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Northeastern University

Student Government Association Elections Committee Grievance Filings

Student Government Association

March 19, 2012

Grievance #3: 2012

Student Government Association, Northeastern University

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SGA
Giving You a Voice

Student Government Association of Northeastern University
332 Curry Student Center • 360 Huntington Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02115

Grievance #3

File Date: 2012-03-19
File Time: 3:08 p.m.
Elections Committee Chair: Taylor Cotter
Merit Status: Denied at 4:41 p.m., 2012-03-19

Complainant: Anonymous
Slate: Unleash Northeastern

Claim 1: The Unleash Northeastern slate was endorsed by College Democrats, who sent an unsolicited email promoting their campaign to their listserv.

Violation in Question:

Section 6.1
Section 6.4
Section 6.5
Section 6.3
Section 6.6

Verdict: The complainant's issue primarily lies with the fact that s/he was spammed from a listserv to which he was not subscribed. This is an issue that the complainant should bring up with College Democrats, Office of Student Activities, and MailChimp E-mail Marketing Service.

Further, disseminating media does not constitute entering a room or classroom, and ruling as such would undermine the spirit and reason for this rule: student safety.

Further, the complainant did not provide enough evidence regarding the alleged intimidation from Mr. Naraghi. The complainant may re-file with more detailed and specific evidence.

Sanction:

Notes:

On Friday, March 16th at 12:08pm, an email was received by the individual filing this grievance from Nick Beek, on behalf of the Northeastern University College Democrats and the Unleash Northeastern campaign. In part, the email contains the text "The NU Democrats Executive Board would like to endorse Pete Petrin for student body president and Nick Naraghi for executive vice president." While respecting the right of the College Democrats to endorse whichever candidates they so choose, this grievance is filed on the basis that the College Democrats were not given permission to email me. Further, the mailing list utilized for this message is named "Giant Mailing List of Everyone," further indicating that it did not contain specific individuals requesting information, but rather large scrapings of email addresses from many sources. Section 6.1 of the Direct Elections Policies Manual states: A "Campaign Worker" is defined as a person who performs work, supplies services, or dedicates energy for the goal of electing a particular candidate, at the behest or knowledge of the candidate or their designee. A campaign worker cannot be a voting member of the Elections Committee. In using access and control to promote the candidates of the Unleash Northeastern campaign, Nick Beek served as a campaign worker in this action. Further, Mr. Beek has served as a vocal worker of the campaign throughout the elections process. Section 6.4 states: Candidates and campaign workers shall not enter students' rooms or suites for the purpose of campaigning or encouraging students to vote, unless expressly invited by the student. Section 6.5 states: Candidates and campaign workers will not enter classes in session for the purpose of campaigning or encouraging students to vote, unless permitted by the professor or instructor. The Manual provides students with safe-havens of their residence and classrooms, free of elections campaigning unless the student or professor respectively allows the campaign to enter that isolated zone. In this case, Nick Beek, on behalf of the campaign, violated this privacy that the Manual has provided me with. This email was received initially in my residence, but could have been received but unknowing recipients anywhere. It is unknown by the filer how many other students had their privacy and rights violated by this action. Section 6.3 states: Candidates shall respect other candidates' right to campaign and advertise. Section 6.6 states: Candidates and campaign workers are prohibited from intimidating voters or directly facilitating voting. Further, when the filer of this grievance addressed the concern to candidate Naraghi, among with other students, he provided no remorse and stated that it was part of the strategy of the campaign. The filer was not comfortable with such strategy being used on unconsenting voters, especially as other candidates were put at an inherent disadvantage. The filer of this grievance expressed dissatisfaction and several students indicated the desire to file a grievance. At that point, Mr. Naraghi applied verbal pressure, warning against filing a grievance or else unwanted consequences may result. He was not specific in this regard, but the filer and the others present did feel intimidated.

Giant Mailing List of Everyone

Change Your Preferences

* indicates required

Email Address

[redacted] *

First Name

[redacted]

Last Name

[redacted]

Preferred format

- (•) HTML
- ( ) Text
- ( ) Mobile

Update Profile or Unsubscribe

Student Government Association
of Northeastern University

Student Government Association
332 Curry Student Center
Northeastern University
360 Huntington Avenue

t: 617.373.2651
e: sga@neu.edu
w: www.sga.neu.edu

GRIEVANCE REPORT FORM

This form is to be used to file a grievance against a candidate for office based on violation(s) you have personally witnessed during the course of the campaign period. The Direct Elections Policies Manual defines a grievance as an "allegation that a candidate and/or his or her campaign workers have knowingly violated the Association's governing documents (including this manual)."

For any grievance report to be found with merit and/or considered, it must be submitted prior to the certification of election results.

Submitter's Information

Name(s): _____

Email(s): _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Do you wish to file this grievance anonymously? Circle: Yes or No

Please Note: The Association aims to protect the identity of anyone submitting a grievance for any reason. If in the case that **insufficient** evidence exists, we may request that you provide any additional evidence, witnesses, or personal testimony, through which your identity may be revealed.

Violation Information

Name of Candidate/Slate: _____

Date of Violation: _____

Time of Violation: _____

Location of Violation: _____

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Please provide a full description of the violation(s) you witnessed, including any and all relevant evidence. You may attach additional sheets of paper, documents, photographs, etc. if needed:

_____

_____

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_____

_____

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_____

_____

By signing and dating below, I confirm that all information written on this form and/or attached to this form is accurate and truthful.

_____ _____

Signature Date

Please return (in a sealed envelope) to the SGA office, addressed:
GRIEVANCE CLAIM
ATTN: Elections Committee, Chair

--- or ---

Email a scanned copy to:
Cotter.t@husky.neu.edu

We'd like to endorse...

NEU College Dems <neucollegedems@gmail.com> Fri, Mar 16, 2012 at 12:08 PM
Reply-To: NEU College Dems <neucollegedems@gmail.com>
To:

Is this email not displaying correctly?
View it in your browser.

Hello everyone!

Thank you to everyone for coming to our event last night! We had a great showing!

The NU Democrats Executive Board would like to endorse **Pete Petrin for student body president and Nick Naraghi for executive vice president.** We know that their experiences at Northeastern both inside and out of student government is the leadership that the student body needs. They're willing to listen and the'yre not stuck inside the bubble that is SGA. In the words of Pete and Nick themselves "Thousands of students on this campus are not engaged with the efforts of the student government - their opinions are not sought, their issues are not heard, their voices are not represented. That needs to change, and that needs to change now."

You can hear more about them at UnleashNortheastern.com, **on** Twitter **and** Facebook**.**

We'd also like to separately endorse the NU housing reform referendum. The idea of this referendum is to create a more efficient and secure housing system --one where we can sign in more than 3 people. You can sign the referendum, to get it on the ballot, right here -- https://orgsync.com/25105/forms/show/46217

Fight the good fight,

Nicholas Beek
President
Northeastern University College Democrats

PS - Find us on Facebook or Follow us on Twitter

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Northeastern University College Democrats
346 Huntington Ave
Room 240
Boston, Ma 02115

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