

# Boston University | Student Elections Commission

## Official Statement



April 9, 2014

### Appeal, Reference #11

On April 8, 2014 at 1:15 AM, the Student Elections Commission (SEC) received the following appeal for Complaint Reference #11 from Richa Kaul of BU's Push to Start:

We have at least one witness, and up to three, who at this time would like to remain anonymous but will speak privately with the SEC and confirm that they were simultaneously offered a laptop while being asked if they had voted yet.

### Findings

In reconsidering this appeal, both the plaintiff and respondent offered evidence that offering a laptop did or did not occur on Marsh Plaza. No evidence was heard for this appeal; instead, the SEC reconsidered Complaint Reference #11 in full.

The complaint refers to Section 5.1.02(a)(i) of the Elections Code, which states the following: "Votes will be recorded anonymously, and no information linking students to candidates will ever be kept. Students provide their University username and Kerberos password for the sole purpose of verifying their eligibility to vote and ensuring that no student votes more than once."

We take this Section at what the words mean: "anonymous" refers to the idea that no record will be kept between a voter and their ballot. This means that no one will ever be able to determine who voted for whom; only the vote totals will be kept. Therefore, offering a laptop to a student to vote, while coercive as we deemed in Complaint Reference #3, does not violate Section 5.1.02(a)(i) of the Elections Code.

The SEC met in person to consider this appeal. In a 6-0 ruling, the SEC upholds its decision in Complaint Reference #11. Three members of the SEC were absent for this vote.