

Ruling #1 Summary

Unapproved campaign post on Instagram.

Parties to the Ruling

- Jacob Verghese, Chief Returning Officer
- Renson Alva, candidate for VP Student Life

Elections Office Jurisdiction

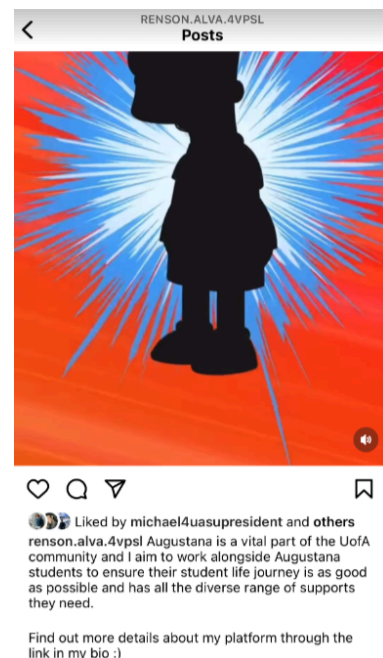
This ruling refers to campaign activity within the election. It falls under the jurisdiction of the rules established by the Elections Office in the Nomination Package.

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: "Like physical materials, campaign materials used on social media must be approved by the CRO before being made public."
- 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."

Findings

The candidate made an unapproved post on Instagram on February 27th.



Ruling

The post was contrary to the rule requiring campaign material approval in advance.

Penalty

The CRO contacted the candidate and ordered the post taken down. A \$50 fine was assessed against the candidate's \$550 expense limit instead of levying a fine based on impressions.

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 4:30 PM on Tuesday, March 5th and the deadline for appeal is 12:30 PM on Thursday, March 7th.