



Precedent of the Election Committee

Allegation 2021-02

Relevant Constitutional Sections:

Article XV, Section 1(g)(1): Endorsements shall include public, formal, or organized communication or appearances indicating support for a candidate or ticket.

Article XV, Section 1(g)(4): Individuals holding the following offices enumerated in this Constitution may not endorse any candidate or ticket: (L): Hall Presidents and Vice-Presidents.

Relevant Facts:

A candidate posted on social media a photograph of themselves holding two water bottles at once. A Residence Hall Fall Vice-President commented, "Two waters, power move."

Holdings:

1. Apolitical communications which do not reference or involve the candidacy of a candidate are not endorsements within the meaning of Article 15.1(g)(1).
 - a. Article 15.1(g)(1) states, "Endorsements shall include public, formal, or organized communication or appearances indicating support for a candidate or ticket." The Election Committee determined that the comment was not a public indication of the Residence Hall Fall Vice-President's support for the candidate or their ticket but rather an apolitical human interaction. There was no reference made to the candidate's role as a candidate or to the upcoming election, but rather to their ability to simultaneously carry multiple water bottles. The Constitution does not render this an endorsement; if it did, then every one of the over one hundred individuals listed in Article 15.1(g)(4) would be unable to publicly be kind to or even perhaps communicate with anyone who was a candidate for office.