

Associated Students
Elections Commission
Humboldt State University
Thursday, April 14, 2016
Associated Students Business Office
Minutes #1
****SPECIAL MEETING****

Call to Order

Aaron Cobas, Elections Commissioner, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Associated Students Business Office.

Roll Call

Members Present: Aaron Cobas, Stephanie Blank, Amanda Hostrulid, Michael Ramirez

Advisors Present: Patric Esh, Molly Kresl

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: COBAS/BLANK move to approve Agenda #1 dated Thursday, April 14, 2016

APPROVED
(1) NAY

Chair's Report

No report.

Public Comments (As per the Gloria Romero Open Meeting Act of 2000 authorized by Section 89306.)

There was no Public Comment.

Old Business

- A. Review and Action of an official complaint submitted by Mildred Correa toward candidate Jennifer Werthman – Action Item
The Elections Commission will consider the complaint submitted by Mildred Correa and will take action if necessary as outlined in Section 17 of the Associated Students Elections Code.

Correa stated Werthman posted the fliers in question the day after Correa posted her fliers on Facebook. Correa stated she created the flier herself. Correa also noted the flier included information on why she is running for a Council position and worked really hard on it. Correa stated that she was personally offended that Werthman used Correa's flier design without Correa's permission. Correa stated that she contacted Werthman about the fliers that were possibly copied. Werthman told Correa it was a coincidence and did not have time to make another flier.

Correa believes the violation was plagiarism, knows that there was not an AS Elections Code violation, but would like something to be done. Correa doesn't see the difference if someone plagiarized a 10 page paper or used the same flier design.

Jennifer Werthman was unable to attend because she was out of town. Kresl, AS Elections Commission Advisor, read a letter submitted by Jennifer Werthman (See attached letter).

MOTION: RAMIREZ/HOSTRULID move to Review and take Action on an official complaint submitted by Mildred Correa toward candidate Jennifer Werthman.

Hostrulid asked Correa if Werthman's design take the value away from Correa's flier design. Correa said yes because creating the flier took a lot of time and energy. Ramirez noted he has been in student council elections in different schools. Ramirez noted the professionalism of the flier, but noted it's hard to discern the differences in the fliers. Ramirez has seen similar fliers in the past. Ramirez asked what the computer program Correa used. Correa said it was Illustrator. Ramirez stated the fliers fit a template. Ramirez noted he respected the work Correa has done, but notes the coincidences Werthman was referring too. Ramirez notes the work Correa would like to do and the work Werthman has done. Ramirez asked Correa why she included the links in the flyer. Correa noted that students wanted to know how to get more information. Ramirez stated in the flier there is a coalition. Ramirez asked Correa if she talked to Werthman about a coalition. Correa said no. Ramirez asked Correa if she shared any of her ideas with a coalition or with Werthman. Correa responded that she does not remember.

Blank noted Correa comments about her campaign being in jeopardy, and asked Correa if she agreed with that. Correa said yes. Blank also asked if the distribution of the flier by Werthman gives Werthman an advantage. Correa stated she doesn't really agree, but she has lost the heart and soul to campaign.

Cobas noted the emotionally trying time for Correa. Cobas asked Correa if she found any elections code violation that related to the incident. Correa said she did not, but noted it was an act of plagiarism. Kresl noted she reached out to the Dean of Students and they noted the activity is part of an academic curriculum so they would be unable to help.

Hostrulid researched plagiarism and asked Correa if more than 20% of the flier is Correa's work. Correa said yes, and noted many of the items in Werthman's flier looked similar.

Correa noted Werthman can have all the same information, but the positioning of texts and graphics and design are similar. Ramirez asked how Correa would feel if someone would use the Correa's flier next year. Correa said she would be upset and would possibly would report it.

Hostrulid asked if Correa copyrighted the design including the text. Correa said no.

Ramirez asked Correa about what her solutions were. Ramirez asked Correa if Werthman should not be a candidate. Correa said she initially thought yes. Correa talked to her peers and advisors and suggested to Correa should pursue the case. Correa noted that in the prior school she attended plagiarism was not tolerated and the student would be expelled. Correa noted at this point she doesn't know what she wants.

Ramirez asked if Correa would revise her flier. Correa responded that a friend asked her to make a new one and Correa was upset about it. Correa made four other fliers. Correa has spent a lot of time on the flier and doesn't feel she should make a new design. Ramirez asked if Correa has done any kind of other campaigning. Correa said yes. Ramirez asked if Correa could work with Werthman again. Correa doesn't know.

Kresl asked if Correa has a timestamp from Facebook when the fliers were posted. Blank noted the

documents provided by Correa show a date and time. Correa noted Werthman flier wasn't seen by Correa until eight hours after it was posted.

MOTION: HOSTRULID/COBAS move to dismiss an official complaint submitted by Mildred
Correa toward candidate Jennifer Werthman. APPROVED

Cobas noted the Commission did not find an AS Elections code violation. Blank noted Correa's fliers are beautiful and very different than Werthman. Ramirez hopes Correa will campaign, but he could not find a violation of the AS Elections Code. Correa asked if there was a code about plagiarism, what would have happened. The commission explained the AS Elections violation process.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Adjournment

Cobas adjourned the meeting without objection at 6:19 p.m.

Recorded by:

Patric Esh
AS Council Assistant

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Aaron D. Cobas", written over a horizontal line.

Aaron Cobas
AS Elections Commissioner