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EGC DECISION

January 22nd, 2019

After conducting a diligent and thorough review, the Elections Governance Committee has concluded that PVP Slate ForYe has violated section 11.7 of By-Law #2. This violation occurred when a number of their campaign volunteers promoted ForYe's candidacy before the start of campaigning. Consequently, the EGC has sanctioned team ForYe with a minor violation. The full report is attached.

For further inquiries, please contact Michelle Wang at cro.intern@westernusc.ca.

2018/2019 Elections Governance Committee (EGC)

Candidate(s) under review: PVP Slate - ForYe

Deliberations: January 21st, 2019

Present: CRO, DRO, 

1. Allegation(s)
 - a. On January 16th, 2019, two confirmed campaign volunteers liked an article announcing team ForYe candidacy (Exhibits 1-2). This action occurred before the start of campaigning, which officially began on January 21st at 12:01 AM.
2. Violation Under By-Law #2
 - a. **Section 11.7 Pre-Campaigning**

Candidates and prospective candidates are not permitted to influence or attempt to influence voters prior to the campaign period, including, for example: through the posting of material designed and/or likely to influence voters. Candidates and prospective candidates may engage in activities related to planning a campaign or assembling a campaign team and may answer questions from the media with regard to election plans.
3. Investigative Action Taken by the EGC
 - a. Through obtaining the official campaign volunteer list directly from team ForYe, the EGC was able to confirm that those who liked the article announcing the ForYe campaign were considered campaign volunteers at the time. The violation submission can be found in Exhibit 3.
 - b. Team ForYe was requested to come in for a hearing on January 21st in order to follow up with the allegation. Team ForYe attended the hearing.
 - c. During the hearing, team ForYe claimed to dissociate from the campaign volunteers who liked the article, however, they did not provide the CRO with this information in writing and they remain official members of their campaign volunteers.
4. The EGC's Findings
 - a. The EGC determined that the action of liking articles which announced the candidacy of team ForYe by campaign volunteers is, in fact, a violation of section 11.7 of By-Law #2. The EGC was not convinced that the desire to dissociate from the actions of the campaign volunteers in question was genuine.
5. Decision

- a. In committee quorum, the EGC unanimously agreed that team ForYe was in violation of section 11.7 of By-Law #2, which is considered a minor violation under the EGC's Sanction Framework.

Approved for release

Chief Returning Officer, USC
Elections Governance Committee, Chair

Exhibit 1:

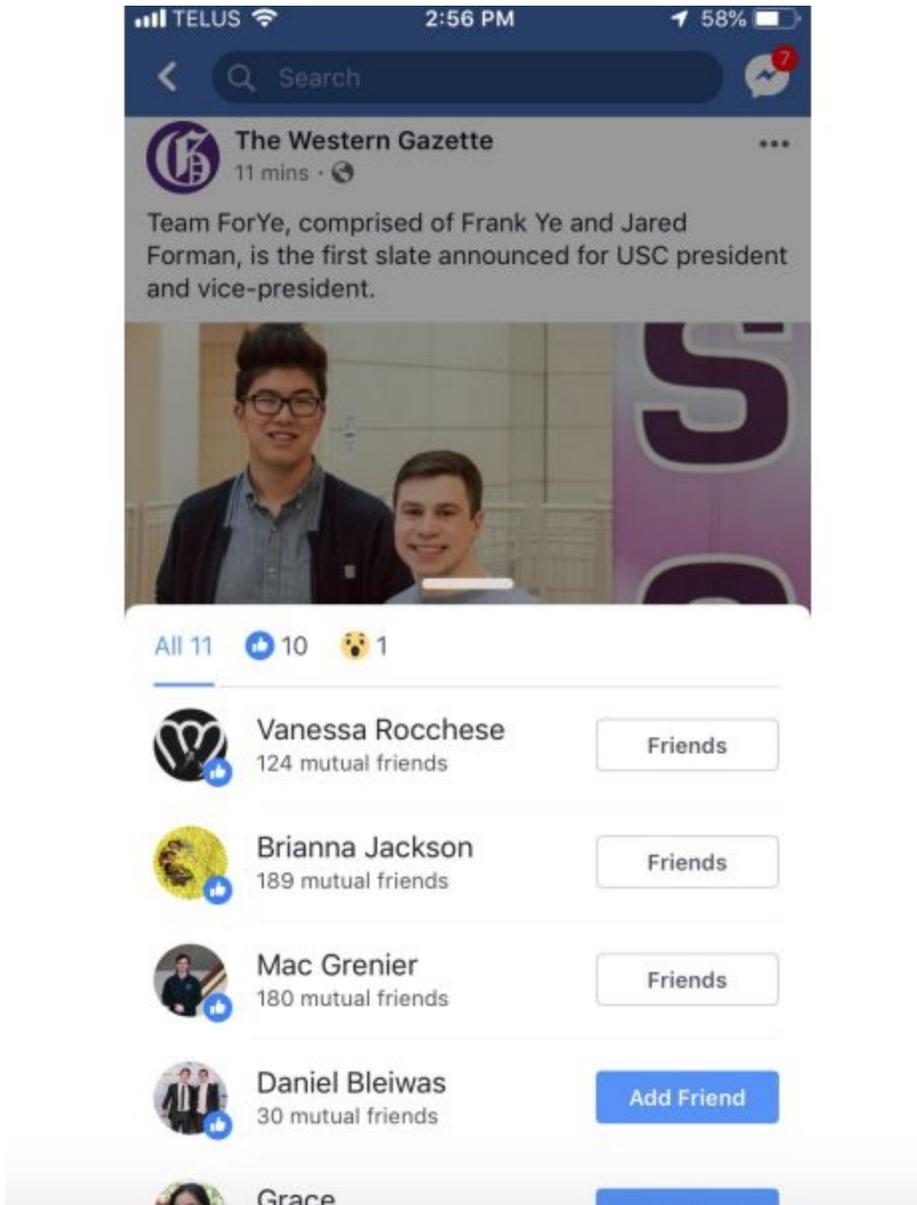


Exhibit 2:

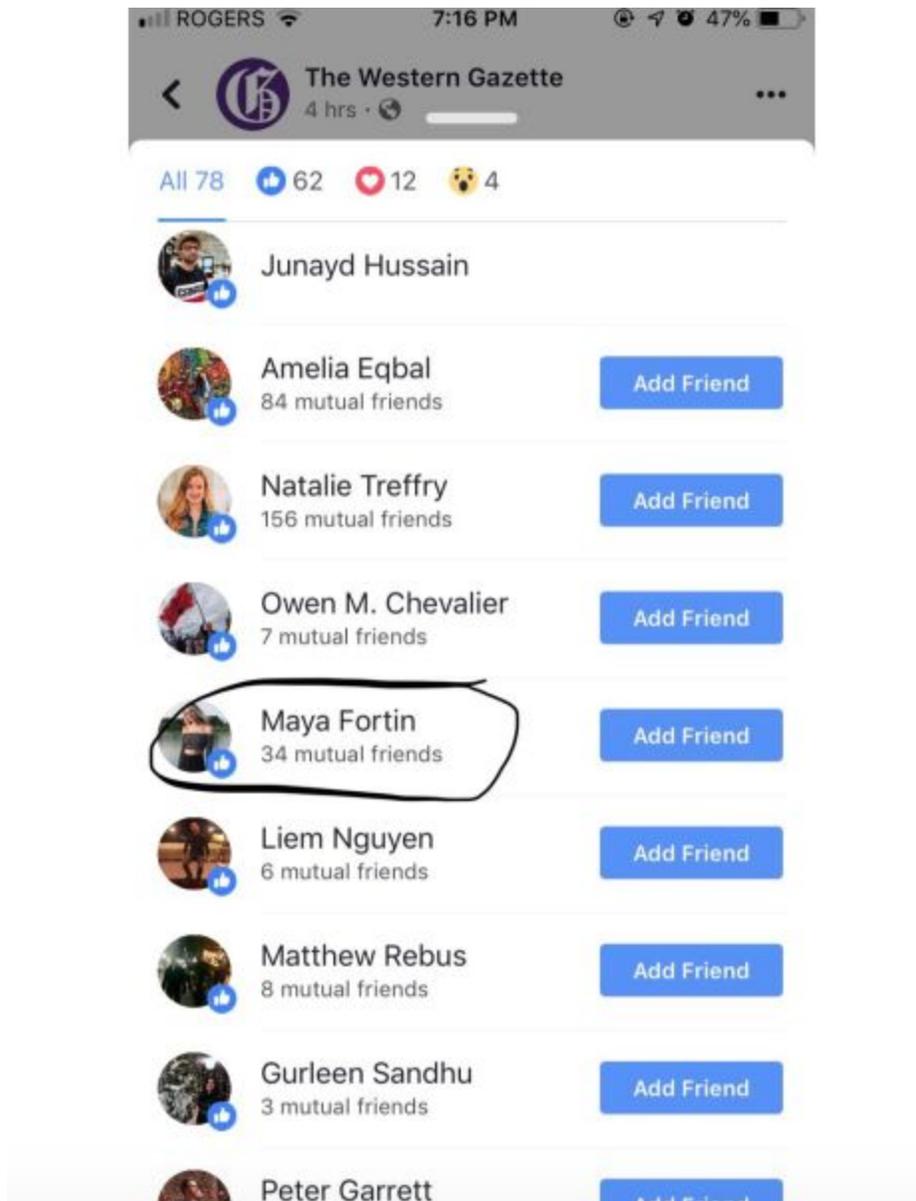


Exhibit 3:

Name of candidate alleged to have committed a violation Frank Ye and Jared Forman

Position being sought by candidate (i.e. Councillor, Faculty President, PVP Slate, Senator, Board of Governors): PVP Slate

Approximate date alleged violation occurred: Jan 16, 2019

Approximate time alleged violation occurred: 08:00 PM

Relevant Section of By-Law 2: 11.7 Pre-Campaigning

Details of alleged violation:

Eight (8) confirmed campaign volunteers promoted the slate prior to the campaign period by liking and/or sharing the Gazette article announcing their candidacy. These students are deemed volunteers as they are all members (or have been members) of the official volunteer Facebook group (proof attached). There were 8 occasions of liking the article and one occasion of sharing the article with a personalized message of support (attached). Both liking and sharing promotes the article to the friend lists of each volunteer in question as it promotes the article on their friends timelines as well as their own.

Whether or not these volunteers were still members of Frank and Jared's volunteer Facebook group at the time of the article's publishing is not relevant as they had already (at some point) been contacted by the candidates and asked to support their campaign. They should have been able to reasonably foresee their actions and warned them not to engage with the article.

The students who engaged with the article are: Deryne Awafo, Jessica Chuchin, Maya Fortin, Montana Hackett, Carter Cissell, Rebecca McNeil, Eric Sun, and Vanessa Rocchese.

I was not able to attach all relevant photos as there is a 5 document