KWANTLEN STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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DISQUALIFICATION DECISION
RAHUL VINAYAK

February 24, 2026

BACKGROUND

On February 14, 2026, the Office of the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) was informed that *Rahul Vinayak*, a candidate running for the position of Business Representative, is employed with the Sport and Recreation Department at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) as a Student Assistant.

Pursuant to this information, verification was sought from KPU regarding the candidate's employment status. On February 17, 2026, confirmation was received through the Sport and Recreation Department that *Mr. Vinayak* is employed with the department.

Based on this confirmation, the CRO determined that *Mr. Vinayak* did not meet the eligibility criteria to run in the 2026 KSA General Election under Section XI, Article 3, Clause 4(b) of the KSA Regulations, which states:

The following person be disqualified from being nominated for or being elected to any office within the Society,

- Individuals who hold an elected or appointed position in, or are employees of, Kwantlen Polytechnic University;

Accordingly, *Mr. Vinayak* was notified of his disqualification on February 17, 2026, and was provided an opportunity to appeal by 17:00 PST on Thursday, February 19, 2026.

APPEAL AND REVIEW

On February 17, 2026, *Mr. Vinayak* submitted an appeal, stating that his employment at KPU is a fixed-term contractual appointment set to expire before commencement of the KSA office term. He argued that the regulation's intent is to prevent conflict of interest arising from ongoing employment relationships, and that since his contract would end before assuming office, it should not impact his eligibility.

The CRO reviewed the appeal in the context of the regulation. The wording of Section XI, Article 3, Clause 4(b) explicitly disqualifies individuals "who are employees of KPU" from being nominated, without reference to the term or nature of the employment. The regulation does not provide for conditional eligibility or exceptions based on contract end dates. Therefore, this employment constitutes grounds for ineligibility under this clause.

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DECISION

I, in the capacity of CRO, after full consideration of the appeal, concludes that:

- *Mr. Rahul Vinayak* is an active employee of KPU.
- Under Section XI, Article 3, Clause 4(b) of the KSA Regulations, this constitutes a disqualifying condition.
- The appeal does not identify any regulatory basis or bylaw clause authorizing an exception.

Therefore, **the original decision stands, and *Mr. Rahul Vinayak* is disqualified from being nominated**.

The Office of the CRO is committed to conducting fair, transparent, and regulation-compliant elections. All candidates are subject to the same eligibility criteria as defined in KSA's regulation/bylaws.

Ajay Kumar
Chief Returning Officer