



**Daivik Shelat**  
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**Western University**

## **EGC DECISION**

February 10, 2023

After conducting a diligent and thorough review, the Elections Governance Committee (EGC) has concluded that Sunday Ajak has violated Section 2.4.1 of the EGC Violations Policy. This violation occurred when a member of Ajak's campaign volunteer team posted a messages endorsing his candidacy with the link to his campaign website in the Health Sciences Soph group chat. Consequently, the EGC has sanctioned Sunday Ajak with an order to change behaviour by instructing his campaign volunteer to delete the messages in question. The full report is attached.

For further inquiries, please contact Daivik Shelat at [dro@westernusc.ca](mailto:dro@westernusc.ca).

**Candidate(s) under review: Sunday Ajak**  
**Deliberations:**

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

1. Allegation(s)
  - a. It was alleged that a member of Sunday Ajak’s (“the Candidate”) campaign volunteer team posted messages in the Health Science Soph group chat endorsing the Candidate, linking to his campaign website, and asking sophs to share the message with other students (particularly first-year students).
  - b. The complaint alleged that this campaign volunteer is a Health Science soph and had access to this group chat by virtue of this position.
  - c. Pursuant to EGC Violations Policy Section 2.2.1, candidates are responsible for the actions and violations stemming from the actions of campaign volunteers unless they can satisfy the EGC that they did not direct the action and could not have reasonably foreseen it to occur.
2. Violation Under By-Law #2/EGC Violations Policy
  - a. EGC Violations Policy Section 2.4.1
  - b. **2.4.1** “Candidates and campaign volunteers are not entitled to use in their campaign any service, tangible benefits, or resources conferred on them by virtue of holding any position in any organization. This includes but is not limited to: mailing lists, office space, office supplies, equipment, advertising space, social media platforms and secretarial services.”
3. Investigative Action Taken by the EGC
  - a. The Committee reviewed the available evidence to determine the validity of the allegation. The Committee reviewed the available evidence to determine the validity of the allegation. The EGC requested and reviewed a list of campaign volunteers provided by the Candidate in order to determine whether or not the individual who had posted the messages was associated with the Candidate’s campaign. Based on this review, the EGC found that the individual was a member of the Candidate’s campaign volunteer team.
  - b. The Candidate was invited to attend a hearing on February 10, 2023, at 10:00 AM. The Candidate attended the hearing.
  - c. The Committee asked the Candidate if they were aware of the message that was sent to the Health Science group chat and if this was an act he had directed this action. The Candidate responded in the negative to both questions. The Candidate stated that he had instructed his campaign volunteers to spread the word about the campaign and elections among their friends.
  - d. The Candidate also stated that other candidates had also posted similar messages and had access to the Health Science Soph chat.
  - e. The Committee asked what steps the candidate had taken to ensure such an issue would not arise. The Candidate stated that he had explained Bylaw #2 and relevant policies to his campaign team to the best of his ability. However, there

was some confusion about the policy interpretation amongst the Candidate and his campaign volunteer team.

- i. For example, the campaign volunteer team believed that a message from a personal account was allowed; however, using a “professional or organizational platform” was not.

4. The EGC’s Findings

- a. In reaching its decision, the EGC reviewed the evidence and considered the submission made by the Candidate in detail.
- b. With respect to the Candidate’s first statement that he was not aware of the post and did not instruct such a post. The Committee accepts this and believes this to be true.
- c. The EGC cannot accept the second argument, in which the candidate stated that since both campaigns had access to the group chat in question, there was no breach of section 2.4.1. of the EGC violations policy. The policy states that candidates or campaign volunteers cannot use any “service, tangible benefits, or resources conferred on them by virtue of holding any position in any organization.” It does not make exceptions in cases where multiple candidates may have access to the same service, tangible benefit or resource.
- d. Finally, regarding the steps taken, the EGC found that while the Candidate may not have instructed campaign volunteers to post the material in exclusive chats, the Candidate failed to take reasonable steps to prevent such a situation from occurring. The Candidate stated that there was confusion around the interpretation of section 2.4.1. however, the EGC was not informed of any steps taken to remedy this confusion.

5. Decision

- a. In committee quorum, the EGC determined that Sunday Ajak is in violation of Section 2.4.1. of the EGC Violations Policy.
- b. As such, the EGC is issuing an order to change behaviour, requiring that the Candidate instruct his campaign volunteer to delete the messages in question.

Approved for release:

Daivik Shelat  
Deputy Returning Officer, USC  
Elections Governance Committee

Mason Brown  
Chief Returning Officer, USC  
Elections Governance Committee

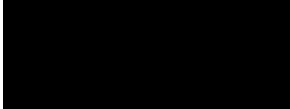
Evidence (some parts are redacted to protect privacy):

Parts of this message have been redacted to protect the privacy of the sender  
- Daivik Shelat, DRO

11:57

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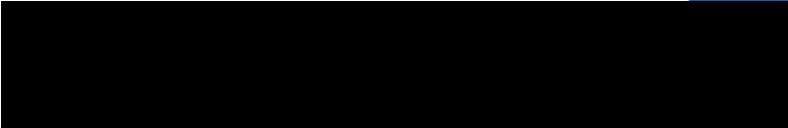
<  Health Science Soph... 🔍 ⋮

 shared a link. ⋮

**HELLO HELLO MINIONS!! VERY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT AND SEND THIS MSG TO YOUR FROSH PLZ! (read the entire thing and react)**

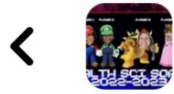
As yall have probably seen all over social media, the USC ELECTION IS IN FULL SWING, and I wanted to take the time to share my lil insights and recommend looking into Sunday Ajak's platform. I attached his website for platform details and any other information (you can also check out his ig @vote.sunday).

I had countless meetings with Sunday to learn more about his platform, his role on campus, and his focus on orientation. His platform is grounded in transforming the culture of USC to provide a more welcoming and safe environment for incoming and upper-year students, staff, and residents in the London community. Particularly, his aim to reform and broaden the scope of **mental health services at Western** by raising awareness of **eating disorders** and **addiction**, and increasing **diversity** among mental health services on campus was something that really stood out to me. Additionally, his work to address the gaps in our SGBV training and support provided on campus do a good job of addressing the lack of resources we had during orientation and the limited access to helpful and accurate information on campus.

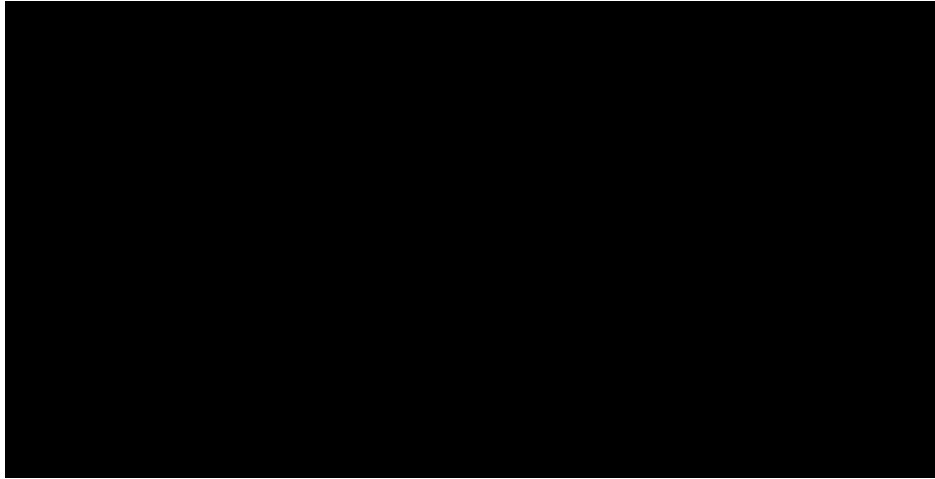


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Health Science Soph...



Love everyone <3

<https://www.votesunday.ca/>



votesunday.ca

**President | Sunday Ajak | London**

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