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EGC DECISION

January 27th, 2020

After conducting a diligent and thorough review, the Elections Governance Committee (EGC) has concluded that Parker Thomlinson has violated section 2.3, 2.8 and 2.9 of the EGC Violations Policy. This violation occurred when one of Parker's campaign volunteers shared the Gazette article featuring Parker's presidential candidacy prior to the beginning of the campaign period. Consequently, the EGC has sanctioned Parker with a warning. The full report is attached.

For further inquiries, please contact Julia Crump at cro.intern@westernusc.ca.

Candidate(s) under review: Parker Thomlinson

Deliberations: January 27th, 2020

Present: CRO, DRO, [REDACTED]

Allegation(s)

- a. One of Parker Thomlinson's campaign volunteers shared the Gazette article featuring Parker's presidential candidacy prior to the beginning of the campaign period (see Exhibit 1 & 2).

Violation Under By-Law #2/EGC Violations Policy

b. Section 2.8 and 2.9 (EGC Violations Policy)

Candidates are not permitted to distribute campaign materials prior to the campaign period

c. Section 2.3 (EGC Violations Policy)

Candidates shall be responsible for the actions, and the violations stemming from such actions, of any campaign volunteer(s) unless the Candidate satisfies the Committee that they did not direct the action and could not have reasonably foreseen that the action would occur.

Investigative Action Taken by the EGC

- d. Several committee members examined the evidence in question to determine the validity of the allegation. Through this, the committee was able to determine these actions warranted a violation. The violation submission can be found in Exhibit 3.
- e. Parker was requested to come in for a hearing on January 27th in order to follow up with the allegation. He did not attend the hearing.
- f. The committee determined the sharing of the Gazette article featuring Parker's presidential candidacy by a campaign volunteer three (3) days in advance of the official campaign period could have been avoided.

The EGC's Findings

- g. The EGC determined that the sharing of the Gazette article featuring Parker's presidential candidacy constitutes pre-campaigning, which is a violation of section 2.8, 2.9, and 2.2 of EGC Violations Policy.

Decision

- h. In committee quorum, the EGC unanimously agreed that Parker Thomlinson is in violation of section 2.8, 2.9, and 2.2 of EGC Violations Policy, which is considered a non-disqualifiable offence.

Approved for release

Julia Crump

Chief Returning Officer, USC

Elections Governance Committee

Exhibit 1

JAN. 17 AT 9:49 P.M.



Okay so she's on his campaign

Exhibit 2



JAN. 17 AT 9:57 P.M.

Exhibit 3

Name of the candidate alleged to have committed the violation:	Parker Thomlinson
Position being sought by the candidate:	USC President
Approximate date the alleged violation occurred:	Jan 17, 2021
Approximate time the alleged violation occurred:	09:46 PM

Relevant section of bylaw 2 and/or EGC Violations Policy:

EGC Violations Policy 1.3 "Campaign Material means any item, giveaway, design, sound, symbol, or mark that is created or copied in any form in order to and/or likely to influence at least one voter to cast a ballot in favour or in opposition of a candidate." EGC Violations Policy 2.24 "Responsibility of Candidates: Candidates shall be responsible for the actions, and the violations stemming from such actions, of any campaign volunteer(s) unless the Candidate satisfies the Committee that they did not direct the action and could not have reasonably foreseen that the action would occur." EGC Violations Policy 2.30 "Pre-Campaigning: Candidates are not permitted to distribute campaign materials prior to the campaign period."

Details

I observed one of Mr. Thomlinson's campaign volunteers share 2 posts about his candidacy on Instagram and Facebook. As Mr. Thomlinson is "responsible for the actions, and the violations stemming from such actions, of any campaign volunteer" and since "distributing campaign materials prior to the campaign period" constitutes pre-campaigning, I conclude that this is an EGC violation.