

2024 GSA General Election

CRO Decision in the Matter of Khaleeq Ahmed and Ajibola Adigun

Saturday, March 9th, 2024

A formal complaint was filed by Khaleeq Ahmed, a candidate for the position of Vice President Student Life in the GSA Re-Election of the Vice President Student Life (hereafter “the Complainant”) against Ajibola Adigun (Jibs), a candidate for the position of Vice President Student Life in the GSA Re-Election of the Vice President Student Life (hereafter “the Respondent”), on Friday, March 8th, 2024.

Complaint: The Complainant alleges that the Respondent is potentially campaigning early due to their WhatsApp name containing the position they are running for in this re-election. A screenshot of a message they sent to a group chat with their WhatsApp display name was submitted as evidence.

Response: The complaint was dismissed by the CRO.

Relevant Bylaw and Policy:

I.POL.10.1 “The campaign period will last at least seven (7) calendar days and will begin no earlier than the day following the All-Candidates Meeting” (GSA Bylaw and Policy, Section I.POL.8.6).

Consultation with the Elections and Referenda Committee (ERC): The complaint was dismissed by the CRO.

Decision: The CRO recognizes the definition of campaigning may be unclear and would like to clarify this. All candidates’ names are posted on the GSA website (and therefore their candidacy is announced) prior to the start of the campaign period. Any indication that they are a candidate is allowed (e.g., WhatsApp display names, Instagram handles and bios, etc.). However, campaign materials that elaborate further than this are not allowed until the campaign period begins (e.g., postering, social media posts regarding their campaign, etc.). Therefore, the Respondent using their name and position as their WhatsApp display name is not a violation.

Appeals: As per GSA Bylaw and Policy, “decisions of the CRO are subject to appeal to the GSA Appeals and Complaints Board (GSA ACB)” (I.POL.11.6) and “[parties] have twenty-four (24) hours from the time the CRO’s email is deemed delivered for an emailed appeal to be received by the Chair of the GSA ACB” (I.POL.11.6.a). Please note that all parties may file an appeal to ACB, and ACB decisions are final and binding (H.POL.15.7.b).