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## **EGC DECISION**

March 13, 2022

After conducting a diligent and thorough review, the Elections Governance Committee (EGC) has concluded that Sophia Daunt has violated 2.12.1.1 of the EGC Violations Policy. This violation occurred when Daunt distributed a graphic on her campaign Instagram story that included the official USC voting link beside a photo of herself. Consequently, the EGC has sanctioned Sophia Daunt with a warning. The full report is attached.

For further inquiries, please contact Jomana Elsays at [cro@westernusc.ca](mailto:cro@westernusc.ca) and Brandon Yip at [dro@westernusc.ca](mailto:dro@westernusc.ca).

**Candidate(s) under review: Sophia Daunt**  
**Deliberations: March 11, 2022**

**Present:** CRO, DRO, [REDACTED]

1. Allegation(s)
  - a. Sophia Daunt created, as part of her campaign materials, an Instagram story advertising her personal campaign. This story included a button linking to the USC's official voting page beside Daunt's photo.
2. Violation Under By-Law #2/EGC Violations Policy
  - a. **Section 2.12.1.1 (EGC Violations Policy)**

All campaigning shall be prohibited within the sightline of all Designated polling stations, and as stated in the All-Candidates Meeting, candidates must not provide the link in a graphic that advertises their own campaign.
3. Investigative Action Taken by the EGC
  - a. Several committee members examined the evidence in question to determine the validity of the allegation. The committee determined that Daunt's actions warranted a violation.
  - b. Daunt was requested to attend a hearing on March 11, 2022 to present her side of the case. She attended the hearing.
  - c. Daunt was overall cooperative and confirmed that the graphic was made by her campaign team. She acknowledged that the provision of the link button was an oversight on her part and acknowledged that it was her responsibility to ensure that the rules were being followed.
  - d. Daunt claimed that her intent was not to violate policy, but rather to facilitate voters' ability to cast their ballots. She claimed that she thought it was permissible at the time but now realizes that it is not.
  - e. The Committee determined that although it was clear that Daunt lacked intent, she nonetheless campaigned near a polling station through her actions.
4. The EGC's Findings
  - a. The EGC determined that Daunt's inclusion of the voting link button on a graphic advertising her personal campaign constitutes campaigning near a polling station, which is a violation of Section 2.12.1.1 of the EGC Violations Policy.
5. Decision
  - a. In committee quorum, the EGC unanimously agreed that Sophia Daunt is in violation of Section 2.12.1.1 of the EGC Violations Policy, which is considered a non-disqualifiable offence. The EGC has given Daunt an official warning.

Exhibit 1: Sophia Daunt's Instagram story with the voting link button displayed.



Approved for release:

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