

CRO Ruling 002

The CRO received complaints regarding violation of campaigning rules against Christopher Kousinioris (President candidate) during the voting period. In the aforementioned complaints, images were attached showing private messages from an individual who was not approved as Christopher's campaign assistant. Within those messages, the individual made requests to visit Christopher's campaign event and were indicative of campaigning on his behalf. The CRO on receipt of these complaints immediately reached out to Christopher. Christopher, on being informed of this violation, completely denied involvement in the act and mentioned that he was unaware of any such campaigning on his behalf. To rectify this situation, the CRO advised Christopher to ask the individual to unsend the messages that had been sent by the individual. Christopher then informed the CRO that almost all messages were unsent, however some of the messages could not be removed. The CRO then advised Christopher to inform the individual to reach out to those previously messaged, requesting dismissal of any earlier messages that were indicative of campaigning on his behalf. This communication is in violation of Bylaw 3 8.0.1 "Campaigning is allowed solely during the Campaign Period and may only be done by a candidate, designate or campaign assistant." and Bylaw 3 8.7.1 "Once the Campaign Period ends, candidates must cease public communications regarding their campaign."

On further inspection of the situation, the CRO decided that the candidate was not involved in campaigning outside of the designated period, and did everything in their capacity to rectify the situation. The CRO was also informed that around ten students were messaged by the individual over the course of voting period. As a mass message was not sent and several complaints were received regarding the same, the CRO deemed this attempt at campaigning on behalf of the candidate to result in sully of the candidates campaign, rather than it's promotion.

Moreover, the CRO received multiple emails/messages during the course of the campaigning and voting period regarding individuals that were not campaign assistants of different candidates but were campaigning on their behalf in group chats and other media platforms. When informed of these concerns by the CRO, the candidates denied any prior knowledge or involvement in the instances of violation. These candidates were informed by the CRO to instruct those campaigning on their behalf to either remove their messages or advise recipients of the messages to disregard the same. As not all voting members and students in the Engineering Society are aware of the rules of the electoral processes, the CRO deemed it unfair to penalize the candidates for these actions.

The candidate may appeal this ruling under the regulations presented in Bylaw 3 Section 10.

//Original Signed//

Anubhav Sharma
Chief Returning Officer