Throughout this year’s election process, a series of conflicts have come up with all three President and Vice Presidential candidates. Without getting into the specifics of each hearing, the Election Board has noticed consistent themes throughout all four hearings. In the hopes of promoting transparency and answer, the Election Board has prepared the following statement.

During this election cycle, the Election Board has had four hearings, that resulted from four allegations of alleged campaigning violations, against all three parties. When determining the outcome of an allegation, the Election Board has had to evaluate two questions: If a violation has been committed, and if that violation resulted in a significant impact in the election/election process. Often, these questions do not have the same answer. It is only when these two questions are answered in the affirmative that the Election Board takes actions. While the Election Board is well aware of rumors, allegations and accusations of bias, the Election Board does not maintain any vested interest in any particular campaign. Still, while most of these allegations have been unfounded or resulted in minimal impact on the election, these hearings have made it painfully clear that while the Election Board strived to explain the rules to candidates, we failed to explain the rules to students.

Therefore, the Election Board will be undergoing our own evaluation to determine how we can do a better job of getting information out to students and to remove any ambiguity from the elections process. This process will involve reaching out to students, former candidates, and members of SGA as well as professors and
faculty advisers. We look forward to not just listening to input, but utilizing it to make the SGA electoral process more efficient.

Additionally, while the precedent set regarding our policy has been to announce outcomes and not our complete rationale without a written request, we are considering releasing all rationales in order to provide transparency and prevent further conflicts from arising.

Respectfully,

The SGA Election Board

John Carr, Election Commissioner

Andrea Allen, Election Board Member

Sofia Echeagaray, Election Board Member

C.J. Schufford, Election Board Member

Jenna Dibble, Election Board Member

David Klein, Election Board Member

Danielle Sullivan, Election Board Member