

Date Filed: March 1, 2019

Nature of Complaint: Use of Current Directors' Office Space

The complaint alleges that the Engage UVIC slate made use of current Lead Director office space as meeting and storage space. The complaint alleges that this practice constitutes association between the elected Lead Directors and the Engage slate. The complainant believes this practice gives the Engage slate an unfair advantage, as the Hear slate has no similar access to convenient office space.

The Elections Office agrees that using this space creates a perceived association between Engage UVIC and the currently elected Lead Directors. However, whatever association there is falls short of violating electoral policy. As per the Electoral Policy, 5.8 g., the Board is not permitted to endorse a slate or a candidate. The circumstances this complaint concerns itself with do not constitute an endorsement.

However, perhaps the most fundamental function of the Elections Office is captured in section 5.9 1 a: electoral events should be fair and equitable for all participants. The Office agrees with the complainant's opinion that access to convenient office space in the SUB creates a competitive advantage. It is likely that, if this behavior was to continue, the Office would find it in violation of 5.9 1 a.

The Engage team, prior to this ruling, informed the Elections team that they have discontinued the use of the offices, as both meeting places and storage areas. As such, the Elections Office considers this matter closed.