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EGC DECISION

February 4th, 2018

After conducting a diligent and thorough review, the Elections Governance Committee has concluded that Health Sciences Councillor candidate Lucy Watson has violated section 11.3: Existing Policies of By-Law #2. This violation is in regard to unauthorized campaigning in the Medway-Sydenham Hall 2015-2016 Facebook group, against Western Residence Policy. Consequently, the EGC has sanctioned the candidate with one (1) demerit point for this violation. The full report is attached.

For further inquiries, please contact Katherine Carrasco, Chief Returning Officer at cro@westernusc.ca.

2017/2018 Elections Governance Committee (EGC)

Candidate(s) under review: Health Sciences Councillor – Lucy Watson

Deliberations: February 4th, 2018

Present: CRO, DRO, [REDACTED]

1.0 Allegation(s)

- (1) On February 2nd, 2018, Lucy Watson made an unauthorized post in the Medway-Sydenham Hall 2015-2016 Facebook group. According to Western Residence Policy, candidates and campaign volunteers are not permitted to post on residence-managed social media platforms (e.g., building Facebook pages, Twitter feeds, etc.).

2.0 Violation under By-Law #2

- (1) **Section 11.3 Existing Policies:** It is the responsibility of the Candidate to ensure that all campaign plans, materials, and/or advertisements, conform to all policies and regulations of the USC and University, and with all municipal, provincial and federal laws. Campaign displays and the distribution of literature on campus are also subject to the requirements of Facilities Management and/or Reservations Office.

3.0 Investigative Action Taken by Violations Committee

- (1) Several committee members examined the evidence in question to determine not only the validity of the allegation but also the severity of the infraction. Through this, the committee was able to determine these actions warranted a violation.
- (2) Lucy Watson submitted a statement regarding the violation.

4.0 The EGC's Findings

The EGC determined that the action of campaigning in a residence-managed Facebook group is in fact a violation of Section 11.3. The EGC holds that Lucy Watson was negligent in not abiding by Western University's Residence Policy, as set forth by By-Law #2. This action is considered to have had a minor influence on the potential voters who were reached, as it occurred in a Facebook group that is over 2 years old. It is also noted by the EGC that it is common for members of old residence groups to mute notifications for posts. For this reason, the degree of influence is considered to be insignificant.

5.0 Decision

In committee quorum, the EGC agreed with simple majority that this violation be classified as a minor violation, carrying the penalty of one (1) demerit point.

Approved for release

Katherine Carrasco
Chief Returning Officer, USC
Elections Governance Committee, Chair

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1:

Medway-Sydenham Hall 2015-2016

Open Group within Western

About

Discussion

Members

Events

Videos

Photos

Files

FROM NOTIFICATIONS

Lucy Watson shared a Page. ...

53 mins

Hey, hope you're all doing well-just thought I'd post to let you guys know that I'm re-running for Health Sciences USC Councillor. I brought you Fall Reading Week last year, so you can trust that I get things done. Please check out my facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/VoteLucyWatson> to see what I plan to accomplish such as Mental Health Support, Academic Relief Policy, Pass/Fail credits and more!



Exhibit 2:

Name of candidate alleged to have committed a violation	Lucy Watson
Position being sought by candidate (i.e. Councillor, Faculty President, PVP Slate, Senator, Board of Governors):	Councillor
Approximate date alleged violation occurred:	Feb 02, 2018
Approximate time alleged violation occurred:	05:30 PM
Relevant Section of By-Law 2:	Not sure
Details of alleged violation: Posted into Med Syd Hall's 2015-2016 group within Western	

Supporting documentation upload



[Screen Shot 2018-02-02 at 6.19.05 PM.png](#)

By clicking submit, you agree that the aforementioned details are, to the best of your knowledge, true and accurate. - I Agree

By clicking submit, you agree to allow the Elections Governance Committee contact you in the event additional information or details are required. - I Agree