

Complaint Form
IUSG Election Commission

Date Complaint Submitted: April 4, 2021

Complaint Submitted By: Elevate (Ky Freeman & Madeline Dederichs) and Legacy (Carrick Moon & Shibani Mody)

Complaint Submitted Against: Inspire (Dorynn Mentor & Carling Loudon)

Date and Time of Violation: Ongoing website information, March 29, 2021 and April 1, 2020

Description of Violation:

It is customary in IUSG for an incumbent ticket to emerge out of the current executive administration. Unlike previous years, the 2021 Inspire campaign decided to champion the same ticket name as the 2020-2021 Inspire IUSG administration.

The 2020 Inspire ticket consisted of Rachel Aranyi and Ruhan Syed's candidacies and the 2021 Inspire ticket consisted of the candidates Dorynn Mentor and Carling Loudon. The continuation of the ticket name "Inspire" is intentionally confusing for students.

The deliberate misrepresentation of reusing the previous winning 2020 campaign name "Inspire" strategically deceives reasonable voters into inaccurately believing that the Inspire ticket's speech, literature, communications, or other campaign materials are made or distributed on behalf of IUSG or any IUSG organ.

There are *three* violations of R.B. § 3-8-6 Improper Use of IUSG Branding Class C Section 6 by the 2021 Inspire ticket.

*(2) acts or communicates in such a way; or makes or distributes literature, communications, or other materials; that would cause a reasonable person to inaccurately believe that the candidate's or ticket's speech, literature, communications, or other campaign materials are made or distributed **on behalf of IUSG or any IUSG organ; or on behalf of any IUSG official or employee acting in their official capacity; commits improper use of IUSG branding, a Class C election violation.** (Emphasis added)*

I.IUSG Website

Even without prior knowledge of the recognizable winning campaign of the 2020 Inspire ticket, in the act of voting, a student may peruse the IU Student Government website to learn more about the organization. In doing so, the IU Student Government website has a link under the tab "Executive" where "Our Accomplishments" is listed. The top of the website presents a picture of Vice President Ruhan Syed and President Rachel Aranyi and the statement "Promises Made,

Promises Kept. **The Inspire Administration’s accomplishments”**
(<https://iustudentgovernment.indiana.edu/executive-branch/promiseskept.html>)

Due to the current IUSG administration continuing to characterize itself as the “Inspire Administration” on their website, and the 2021 Inspire ticket advertising the same name, voters have expressed continuous confusion throughout the campaigning period on the topic of whether the 2021 Inspire ticket is directly related or working on behalf of IUSG in official capacity.

The 2020 Inspire administration has access to editing the IUSG website and are also involved in the 2021 Inspire campaign, we have grounds to believe that R.B. § 3-8-6 was violated by causing a reasonable person to inaccurately believe that the 2021 Inspire candidates campaign materials are made or distributed on behalf of the IUSG website.

II. IUSG official or employee acting in their official capacity

The Indiana Daily Student released an Opinion piece on March 29, 2021 titled “*OPINION: We asked IUSG candidates our burning questions. Here’s what they said.*” Both the Elevate and Legacy candidates were present, but the 2021 Inspire ticket had Ruhan Syed attending in Carling Louden’s place. The piece notes, “*Note: Louden could not be in attendance for our interview. Ruhan Syed, the current IUSG Vice President and Inspire campaign manager, attended in her place.*”

Once again, Syed’s involvement and success in the 2020 Inspire ticket misconstrues the communication of the 2021 Inspire ticket from the perspective of readers. While serving as both the Vice President of the 2020 Inspire ticket and the campaign manager of the 2021 Inspire ticket, there is grounds to believe that a reasonable person interprets that the 2021 Inspire ticket is endorsed by the Office of the Student Body Vice President acting in their official capacity therefore violating R.B. § 3-8-6.

<https://www.idsnews.com/article/2021/03/iu-student-government-ky-freeman-carrick-moon-dorynn-mentor>

III. Text message marketing

Over several text message exchanges, Ruhan Syed and Romael Khan deceived and persuaded voters into believing that they are the ticket running and that the 2021 Inspire ticket is a “continuation of IUSG” and the achievements of IUSG (Evidence 2). They did not separate themselves from the current ticket running, but rather forced voters to view Inspire as a *continuation* of the current IUSG 2020 Inspire administration.

This clearly provides a falsity that the current 2021 Inspire are the ones who have accomplished all the work done by the 2020 Inspire administration when it is meant to be separate according to R.B. § 3-8-6.

Khan clearly stated in a groupchat on his residential floor, that “voting Inspire is the *continuation* of the work that we have done this year in IUSG”. He went on to state that the Inspire campaign was responsible for “including an interfaith prayer room, the renaming of Jordan Hall, CAPS expansion, and banning plastic bags in C-stores. Voting Inspire means doing the works *we’ve been doing* without a change of pace. Help us make sure IUSG keeps its current momentum.”

This statement is problematic and in violation of for several reasons. 1) The phrase “*continuation* of the work” implies that the 2021 Inspire ticket’s communication to voters are made or distributed on behalf of IUSG; 2) The phrase “that *we’ve* done this year in IUSG” implies that the 2021 Inspire ticket’s communication to voters are made or distributed on behalf of an IUSG official or employee acting in their official capacity, as Khan serves as the Congressional Secretary.

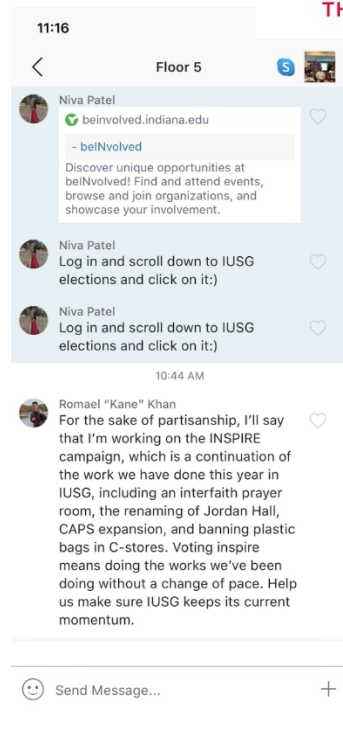
Even moreso, several students were also under the impression and were compelled to vote for the 2021 Inspire campaign because they believed Syed was on the ticket again due to the previously described IUSG website image portraying Syed’s portrait with the phrase “The Inspire administration's accomplishments” clearly to deceive voters.

Attachments:

(Evidence 1)



(Evidence 2)



(Evidence 3)

