Boston University | Student Elections Commission
Official Statement

April 3, 2016

Question at hand:

On April 1, 2016 at 9:55 PM, the Student Elections Commission (SEC) received the following complaint:

Nadia approached me and my friend while we were doing homework and studying that night. After handing us flyers and papers about NewBU's platform, she sat down next to us and watched us read them. We handed them back to her, and it was at this point that she asked us to vote for her on StudentLink. Although asking for a vote is normal behavior for a candidate, what isn’t typical is watching the potential voter until he or she has cast the ballot and not leaving until then.

Nadia’s behavior made me feel extremely uncomfortable and pressured to vote for her. I honestly believed she would not leave our table if I didn’t. When I reached the ballot page, she said something about how “I could vote for the other candidates, but they’re not engineers”. During her pitch to us, Nadia mentioned several times that NewBU was unique in that it consisted solely of engineering students. Of course, this is a blatant lie, but I had no way to check this information with her staring at me and my laptop screen.

After, I looked closer at the other slates and their platforms, and believe there are other individuals who are better suited for serving in BU’s Student Government. I don’t know if there is any way to rescind my vote. This scenario could’ve played out with any student here; with that, I wish to remain anonymous (along with my friend’s identity). There are many ways to acquire votes, but forcing someone to do it will never be one.

Findings:

In an 8-0 ruling with no abstentions, the SEC has decided to award Nadia with 200 violation points on the grounds that she violated university policy regarding solicitation on campus and harassment and it was not conducive to a free and fair election.

4/3/16