

Boston University | Student Elections Commission

Official Statement



April 7, 2014

Question at hand

On April 7, 2014 at 10:40 AM, the Student Elections Commission (SEC) received the following complaint:

I walked into my Law and Ethics class in room 346 of SMG and found a large stack of TrueBU flyers/leaflets/handouts on my table, presumably from a member of the campaign team. This is a violation of the Lifebook Policy on Distribution, which prohibits distribution in an academic class. The policy is at the following link:

<http://www.bu.edu/dos/policies/lifebook/publications-policy/>

On April 7, 2014 at 10:53 AM, the SEC received the following two complaints (combined as they were from the same plaintiff) as well:

Caley Van Brunt spoke to my SM 131 class before class on Tuesday, March 25, campaigning for the slate TrueBU. While talking about TrueBU she also handed out black-and-white fliers about the candidates. According to the Publications Policy in the Lifebook, materials like "club cards, leaflets, handbills, circulars...and newspapers" cannot be distributed in an academic class. Specifically, the Lifebook states, "the distribution of these materials may cannot take place in an academic class." To my knowledge, the fliers that were handed out count as leaflets that were handed out to an academic class. Both my Professor and my TA can confirm that these actions took place.

After campaigning illegally on March 25, 2014, Caley Van Brunt spoke again to my SM 131 class before class on April 4, 2014, campaigning for the slate TrueBU. Again, while talking about TrueBU she also handed fliers about the candidates. According to the Publications Policy in the Lifebook, materials like "club cards, leaflets, handbills, circulars...and newspapers" cannot be distributed in an academic class. Specifically, the Lifebook states, "the distribution of these materials may cannot take place in an academic class." To my knowledge, the fliers that were handed out count as leaflets that were handed out to an academic class. Both my Professor and my TA can confirm that these actions took place.

Section 3.4.05 of the Elections Code states the following:

"Campaign tools, materials, tactics, etc. may not violate the policies of Boston University, including but not limited to those of the Student Activities Office, the Office of Housing, and the Office of Residence Life, as well as policies set forth in the Boston University Lifebook."

Findings

Several people noted that TrueBU literature was all over the School of Management in the recent weeks. While it is not against the Elections Code for students to speak to their class (with permission from the instructor) about a slate, it is against Lifebook policy to distribute materials

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in an academic classroom. It is also against Lifebook policy to leave these materials in an academic classroom.

The SEC met in person to consider these complaints. In an 8-0 ruling, the SEC found that TrueBU did in fact violate Section 3.4.05 of the Elections Code by distributing campaign materials in an academic classroom and by leaving campaign materials in an academic classroom. One member of the SEC was absent for this vote.

Pursuant to Section 6.3.07(a) of the Elections Code, TrueBU is charged 50 points for violating Section 3.4.05 for the first instance of distributing campaign materials in an academic classroom and 50 points for violating Section 3.4.05 for leaving campaign materials in an academic classroom, totaling 100 points. This leaves TrueBU with a current total of 601 violation points.