

March 31st, 2022

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# **Boston University Student Government Judicial Commission**

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**Letter of Disqualification**

*BeYOU*



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As of March 31, 2022, the Judicial Court of Boston University Student Government recognizes the issuing of three strikes to BeYOU during their campaign in the 2022 Student Government Executive Board Elections. In accordance with the Boston University Student Government 2022 Election Rules Section V:2(b), the Judicial Court recognizes the formal disqualification of BeYOU and the formal disqualification of members, Mikael J. Rahmani, Saahithi Achanta, Katelyn Sylvia Lee, and Joahan Sandoval as a slate in the 2022 election season.

The Judicial Court upholds and recognizes the following strikes:

### *Kapadia v. BeYOU Ruling*

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On March 4, 2022, The SEC determined that BeYOU earned their first strike, and had a social media black out for 6 days on all platforms from March 6th to March 12th, 2022. The SEC found the defendant, BeYOU guilty of breaking Article V, Clause 4, Subclause B from the 2022 Student Elections Rules in *Kapadia v. BeYOU*. The SEC agreed that there was an act of “introducing official slates and/or candidates,” a type of active campaigning explicitly prohibited and stated in Boston University Student Government 2022 Election Rules. The accompanying piece of evidence for Complaint #1 shows a text in which Saahithi Achanta clearly indicates that the conversation was held on behalf of the BeYOU slate by stating “thank you for meeting with BeYOU.” This violates subclause b, section iii of Article V Clause 4 that prohibits the official introduction of slates and/or candidates before campaign period. Saahithi Achanta further mentions “now that we [BeYOU] are gathering endorsements before we launch the campaign...” and proceeds to question if she can “go ahead working with my own chapter for endorsements now.” Both statements indicate that there was an active effort on part of Saahithi Achanta to officially gain support from the Panhellenic Council and other Greek life organizations, under the name of an official Executive Board slate, prior to the start of the campaign period. Furthermore, the SEC ruled that the text displayed clear intent to begin negotiations for endorsements for the BeYOU slate in coordination with another student organization, and that this also constitutes a form of active campaigning. Article V, Clause 4, Subclause B clearly states, “active campaigning is not allowed outside of the campaign period; this includes but is not limited to...” reserving the SEC the right to determine, based on the information and evidence provided in the hearing, whether an action is considered active campaigning or not.

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*Farooqi v. BeYOU*

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As of March 31st, 2022, the SEC issued the second strike on the grounds of breaking Article VI, Clause 2, Subclause C. The SEC found that the purchase of various merchandise by the BeYOU slate was not recorded in the designated 48-hour time period following the transaction. The SEC noticed that there were invoices for merchandise dated February 27th and March 17th, as well as March 24th (View these invoices [HERE](#)). For some items, nothing at all was logged for these transactions. For other items, the campaign finances sheet was not filled out in its entirety. The SEC discovered \$430.21 of campaign merchandise omitted from the SEC's records. Additionally, there were missing receipts, and evident records of altered categorization (from "Monetary Donations" to "SEC Budget") by Katelyn Lee, the VP of Finance candidate for BeYOU. The plaintiff cited pictures of the merchandise as well as screenshots of his communications with Michael V. Yurkovskiy, a member of the Campus Leadership Project, who confirmed that he has been in contact with Presidential candidate Mikael Rahmani and that he provided them with buttons, stickers, t-shirts, and flyers. The SEC also introduced BeYOU's campaign finance log (Google Sheets), including the edit history of this spreadsheet, as additional information relevant to the case. The SEC found that this sheet had been altered, thus obscuring the exact amount of spending and categorization of funds. The SEC found that this not only misleads students about the SEC's policies on how to record campaign spending, but also provides incorrect information to the voters on what exactly the Student Government's budget (which the SEC draws from to reimburse candidates for election expenditures) is being spent on.

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*SEC v. BeYOU*

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On March 31, 2022, the Justices issued the third strike against the BeYOU slate for violating Article VI, Clause 5 and Article V, Clause 3 in a 4-1 decision. In this hearing, the SEC represented the complainant due to the complainant's desire to recuse themselves from the proceedings. Article VI, Clause 5 of the Boston University Student Government 2022 Election Rules states "Any gifts given for a promised vote are prohibited." The complainant and the plaintiff both submitted evidence in the form of screenshots from the Alpha Delta Pi group chat and other text conversations had by Saahithi Achanta (the Executive Vice Presidential candidate on the BeYOU slate) and other members of the Alpha Delta Pi sorority. The Justices found that [Article 2](#) of the evidence for this case provided clear evidence that Ms. Achanta was offering a gift in the form of Alpha Delta Pi sorority points in exchange for a member's promised vote in the form of a screenshot of a submitted ballot. Article V, Clause 3 of the Election Rules states "Offering or suggesting a completed ballot to potential voters is prohibited." The Justices found that the specific wording in Ms. Achanta's text in [Article 2](#) violated this clause. In her implicit references to the BeYOU slate, she heavily suggests voting for BeYOU specifically. This constitutes a suggested completed ballot and therefore goes against this clause. The consequence for this violation will be a strike for the BeYOU slate.