure to do so may result in dismissal of this case as per Chapter 711.3fi of the Elections Code. I understand that, if I am not affiliated with a campaign, or if am not submitting this Complaint on behalf of a campaign, I shall still be required to attend any hearing that results from the filing of this Complaint, and that failure to do so may result in dismissal of this case as per Chapters 711.3f of the Elections Code.

SIGNATURE OF CHIEF COUNSEL*. Deepthi Palvai

DATE 2/19/2026

**Or, signature of submitter (if submitter is not affiliated with or submitting on behalf of a campaign)*