



# CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER RULING

## *Carleton University Students' Association General Elections 2026*

**Date of Ruling:** February 11th, 2026

**Ruling Code:** 2026GE-ND-005

This public report is issued pursuant to Section 67(a) of the CUSA Electoral Code. It summarizes the outcome of a ruling made by the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) in relation to a review conducted during the Campaign Period of the 2026 CUSA General Election.

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### **I. Authority**

This Notice of Decision is issued pursuant to the authority of the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) under the CUSA Electoral Code, including but not limited to Sections 59, 63, 66, and Schedule IV.

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### **II. Candidate**

**Aryan Singh**

Presidential Candidate, 2026 CUSA General Election

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### **III. Standard of Proof**

Pursuant to Section 58 of the Electoral Code, the burden of proof for electoral offences is beyond a reasonable doubt.

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No finding of violation is made unless the CRO is satisfied that each essential element of the alleged offence has been established to that standard.

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## IV. Summary of Review

This matter arose from a written complaint and video evidence received on February 4, 2026, during the Voting Period of the 2026 CUSA General Election. The video depicted election-related activity occurring inside the MacOdrum Library, a space designated as a prohibited campaigning area under the Electoral Code and CRO-issued guidelines.

A Notice of Complaint (2026GE-NC-005) was issued to the Candidate. The Candidate submitted a written response denying authorization, affiliation, or knowledge of the individual shown in the video.

The CRO reviewed the complaint, video evidence, written submissions, campaign scheduling materials, subsequent clarifications regarding potential coordinated campaigning, and the relevant provisions of the Electoral Code.

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## V. Findings

After review of all evidence and submissions, the CRO determined beyond a reasonable doubt that:

- Election-related solicitation occurred inside the MacOdrum Library during the Voting Period;
- The individual encouraged electors to vote for the Candidate and referenced additional faculty candidates while promoting votes;
- The individual observed electors' voting screens and handled or controlled an elector's device during the casting of a ballot;
- The MacOdrum Library is a strictly prohibited campaigning location under Schedule IV and CRO-issued guidelines;





- The conduct materially benefited the Candidate;
- The individual's face was not clearly identifiable in the video; and
- No evidence established that the Candidate personally directed the individual.

The CRO further determined that candidate responsibility attaches under Schedule II and Schedule IV where individuals act in furtherance of, or materially benefit, a campaign, regardless of formal authorization.

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## VI. Electoral Code Violations

The following violations were established under Schedule IV of the Electoral Code:

- Conditional inducement / coercion relating to executive participation
  - Improper voter influence and failure to disclose campaign affiliation
  - Conduct undermining the integrity of the electoral process
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## VII. Penalties Issued

In accordance with Schedule IV, the following demerit points were assessed:

- 5 demerit points - Campaigning in a university library (major violation)
- 5 demerit points - Interference with free and fair elections (major violation)
- 5 demerit points - Undermining the electoral process (major violation)
- 2 demerit points - Failure to control or disclose campaign actors (minor violation)

**Total: 17 demerit points**

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## VIII. Appeal Information

In accordance with the Electoral Code, this decision will automatically be referred to the Appeals Committee for review.

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## IX. Additional Information

A full Notice of Decision, containing the complete findings of fact, analysis, evidence considered, and rationale, has been provided directly to the candidate in accordance with Section 67(b) of the Electoral Code.

This public report is provided for transparency and does not include confidential or identifying information.

