

CARLETON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
APPEALS COMMITTEE

In the Matter of:

ARYAN SINGH v. CHIEF RETURNING OFFICE

ELECTION APPEAL 2026 GE – ND – 011

DECISION

Hearing Date: February 23, 2026

Decision Released: February 25, 2026

Panel: John H. McNair (Chair), Pilar Balbuena Bulla, Cherry Zhang,
Maya Shaban, Ali Aaouda

Appearances: _____ Aryan Singh, Basit Ur Rehman

DECISION

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On February 05, 2026, the Office of the Chief Returning Officer, Mr. Basit Ur Rehman (hereinafter “the CRO”) received a complaint that a candidate in the CUSA election, Mr. Aryan Singh (“Singh”) had violated the provisions of the CUSA *Electoral Code* (“the Code”). Notice of the Complaint was given on February 8, 2026.
2. The CRO framed the allegations in the complaint around two electoral offences, as follows:
 - A. “*Campaigning in a prohibited area;*”
 - B. “*Interfering with the conduct of a free and fair election;*”

3. Following investigation of the complaint, the CRO issued a written Ruling on February 17th, 2026. The CRO found that the offences were substantiated and imposed a total of ten demerit points.
4. The penalties imposed upon Singh reached the threshold of ten points prescribed in the *Code* for disqualification of a candidate. The matter was automatically referred to the Appeals Committee for review and decision, therefore, pursuant to Schedule IV (*"Electoral Offences, Demerits and Disqualifications"*) s.2.

II. DISPOSITION

5. At the outset of our review hearing, the CRO fairly acknowledged that:
 - The factual circumstances of this alleged library campaigning violation mirrored those in two cases previously heard by the Appeals Committee, CRO files 2026GE-ND-003 and 2026GE-ND-008;
 - The evidence to be called in this appeal would not cause it to be distinguishable on the facts from the two earlier cases; and
 - The submissions to be offered by the CRO would be those already heard by the Appeals Committee at the hearings of those same matters.
6. For the reasons set out in our Decisions in 2026GE-ND-003 and 2026GE-ND-008, released February 21st, the Appeals Committee held that responsibility for the electoral offence of campaigning in a prohibited area was not proven to attach to a candidate in the circumstances disclosed therein. The related offences were set aside on the same grounds.

7. It was not necessary for us to hear oral evidence or to entertain submissions on this appeal. For the reasons contained in the above Decisions, this appeal was allowed. The Ruling of the CRO and resulting penalty of the CRO are set aside and the complaint is declared to be unsubstantiated.

John H. McNair, Chair
CUSA Appeals Committee