



EC VIOLATION HEARING

1. Call to Order: 6:30 PM
2. Roll Call & Verification of Quorum: 7/4

| Name | Email | Initial | Final |
|--|--|---------|-------|
| Supervisor of Elections Luke Brown | sga_ec@ucf.edu sgec9@ucf.edu | P | |
| Assistant Supervisor of Elections Alyssia Wright | sga_aec@ucf.edu sgec3@ucf.edu | P | |
| Commissioner Norah Sackett | sgec1@ucf.edu | P | |
| Commissioner VACANT | sgec2@ucf.edu | - | - |
| Commissioner Aneesha Nayak | sgec4@ucf.edu | P | |
| Commissioner Amarah Presley | sgec5@ucf.edu | P | |
| Commissioner VACANT | sgec6@ucf.edu | - | - |
| Commissioner Jessica Vitarelli | sgec7@ucf.edu | P | |
| Commissioner Brianna Phillips | sgec8@ucf.edu | P | |
| Commissioner VACANT | sgec10@ucf.edu | - | - |

- a. Introduction of Violation Hearing:
 - a. Supervisor Brown: On March 6th, Ryan Kaufman submitted an affidavit regarding Lester Tellez attempting to bribe the “Milk Man” with an award if he were to become Student Body President. Today the Election Commission will be determining if this is a violation of

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the Election Statutes under Title VI, Chapter 606.4, Section F stating that “Committing or attempting a bribe”

- b. Supervisor Brown: On March 6th, Ryan Kaufman submitted two affidavits regarding Lester Tellez, one in which he discussed his campaign during the Senate Forum which is against his sanction. Along with his Instagram still allegedly having posts after the sanction was placed. Today the Election Commission will be determining if this is a violation of the Election Statutes under Title VI, Chapter 606.4, Section R stating that “Failure to comply with any sanctions within 24 hours of being set by the Election Commission”
 - c. We will be seeing all of these affidavits at the same time today due to their similarities and will issue a verdict on both. Please be sure to ask questions, and make statements regarding all 3 of these affidavits.
- b. Statement of the Filer:
- a. Good evening. I am here to explain the three violations I saw and are reporting to the Election Commission. The first statute violated is in Title VI, Chapter 606.4 (F), stating that a Tier IV violation is “committing or attempting a bribe.” On March 1, 2025, I saw on the UCF reddit page that “MilkManiacUCF” commented when referring to Mr. Tellez that “He glazed me over DMs the other day and told me he would give me an award for the milk maniac thing if he became president. Left lil bro on read.” After further investigation of this suspected bribery, MilkManiac was reached out to directly via reddit and supplied us with a direct message from Mr. Tellez. In his message, Mr. Tellez states “I’d like to let you know that if I become president of UCF, you will be receiving an honorary award in being able to bring people together and make them laugh.” This direct message shows that Mr. Tellez attempted to bribe the MilkManiac with an award, directly violating the statutes. In the supplied evidence, there is a picture of the original MilkManiac chat on Reddit, Mr. Tellez’s statement to the MilkManiac, and proof of our conversation with him. The next statute violated is in Title VI, Chapter 606.4 (R), stating that a Tier IV violation is “failure to comply with any sanctions within 24 hours of being set by the Election Commission.” On March 5, 2025, I saw that the TellezTerdoest2025 Instagram was still active, even after being placed under a sanction by the Election Commission at a previous violation hearing. The sanction placed upon them stated “All specific accounts, social networking apps, etc. for the campaign/ticket must be temporarily deactivated.” I first noticed that the campaign Instagram account was still active on both March 1, 2025, at 3:47pm, which is more than 24 hours after the sanction was applied on February 28, 2025 around 11am. Additionally, after checking 5 days later, on March 5, 2025 at 8:37pm, I noticed that the Instagram account was still active. This is more than the 24 hours after the sanction was placed. This shows that Mr. Tellez violated the sanction placed upon him by the Election Commission, directly violating the statutes. In the supplied evidence, there is a picture of the active Instagram on both March 1, 2025, and a picture and video with proof of the date of infraction on March 5, 2025. The final statute violated is, again, in Title VI, Chapter 606.4 (R), stating that a Tier IV violation is “failure to comply with any sanctions within 24 hours of being set by the Election Commission.” On March 4, 2025 at the 2025 Candidate Expo, Mr. Tellez approached my table where I was campaigning for the next Senate Session, and he asked me what my initiatives were. I began to explain that I am very fiscally minded, and that my initiatives involved increasing the knowledge of the funding process for RSOs. Mr. Tellez began to explain his presidential initiatives, even without being prompted by me, and stated “If I was running” he would want to expand the amount of clubs that got funding. He said this while wearing his candidate merchandise. According directly to the sanction placed upon him by the Election Commission “Suspension of all physical campaigning from March 1st at 12:01am to March 9th at 11:59pm. Physical campaigning includes, but is not limited to attending events with the purpose of promoting your campaign.” Mr. Tellez was directly promoting his campaign both with the

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words he said to me, and the attire he was wearing. All of this happened more than 24 hours after the sanction was placed on Mr. Tellez's campaign. This shows that Mr. Tellez violated the sanction placed upon him by the Election Commission, directly violating the statutes. The evidence for this infraction is strictly verbal, and my witness, Mr. Hameed, was tabling directly next to me and will be discussing a similar set of events in his speech. I believe it is only fair that all tickets should have to follow all Student Government statutes, which is why I submitted these affidavits. I thank you all for your time.

c. **Statement of the Accused:**

- a. It is true that I submitted the direct message to milkmaniacucf; however, I did not engage in or attempt to offer a bribe. I informed the Milk Manic that I would present an award recognizing the success of his event if I were elected President. Nowhere in my messages did I condition this recognition on his vote. At no point did I state or imply that the award was contingent upon his support. Rather, my statement was an acknowledgment of the success of his event, not an attempt to influence his vote. This claim misrepresents my words and intent. Furthermore, the individual in question, the Milk Manic, has issued a written statement clarifying that he did not interpret my message as bribery as listed below. Additionally, the complaint filed by Ryan Kaufman under Title VI, Chapter 606.4(F) alleges that I committed or attempted to commit bribery. However, as demonstrated by both my explanation and the written statement from the alleged recipient of the bribe, no such violation occurred. There was no quid pro quo exchange, no attempt to coerce or persuade a vote through material gain, and no intent to violate election statutes. Since the recipient of my statement himself has explicitly stated that he did not interpret it as bribery, the charge is baseless and should be dismissed immediately. Furthermore, I have a video recording that provides direct proof that the statement from the Milk Manic is authentic. In the recording, I show a direct message from him containing the same statement rejecting the bribery charge. This recording serves as undeniable evidence that the statement was made by him and that he stands by his words. The video directly corroborates my defense and disproves any claim that this statement is fabricated or misleading. Given the clear evidence, including both the written statement and video confirmation, I request that this matter be dropped, as the evidence demonstrates that no violation of Title VI, Chapter 606.4(F) occurred.
- b. The official definition of Active Campaigning is the following: **Active Campaigning – Includes any display or distribution of tangible items or electronic media for a candidate/ticket for an elective office of the student body that promotes any campaign, advertisement in campus news and/or radio, email, phone/video calls, or any other media where the candidate is asking at mass for support from voters, including any attempt to solicit votes.** Although I was wearing my hat, I have obtained explicit written permission from Alyssa Wright to wear my hat during the sanction period and approval from Luke Brown to attend the candidate expo. This confirms that my presence and attire at the event were not in violation of any election statutes or sanctions. Furthermore, my statement at the event was purely hypothetical and I did NOT ask the individual to vote for me, which the definition of active campaigning states: **"where the candidate is asking at mass for support from voters, including any attempt to solicit votes"** I did not actively campaign but merely stated a general suggestion of what a candidate should do. At no point did I: Announce my candidacy; List my official policy positions; Direct anyone on where to vote for me; Additionally, I have written statements from both Luke Brown and Alyssa Wright confirming their authorizations. These statements provide clear evidence that I was permitted to attend the event and wear my hat, eliminating any basis for this claim. Since I was not actively campaigning and had verifiable permission to be at the event, this charge lacks merit and should be dismissed immediately. I have fully complied with all sanctions imposed upon me, including: Archiving or deleting all campaign-related posts Removing bio information and profile images from all platforms I have followed these directives in the exact same manner as previous sanctions, specifically during the sanction period from February 15, where I set my Instagram account to private until the charges were dropped. I replicated this same compliance method following the March 1 sanctions, ensuring my account was in full adherence. The allegation under Title VI, Chapter 606.4(R) claims that I failed to comply with sanctions within 24 hours of them being set by the Election Commission. However, this claim is factually incorrect, as I have acted in full accordance with all required directives within the mandated time frame. Furthermore, I have clear proof of my compliance: Screenshots showing my account status and archived posts, Verification that all campaign-related content has been removed or archived. This tangible evidence directly contradicts the claim of non-compliance. My account logs and archived posts confirm that I fully adhered to all sanctions within the prescribed time frame. Given

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that I have met all requirements and can prove my compliance, this charge is unsubstantiated and should be dismissed immediately.

d. Questioning of the Filer:

- a. None

e. Questioning of the Accused:

- a. None

f. Questioning of the Filers Witnesses and Evidence:

- a. Witness Hameed: On March 5th, 2025 I noticed that the "tellezterdoest2025" Instagram account was still active. While the account had no posts and no profile picture, the account name was still the Tellez Ter Doest ticket name which I consider to be digital campaigning since the account is still searchable and discoverable on instagram. I believe that this is in direct violation of the election commission sanction that was placed on the Tellez Ter Doest campaign. On March 4th, 2025 during the candidate expo I was approached by Mr. Tellez at my table. I spoke with him about how I am running for senate and then gave him a small flyer I made that went over some of my initiatives for the next senate session. He read through them and said they were good ideas before saying that if he was running he would also focus on similar things that I would like to do. After this he moved on to Mr. Kaufman's table which was to my left. As they talked, I heard Mr. Tellez say something similar to Mr. Kaufman about his initiatives and how if Mr. Tellez was running he would want to do the same thing. Mr. Tellez said these statements while wearing his presidential campaign merchandise. Mr. Tellez's statements felt like he was insinuating that part of his official presidential platform would be similar to Mr. Kaufman and I's ideas. I believe that this is considered active campaigning while he was under a sanction placed by the Election commission.

- b. Naayak: When you reported the fact that he wore his hat, were you aware that he got permission from Alyssia?

- i. Kaufman: I was not aware, that is why I did not include it in my opening statement

g. Questioning of the Accused Candidate/Ticket's Witnesses and Evidence:

- a. Milk Manic Statement: I would like to address the ongoing discussion regarding Lester Tellez and his alleged election violation. Recently, Lester reached out to me, stating that if he were to become Student Body President of UCF, I would receive an honorary award in recognition of my ability to bring people together and make them laugh. I did not respond privately and instead publicly dismissed his attempt to befriend me in a Reddit comment section. While I want to make it clear that I do not support Lester Tellez, his policies, or his campaign, I do not believe this interaction constitutes an act of bribery. His statement did not offer me any material gain, political position, or influence in exchange for my endorsement or support. It was simply an attempt at recognition, which I chose to ignore and mock. The claims that this should result in disqualification seem exaggerated and unnecessary. While I may disagree with Lester, fairness in the election process is important, and I do not believe this situation justifies punitive action against him. I encourage the student body to focus on the policies, character, and vision of the candidates rather than engaging in attempts to remove opponents over ambiguous interactions. At the end of the day, I remain committed to endorsing John Grouse for Student Body President, and I encourage everyone to vote based on who they believe will best serve UCF.

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- b. Milk Maniac Statement 2: I want to clarify that while I did provide screenshots of my interaction with Lester Tellez to Status_Swimming_9169 on Reddit when asked, after understanding the full context of the situation, I do not believe this warrants punishment. Although I do not support Lester or his campaign, his message to me does not constitute bribery or an election violation in my view. I stand by my endorsement of John Grouse, but I also believe fairness in the election process is important.
- c. Phillips: In his statement, he said it was an attempt of recognition, do you not consider that bribery/
 - i. Tellez: No, I do not
- d. Sackett: Did you ask the milk man to write his statement, or did he just send it after learning could come about?
 - i. .. Tellez: he sent it over once he learned what could come about from this interaction.
- e. Kaufman: Were there any chats that were deleted by you?
 - i. Tellez: Nope. I can pull up my phone right now.
 - ii. Brown: We would not be able to review that right now.
- f. Nayak: When you messaged the milk manic about him getting an honorary reward, do you know why you sent that message?
 - i. Tellez: It was an offhand comment about his event. If anybody becomes Student Body President, they work with those who don't align with your views, it was a big event and it should have been awarded. It was not going to be anything monetary
- g. Naayak: Do you feel it would have made more sense to send the same message if you really were president?
 - i. Tellez: I don't think the timing really makes a difference.
- h. Final Questioning:
 - a. Tellez: When the account on reddit messaged the milk maniac, was he aware that an affidavit would have been filed?
 - i. Kaufman: Yes, we stated we were just investigating at first, and it was my witness who commented It was an investigation we were looking at. Gathering research.
 - b. Sackett: In regard to Affidavit 2, in your defense you said that you did not state any policies only hypotheticals, do you think that hypotheticals could constitute as discussing your policies?
 - i. Tellez: No there is a difference. I never said that as a candidate this is what I am going to do.
 - ii. Sackett: Could you see how it could be interpreted about you speaking regarding certain policies
 - 1. Tellez: no.

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- iii. Vitarelli: You said in your speech the accused spoke to you about platforms without prompting do you remember what was specifically said was it just about funding RSOs?
 - 1. Kaufman: We were discussing my initiatives for RSO's and that prompted the conversation on his initiatives
- iv. Nayak: When he was wearing his hat at the event did you check with Luke or Alyssia?
 - 1. Kaufman: I did not. I did not know the permission he was granted to wear his campaign merchandise. So, I chose not to include it.
- v. Phillips: Were you wearing you hat at the Senate Forum?
 - 1. Tellez: Yes.
- vi. Brown: You mentioned the Instagram accounts. You said you didn't take action about your accounts until these affidavits were filed. Is that correct?
 - 1. Tellez: I privated the account after the fact. But the profile picture and bio were removed.
- i. Closing Statement of the Filer:
 - a. I still stand by everything I said, especially with the Instagram account still being visible
- j. Closing Statement of the Accused Candidate/Ticket:
 - a. I will be waiting to hear what the election commission decides. Keep in mind the voting period has already started, and students have cast my name. I will be waiting outside the room for the decision.
- k. Election Commission Deliberation:
 - a. Executive Session
 - b. Affidavit 1: 7-0-0, Revote (After AG Consult) 6 : 1 : 0 a violation of Title VI, Chapter 606.4, Section F stating that "Committing or attempting a bribe" has occurred.
 - c. Affidavit 2: 6-0-1, a violation of Title VI, Chapter 606.4, Section R stating that "Failure to comply with any sanctions within 24 hours of being set by the Election Commission" has occurred.
 - d. Affidavit 3: 6-0-1, a violation of Title VI, Chapter 606.4, Section R stating that "Failure to comply with any sanctions within 24 hours of being set by the Election Commission" has occurred.
 - e. Sanction:
 - i. 6-1-0 Disqualification
 - ii. This is based on both the following statutes:
 - 1. "To prevent recidivism, or repeat offenses, a second violation of the same tier will be punished subsequent to the following tier."
 - 2. "If a candidate is found in violation of multiple tiers, the punishment will be the sum of the sanctions of each tier violated."

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- f. 7-0-0: The Commission came to this sanction for a variety of reasons that we wish to elaborate on. To preface this, the Election Commission is a non-partisan organization made up of different values, morals, and backgrounds. These sanctions were not made based on the candidate's character or policies, but because the candidate has continuously failed to follow the rules and sanctions set by Student Government, Title XI Statutes, the Election Commission, & SG's other governing documents throughout the course of this year's election. Prior to making a final decision, we consulted the Attorney General as the affidavits today fell into a "gray area" between literal v. intended actions when it came to the Title XI Statutes. The Attorney General then stated, due to this "gray area", it is ultimately up to the Election Commission's discretion. Similar to our other violation hearings, the Election Commission deliberated this sanction solely based on the evidence that was presented to us. At no point during the deliberation were personal views debated or considered in the final decision.
- g. Running for a position as important as the Student Body President requires a candidate to uphold certain rules and we believe, as a commission, this candidate would be unable to perform the duties of this position. It is vital that an individual in a position as important as Student Body President can consistently review, understand, and follow the statutes set in place. As examined through the affidavit meetings, this has consistently not been executed. We understand that this is the maximum sanction that could have been decided upon and would like to elaborate on the prior sanctions that also influenced this decision. So far, there have been four Tier 4 and one Tier 2 violations. As sanctions are understood to be cumulative, we are left with no other choice as it is our duty to ensure a fair election between all candidates.
Because the election period has already begun, we are unable to remove your name from the ballot, meaning you can still accumulate votes. However, all current and future votes will not contribute to the Presidential election results.
- l. Final Roll Call: 7/4
- m. Adjournment: 8:38 PM

Key:

- P - Present
- A - Absent
- E - Excused
- MTD - Move to Debate
- MTV - Move to Vote
- MTA- Move to Amend
- MSQD – Motion for Speech, Questioning, & Debate Time
- PP - Postpone

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PPI - Postpone Indefinitely
GC - General Consent

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