# DIE Board rulings on SU election campaigning 

## DECISION

Re: Complaint by the Campaign Manager of the " $\gamma$ es" Canadian Fed eration of Students (CFS) Referendum Committee Regarding the eration of Students (CFS) Referendum Committee Regarding the
Decision of the Chief Returning Officer to Classify the Canadian FedDecision of the Chier Returning Officer to Classify the Canadian Fed
eration of Students and Travel Cuts Information Brochures as Cameration of Stude
paign Material
RE: Third Party Campaigning - Generally
The Gateway publishes the decision of the Discipline. Interpretation and Enforcement Board regarding the SU election in accordance with the SU constitution.

This matter deals with a complaint brought to the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement (D.I.E.) Board by the campaign manager of the "Yes"-CFS referendum committee. He is concerned about a decision by the Chief Returning Officer to classify materials distributed by the Canadian Federation of Students and Travel Cuts as being campaign material. He is quite rightly concerned, as the effect of this decision is to reduce the amount of money the "Yes"-CFS committee can spend to advertise and otherwise promote its views during the upcoming referendum campaign. The Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement Board has been asked to review the Chief

Returning Officer's decision, as provided for by Section 14. (3) of Bylaw 350.

The D.I.E. Board Members have a great deal of difficulty in agreeing with the decision made by the Chief Returning Officer. The materials do not contain any reference to the upcoming referendum. The materials do not specifically request students to support the Canadian Federation of Students. The materials have not appeared on campus in any inordinate numbers, nor have they appeared in any extraordinary manner. While one paragraph of a Travel Cuts poster submitted as evidence by the Chief Returning Officer might be considered as being pro-

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- WEIGHT LOSS - 10:00 a.m.


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motional, the paragraph might just as easily be construed as being information. This is especially so, in view of the fact that the University of Alberta is a member of the Canadian Federation of Students, and the student body as a whole has a legitimate interest in being kept informed about the recent activities at the Canadian Federation of Students. Had there been, however, any evidence that the distribution of the informationalbrochures werepart of a planned or organized attempt by the Canadian Federation of Students to increase support for the "Yes" CFS side, this Board would have had no difficulty whatsoever in upholding the decision made by the Chief Returning Officer.
In future, therefore, decisions as to what constitutes a "planned or organized act," as stated in Section 3 (c) of Bylaw 350, will be made with regard to the timing with which these informational brochures, advertisements, and handouts make their appearance on campus, their numbers and their content. The sudden appearance of a full page advertisement in The Gateway, or a flood of material or advertisements containing Canadian Federation of Students "information" onto campus with three (3) weeks of an upcoming referendum would clearly be unreasonable and might easily be construed as being a "planned or construed as being a planned or
deliberate act" within the meaning of Section 3. (c) of Bylaw 350. Such was not the case in the matter before the D.I.E. Board.
The Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement Board feels, therefore that the Chief Returning Officer erred in classifying the Canadian Federation of Students and Trave Federation of Students and Travel
Cuts material as being campaign Cuts material as being campaign
material. The "Yes"-CFS campaign material. The "Yes"-CFS campaign
committee should be given its one committee should be given its one
thousand dollar ( $\$ 1,000$ ) campaign expenses, as provided for by Section 9. (11) (i) of.Bylaw 350 .

Enforcement Board has also been asked to give a general opinion on the subject of third party campaign ing. This is a matter that the Students Council should address, and the D.I.E. Board-would welcome any amendments to Bylaw 350 or 300 that make it clear as to who should be classified as such, the types of activities that will not be tolerated by a third party to a campaign, and the extent of the third party's liabilities. In the meantime, the Discipline Interpretation and Enforcement Board finds that the bylaws, as they presently exist, allow it to consider the activities of legitimate business concerns such as the Canadian Fed eration of Students and Travel Cuts as being outside of the definition of third party campaigners unless and until it is shown that their activitie and the materials they distribute are planned or organized so as to influence the outcome of a referendum or election. Applying this reasoning to. individuals not associated with a recognized campaign or legitimate business concern, their activities,
shown to be planned or organized to influence the outcome of an elec tion or referendum, will make th recognized campaign subject to the disciplinary actions provided for in Part V of Bylaw 300 or Part I of Bylaw 3500.

Whether or not this is desirable the Students' Union should decid as the bylaws necessarily place heavy burden upon recognized campaigns or legitimate busines activities to ensure that no unauthorized, planned, or organized activ ties are being conducted on the behalf. It is indeed conceivable th an innocent, recognized campaign could become a victim and forced to pay the price of a voided election or voided referendum all due to th unscrupulous activities of a thir party that has taken it upon itself to "campaign" on behalf of the reco nized campaign.
Respectfully submitted
Disciplne, Interpretation and
Enforcement (D.I.E.) Board F.L. Quinton

DISCIPLINE, INTERPRETATION AND ENFORCEMENT (D.I.E.) BOARD DECISION
RE: Arts Students' Association Executive's Actions in Establishing the 1985 Election Dates for the Arts Faculty Representatives to Students' Council
The first matter that will be dealt with in this decision is whether or not the Chief Returning Officer of the Students' Union has the author ity to determine for the Arts Students' Association when the Association can hold its elections. In view of Section 28. (4) (a) of Bylaw 300, the Discipline Interpretation and Enforcement (D.I.E.) Board finds that the Chief Returning Officer of the Students' Union does Officer of the Students Union does are no mechanisms existent in faculty whereby the nominations faculty whereby the nominations
or elections of that faculty's representatives may be frought repre-
The Discipline, Interpretation and


Establishing the mechanisms for electing and nominating represen tatives is, therefore, fully within the jurisdiction and responsibility of the faculty. A faculty may be advised on this matter but not ordered. Secondly, due to the mistake in law that the executive of the Arts Students' Association made when interpreting Subsections 28 (3) and 28 (4) (A) of Bylaw 300, the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcepline, Interpretation and Enforcement Board has jurisdiction to hear
this matter. Ihe mechanism whereby nominations and elections are determined is vested 11 the Ah: Students' Association general meeting. The D.I.E. Board finds no meeting. The D.I.E. Board finds no reasonable grounds for the Arts
Students' Association executive's Students Association executives
decision to overturn the decision decision to overturn the decision reached at the general meeting of
January 18,1985 . The election date January 18,1985 . The election date is, therefore, the date decided upon
by the majority at the lanuary 18 by the majority at the January 18
general meeting: March $15,1985$. general meeting: March 15, 1985. Finally, the D.I.E. Board would call attention to the fact that con-
siderable confusion existed in the siderable confusion existed in the
minds of the executive as to the minds of the executive as to the
date of faculty elections required date of faculty elections required by Section 28. (3) of Bylaw 300. This confusion was caused b: amendments made to the section and by incorrect information given to the
executive. There is no evidence executive. There is no evidence before the D.I.E Board that might suggest the executive was motivated by anything less than good faith when it decided to change the election date to coincide with the Respectfully submitted by, Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement (D.I.E.) Board F.L. Quinton Chairperson (1984-85)

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