

Ruling #3 Summary

Unapproved campaign material.

Parties to the Ruling

- Jacob Verghese, Chief Returning Officer
- Farah Elgaweesh, candidate for Vice President (Academic)

Elections Office Jurisdiction

This ruling refers to campaign activity within the election. It falls under the jurisdiction of the rules established by the Elections Office in the Nomination Package.

Applicable Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations

- Bylaw 320, section 17.2: "Penalties available to the C.R.O. shall include (a) a fine to be counted against the Candidate's or side's Campaign Expenses..."
- Bylaw 320, section 17.3: "The C.R.O. shall draft a schedule of fines and penalties as an appendix to the rules and regulations concerning this bylaw."
- General Election Nomination Package, page 8: "All campaign materials must be approved by the CRO via cro@su.ualberta.ca prior to use."
- General Election Nomination Package, page 11: "While the Bylaws require disqualification in several situations, they also give the Chief Returning Officer significant latitude to enforce penalties as appropriate in other situations, including: a fine to be counted against the candidate's campaign expense limit."
- General Election Nomination Package, page 13: Unapproved campaign materials incur a counterbalancing fine of "Materials confiscated" and a punitive fine of "\$2.00 per material."
- General Election Nomination Package, page 13: "Campaigning in an unauthorized area" incurs a counterbalancing fine of "Materials confiscated" and a punitive fine of "\$2.00 per material."

Findings

On March 3, the Elections Office told the campaign that placing campaign sticky notes on walls around campus would not be permitted. The campaign promised to take them down.

On March 5, elections staff observed the sticky notes in several locations in CAB, including walls and an elevator.

Ruling

The sticky notes were unapproved campaign materials in unauthorized areas.

Penalty

The Elections Office confiscated eight unapproved materials they observed. They levied an unapproved materials fine of \$2 per material, and an unauthorized area fine of \$2 per material. In total, they levied a fine of \$32 against the candidate's spending limit of \$550.

Appeal

Rulings of the CRO may be [appealed to the DIE Board](#) by current undergraduate students, using the DIE Board Application Form, within 12 working hours of the ruling being posted. This ruling was posted at 9:45 AM on Wednesday, March 6th, 2024, and the deadline for appeal is 1:45 PM on Thursday, March 7th, 2024.