

Complaint Form  
IUSG Election Commission

Date Complaint Submitted: Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Complaint Submitted By: Madeline Garcia

Complaint Submitted Against: Rachel Aranyi and Ruhan Syed

Date & Time of Violation: approximately 3:48pm on Tuesday, March 10, 2020

**Description of Violation:**

Violation of Section 510:

*Any public promotion of a particular candidate or ticket before the beginning of the official campaign period as defined in Section 109 shall constitute a violation of this Code.*

One member of Congress brought attention to a mass text sent on March 10 into a text message group by another Steering Committee member, Francis Reardon, asking for the support of other members of Congress toward the ticket of Ruhan Syed and Rachel Aranyi. The text message contained a link to a Google Docs document to sign a petition of support, and it said, “[Aranyi and Syed] have my full endorsement and I think you all should endorse them also.” Members of this text group had not previously given consent to receive campaign information or messages, and they were approached in their roles both as student voters and Congressional members. (Photo 1)

Potential Violation of Section 503:

*No ticket or non-affiliated candidate is to use the IUSG office for campaign purposes of any kind. Also, any resources generated exclusively for and by the use of IUSG may not be used for campaigning unless the resource is publicly available or distributed to all tickets.*

The group text appeared to be specifically facilitated for the business proceedings of the IUSG Congress Student Life committee.

The message from Francis Reardon stated his own ‘full endorsement’ for the petitioning election ticket and encouraged his own committee members to also endorse the applying ticket with the names listed as ‘Rachel (Education Chair) and Ruhan (Environmental Chair)’ as their current leadership positions within the IUSG Congress.

While we understand that it is very important to garner signatures from at least 150 people to run, utilizing a group text message to gain these, paired with the endorsement statement by Reardon, appears to be an attempt to gain support publicly and campaign. Additionally, we acknowledge that the group text message was specifically created and used for business and

conversation pertaining to the IUSG Congress Student Life committee. This announcement did not relate to Student Life business, and the message was sent by the Chair of the committee into this chat.

Acknowledging Reardon's role and position in the Student Life committee, we believe that this chat was, according to Section 503 of the Procedural Election Code, a place where a message of this purpose should not have been sent. Section 503 reads: "Also, any resources generated exclusively for and by the use of IUSG may not be used for campaigning unless the resource is publicly available or distributed to all tickets." We view the group chat as a resource generated for IUSG Congress members in the Student Life committee. Considering that any group messaging would not constitute a violation during the election period, we would also like to highlight that the campaign period does not begin until 11:59 pm on March 25.

Francis Reardon's dissemination of Syed and Aranyi's Executive Ticket Petitions of Support counteracts the Election Commission's answer to Madeline Dederichs' question during the Candidate Callout Meeting on March 5, 2020 approximately between 7:00 and 8:00pm. Dederichs asked whether sending a petition form into large GroupMe's violated the Procedural Election Code or not, the Election Commission confirmed this violation and clarified that **all messages to sign a petition must be through individual request and consent.**

Potential Section 601 Violation: Voter Fraud.

*Voter fraud shall be defined as, but not limited to, any act that prevents a voter from casting a vote in any IUSG Election, any act that attempts to remove a voter's right to cast a vote for himself or herself, any act that attempts to purchase the ability to vote for a voter, or any act in which anyone attempts to cast a vote for another voter without their expressed consent. Examples of voter fraud include, but are not limited to, the following:*

- *Intimidating a voter or offering a voter any amount of money or services in exchange for a vote. Goods given to voters after a vote must be below two dollars (\$2.00) in value (stickers, candy, pens, etc. are acceptable). The Election Commission has full discretion to rule on this matter, so written notification seeking the Election Commission's permission is encouraged.*
- *Preventing a voter from casting a vote or preventing a voter from casting a vote for the candidate they desire.*
- *Changing a vote once it has been cast or using false information to cast a vote.*
- *Pressuring a voter to vote one way or another while they are in the immediate process of voting.*
- *Providing technology of any sort to a voter through personal solicitation – essentially serving as a polling station.*

To preface the violation of Section 601, the complaint submitting party would like to acknowledge the lack of clarification surrounding acts that may oppose Section 203: Executive Ticket Petitions of Support. As a result of the concise description detailing this section of the Procedural Election Code, the complaint submitting party would compare similar acts of voter fraud that may occur during the election to the current period of time where campaigns are not publicly facing yet are inviting petition signatures.

The specific line in Section 601: “*Pressuring a voter to vote one way or another while they are in the immediate process of voting*”, may be applied to the encouragement to another to endorse an executive ticket. In this scenario, this encouragement comes from the Student Life Congressional Chair to their own committee members in an effort to gain signatures for an eligibility petition; Potentially an abuse of power and superiority of position within the committee and text exchange. We do recognize that within this statement pulled from Section 601, the phrase “*while they are in the immediate process of voting*” is meant to be applied during the two day voting period, but with new and indefinite Procedural Election Codes concern petitioning actions, this Section 601 can be assumed to parallel the petitioning for eligibility period.

Attachments:

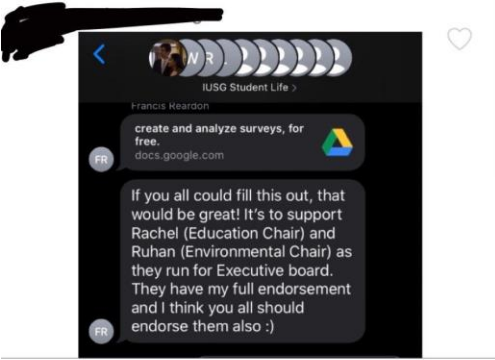
(pictures, videos, etc)

Congressional members requested anonymity in this complaint form to protect their current position in IUSG, but if necessary, Madeline Garcia will speak to them and the Election Commission about the release of their identity.

Photo 1:



hey maddie! im [redacted] one of the people on madeline's campaign! im in IUSG congress and our committee chair just sent out a google form to ask people to fill it out to support them and endorsed ruhan and rachel for exec next year and encouraged us to do so as well. i am not 100% sure but this feels like a violation of the election code. i have attached the screenshot of the message, does this mean anything and is it a violation?



Send Message...

