

## Ruling #14 Summary

There is no evidence that messages sent over Discord were associated with candidate West.

## Parties to the Ruling

- Megan Garbutt, Chief Returning Officer
- Xavier Penetrante, Deputy Returning Officer
- Anonymous Complainant, Candidate, UASU General Election
- Logan West, Candidate, Vice President Operations & Finance Race

## 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

- Bylaw 320 Section 13:
  - Point 08: The C.R.O. shall be kept privy to elections-related social media and public internet ventures undertaken by Candidates or sides, and reserves the right to penalize Candidates or sides for any violation of this bylaw or related regulations.
- 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; and
  - 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.

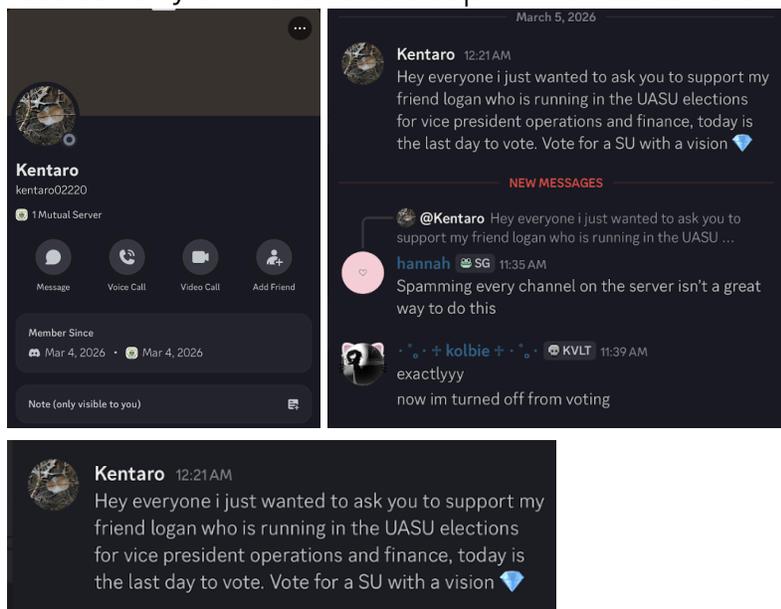
- General Election Nomination Package Part B<sup>1</sup>, General Campaign Rules, Page 8:
  - The use of forums, webboards, Discord servers (other than small private servers), or any other similar Internet-based mediums for the purposes of campaigning is prohibited without the express permission of the CRO. Requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

## Findings

On March 5 at 8:29am, the Elections Office was informed via a complaint that a Discord message was sent by an individual claiming to be associated with Logan West's campaign encouraging students to vote for West. The use of Discord servers to campaign is prohibited without the permission of the CRO. This message was sent to 21 channels within the 'UAlberta' Discord Server (~9,800 members) and 6 channels within the 'Unofficial Alberta School of Business' Discord Server (~1,250 members). This message was sent to these channels between 12:21am and 12:34am on March 5.

The Elections Office reached out to West over WhatsApp at 8:37am on March 5 requesting more information about this matter. West replied promptly claiming that she did not know who the sender was and she was willing to cooperate and distance herself from these messages. As requested by the Elections Office, West shared a list of her volunteers, a code of conduct that the volunteers filled out, and statements from each volunteer stating that they had nothing to do with this message.

Given the timing of this complaint and the potential implications of the message, the results for the Vice President Operations & Finance race were not announced at the Result's Party on March 5 at 8:00pm. The results have now been posted.



<sup>1</sup> Winter 2026 General Election Nomination Package Part B:  
[https://s3.su.ualberta.ca/www-dynamic/documents/RE-UPDATED\\_General\\_Election\\_Nomination\\_Package\\_Part\\_B\\_-\\_2025\\_26.pdf](https://s3.su.ualberta.ca/www-dynamic/documents/RE-UPDATED_General_Election_Nomination_Package_Part_B_-_2025_26.pdf)

## Penalty

No punitive fine has been assessed as there is no evidence that this individual was associated with West or West's campaign team. West has also been cooperative throughout this process and has distanced herself from these messages.

No counterbalancing fine has been assessed for three reasons. 1) There is no way to know if the messages sent provided an advantage to candidate West. Some replies to the message indicate that some students were less likely to vote for candidate West due to the message. 2) In previous years, students have used platforms such as Reddit to discuss their preferences for voting. Although campaigning by the candidates is not allowed on these platforms, the Elections Office has no authority over the students' ability to express their thoughts regarding the election. 3) Assessing a fine based on this complaint would set a dangerous precedent for future elections, as candidates may attempt to get their opponents disqualified by sending messages like this one.

The Elections Office attempted to get the messages deleted, however, the Elections Office has no authority over the messages sent in Discord channels.

## 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 8:00am on March 9, 2026. The deadline for appeal is 1:00pm on March 10, 2026.