

Boston University | Student Elections Commission

Official Statement

Cease and Desist Order



April 6, 2014

The Student Elections Commission (SEC) is charged with operating free and fair elections for its constituent governments. Towards this end, the SEC must ensure that no voter feels coerced into voting one way or another in SEC-sanctioned elections.

Section 3.4.13 states the following:

“The SEC reserves the right to issue a Cease and Desist Order to any campaign for any action that may or may not be specified in the Elections Code that is deemed to be an inappropriate or improper form of campaigning.”

In a complaint submitted on April 5, 2014 at 11:47 AM, the SEC was made privy to information that Student Government slate TrueBU had campaign staff members stationed at Marsh Plaza with a TrueBU banner and a laptop computer asking students to vote for their slate.

Given that this confronts students with an awkward situation to either say no or be forced to vote in front of members of a campaign staff, the SEC finds that this is an inappropriate and improper form of campaigning. By offering students a laptop computer to vote with in front of campaign staff members, the optional anonymity guaranteed with voting is removed. For this same reason, the SEC does not allow slates to campaign within 20 yards of official campaign Voting Booths.

The SEC orders TrueBU and all subsequent campaigns to Cease and Desist from the practice of offering laptop computers, or any other device capable of registering votes in the election, to eligible voters. Failure to comply with this Cease and Desist Order will result in the consequences outlined in Section 6.5.02 of the Elections Code:

“Candidate violating a Cease and Desist Order issued by the SEC will be charged no more than 800 violation points.”