



## CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER DECISION

Re: Guruamrit Singh – Complaint of intimidation and coercion

This decision is in response to a complaint received concerning an interaction between candidate Guruamrit Singh and the complainant, who is also a candidate.

### Complaint

The complainant alleges that, at approximately 16:40h on 27 February 2023, two individuals approached the complainant while he was sitting in the Cedar building at the Surrey campus and induced him to join them for a private conversation. They were then joined by Singh, and the complainant was asked by these individuals to accompany them into the nearby washroom. The complainant expressed concerns about doing so, but they pressured him and he did accompany them into the washroom.

Inside the washroom, the complainant discovered a large number of other individuals who, along with Singh and his other two companions, aggressively attempted to pressure the complainant to campaign for Singh and against another candidate, Jaspreet Shokar. The complainant attempted to leave the washroom, but was prevented from doing so for a time.

### Recording

The complainant provided an audio recording he made in the washroom as the incident unfolded. The voices on the recording are speaking a language other than English, which I understand to be Punjabi. The tone of the voices, to me, sounds aggressive. The recording lasts approximately five minutes.

I had a speaker of Punjabi listen to the recording and summarize what was said. Additionally, I am advised by Kevin Biln, Manager of Campus Security Operations for KPU, that KPU Security Officers who are native speakers of Punjabi also listened to the recording and summarized what was said. Both sources provided summaries that supported the complainant's account of what was said. The KPU Security Officers confirmed that they recognized Singh's voice in the recording.

### KPU Security Incident Report

Biln provided me with an incident report concerning KPU Security's investigation into the complaint. The report consists of a summary of a statement Biln took from the complainant the morning after the incident and a summary translation of the recording the complainant provided.

The summary of the complainant's statement generally aligns with the details he provided in his complaint.

The summary translation of the recording also supports the complainant's account of what was said in the washroom. In particular, it shows that Singh repeatedly told the complainant to change his vote to Singh, to get others to vote for Singh, and that nobody should be voting for Shokar (another candidate who was running for the Students of Colour Representative position against Singh). The summary translation also indicates that other unidentified persons in the conversation told the complainant that if they complained against him, he would be disqualified, and that they wanted to "beat" Shokar but he had escaped.

### Complaint Process

I provided Singh with a copy of the complaint, the recording, and the KPU Security Incident Report. I advised Singh that he was at risk of being disqualified, and I invited him to provide a response, which he did.

In his response, Singh denied the allegations, claimed not to know any of the other people who were present, and claimed the interaction was pre-planned in order to get Singh disqualified.

The complainant was provided a copy of Singh's response and was invited to comment on the response. The complainant reiterated many of the points made in his original complaint and claimed that Singh was not being truthful in denying his connection with others involved in the incident.

### Conclusion

Based on the totality of the evidence, I have formed the opinion that Singh engaged in intimidation and coercion of the complainant to pressure him to vote and campaign for Singh and to campaign against another candidate. Further to the prohibited intimidation and coercion, this also amounts to an attempt by Singh to campaign in a slate with the complainant. These are all serious offences.

**Therefore, Guruamrit Singh is disqualified from this election.**

4 March 2023

  
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JARED NASH  
Chief Returning Officer