

Ruling #6 Summary

Unauthorized interjection by Manyu Rathour at Augustana Forum. This ruling serves as a public formal warning against similar behaviour moving forward.

Parties to the Ruling

- Megan Garbutt, Chief Returning Officer
- Manyu Rathour, Candidate, Vice President Student Life Race
- Brish Goorimoorthee, Candidate, Vice President Student Life Race
- Miron Nekhoroshkov, Augustana Forum Moderator, President, Augustana Students' Association

Elections Office Jurisdiction

The Elections Office has jurisdiction over this matter under Bylaw 320, Section 16(4), which mandates the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) to investigate and rule on every contravention of election bylaws, rules, or regulations.

Relevant Legislation

- Regulation 320.09: Forums:
 - Section 01:
 - Point 01: The elections office shall enforce the following rules at all elections office Forums:
 - b. each Candidate or side shall be afforded an opportunity to speak that is equal to the opportunity afforded to each Candidate or side in their race;
 - d. no heckling shall occur;
- Bylaw 320 Section 17:
 - Point 01: Where a Candidate, Volunteer, or side has contravened a bylaw, rule, or regulation, regardless of the cause or the intent of the parties involved, and that contravention has provided an unfair advantage to a Candidate or side, the C.R.O. shall assign a penalty that
 - a. fully counter-balances any advantage gained; and
 - b. where the contravention was intentional, penalizes the Candidate, Campaign manager, or side manager who was or whose Volunteer was guilty of the contravention.
 - Point 02: Penalties available to the C.R.O. shall include
 - a. a fine to be counted against the Candidate's or side's Campaign Expenses;

- b. the confiscation or destruction of Campaign Materials;
- c. limits, restrictions, and prohibitions on any type of Campaign activities for any period of time up to the commencement of voting.
- d. disqualification; where the candidate is guilty of a contravention that;
 - i. Cannot be counterbalanced by a lesser penalty; or
 - ii. Is malicious or substantially prejudicial to another Candidate or side; or
 - iii. Involves tampering with ballots, voting procedures, or counting procedures; or
 - iv. A conscious and egregious breach of Bylaw 320.11.1 and/or Bylaw 320.11.2;
- o Point 03: The C.R.O. shall draft a schedule of fines and penalties as an appendix to the rules and regulations concerning this bylaw and it shall be included and well defined in the nomination package.

Findings

On Thursday February 26, 2026 the Augustana Students' Association (ASA) hosted an Elections Office Sponsored Forum for the students at Augustana Campus. In addition to other sections, each candidate had the opportunity to submit 1 question for 1 other candidate. Many Rathour, a candidate in the Vice President Student Life (VPSL) race submitted a question (see below) for Brish Goorimoorthee, another candidate in the VPSL race. This question was approved by the Elections Office and asked to Goorimoorthee by the moderator, Miron Nekhoroshkov, and Goorimoorthee provided an answer.

While Goorimoorthee was still at the podium (but finished answering) Rathour outwardly stated "what barriers though?" loud enough for individuals in the room to hear and for the UASU Livestream to pick up. Goorimoorthee did not verbally engage Rathour's question at all. The format of this forum did not permit follow-up, rebuttal, or additional commentary by the questioner after the candidate answered. This comment was made without the consent of the moderator or the Elections Office. Regulation 320.09 states that no heckling shall occur at forums. Rathour's unauthorized interjection ("what barriers though?"), made audibly to the room and outside of the permitted format constitutes heckling for the purposes of Regulation 320.09. Evidence provided to the Elections Office includes a livestream where the comment can be heard.

Rathour has communicated his regrets to the Elections Office, has been cooperative throughout this process, and states that this contravention will not happen again.

From: Manyu
To: Brish

You mentioned in the ISU forum that you would 'remove the barriers for Elders to come to campus.' I have attended about 4 events with the ISU where Elders have been leading and creating sharing circles and we've all as a community help the Elders with their needs.

What was your consultation process that led you to this conclusion and can you outline what the 'barriers' are, as in my experience, there aren't any.

Penalty

Given the nature of the contravention (a single brief interjection) and the cooperation of Rathour, the Elections Office issues a public formal warning to Rathour. Rathour is directed to refrain from unauthorized interjections at future forums. Future behaviour of this nature may result in further disciplinary action under Bylaw 320 Section 17, including removal from a forum and fines against Rathour's campaign budget.

Appeal

Rulings of the CRO may be [appealed to the DIE Board](#) by current undergraduate students, using the DIE Board Hearing Application Form, within 12 working hours of the ruling being posted. This ruling was posted at 1:00pm on February 27, 2026. The deadline for appeal is 5:00pm on March 2, 2026.