



2014-2015

Election and Disputes Commission Student Government George Mason University

Chloe Shreve & Riley May – Co-Chairs

Associate Commissioners

Michael Essiaw

Emily Daniel

Christal Jackson

Saber Chowdhury

On October 1st, 2014 the Elections and Disputes Commission met and decided two grievances filed against candidate Hunter DeRensis. Laura Heger and Greg Warren both filed reports alleging that DeRensis had violated two sections of the George Mason 2014 Election Code, those being as follows:

***“Section 5.7:** Once the voting period has begun, candidates are forbidden from participating in any active campaigning inside University buildings. All currently posted flyers, posters, and similar campaign materials may remain in place, but no new materials may be posted and no more campaign events may be held. Candidates may utilize outdoor spaces in accordance with University regulations during campaigning as long as they do not harass students*

[And]

***“Section 5.14:** No campaigning may occur in any building that operates as part of George Mason University Housing without prior written approval from a Resident Director (RD) or higher-ranking housing staff member.”*

Greg Warren, going off of an anonymous tip from the social networking app Yik Yak and Laura’s corroborating in-person account led them to decide to file a grievance for violation of Election Code Section 5.7, along with Heger who filed an additional one for violation of Election Code Section 5.14. DeRensis alleged that he had full permission from his Resident Advisor to campaign in the residence hall, and was not posting any materials related to his campaign. Both Heger and Warren agreed that DeRensis believed he was acting in proper authority, despite what the Election Code said. Additionally, DeRensis fully admitted to campaigning within Adams Hall, to which Laura Heger was a witness.

The Elections and Disputes Commission, with a vote of 2-1-2, found that Hunter DeRensis did indeed violate the Election Code and should receive **two strikes for his campaigning**. There were two abstentions from both co-chairs of the Commission. This decision was decided by the following account:

- It was acknowledged that there was some possible confusion over whether or not residence halls were categorized as university buildings from DeRensis. But by an overwhelming majority, it was agreed that they were, and thus a violation was given. As stated in the Election Code – it is a clear violation that to campaign in university buildings during the voting period is prohibited.

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- It was further noted that DeRensis had admitted to reading the full Election Code, and had seen that he needed written Resident Director approval to campaign in the residence halls. The intervention of the Resident Advisor, who had no authority to allow it, caused concern among the commissioners. They acknowledged that DeRensis did not act appropriately and should have looked for further clarification. This is where he earned his second strike.

One commissioner did dissent on the violations given, believing that the actions should constitute three strikes and disqualify DeRensis from the election.

As such, by vote of the Elections and Disputes Commission, Hunter DeRensis is charged with two strikes, but allowed to remain in the campaign.

Commissioners Voting Aye: Commissioner Essiaw, Commissioner Chowdhury

Commissioners Voting Nay: Commissioner Daniel

Commissioners Abstaining: Co-Chair May, Co-Chair Shreve