



**Student Government
Association**

Elections Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 02/22/2023

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting called to order at 5:06PM
- II. Roll Call

Name	Position	Present/Absent	Required Attendance
Anna Meredith	Elections Commissioner	Y	Y
Melanie Montes	Deputy Elections Commissioner	Y	Y
Kelvin Bencosme	Elections Board Member	Y	Y
Alexander Cobas	Elections Board Member	Y	Y
	Elections Board Member		Y

- III. Unfinished Business
 - a. n/a
- IV. New Business
 - a. Campaign Violation 1: Matthew Gaynor- Future is You used limited edition Roary squishmallow in his party's campaign (Santana Way-VP candidate is present in place of Alex)
 - i. Matthew: Future is You party using limited edition Roary squishmallow in most candidate pictures. Plushies were directly bought with SGA funds and as stated in section 6005.9 of elections code, candidates cannot use SGA funded merch to promote themselves
 - ii. Santana: despite being SGA funded, it was given to Alex for being a creator. Additionally, they were given to the student body. Once the item is given out, it is no longer SGA property and the squishmallow doesn't have the SGA logo on it, so the code was not violated.
 - iii. Closing statement- Matthew: Michelle has receipts showing sga bought the plushies. Even if it was distributed from a giveaway that you'd have to win, it is still funded and created for an SGA event. A student can't use FIU SGA merchandise to promote.
 - iv. Closing statement- Santana: we believe once it's in the possession of someone like a student, it's no longer SGA property. SGA paid for it, but



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it's not their property, it's the property of whoever has it. Using Roary(mascot) to promote panther spirit, not SGA itself.

- b. Campaign Violation 2: Matthew Gaynor- Alex Sutton used limited edition Roary squishmallow in his party's campaign (Santana Way-VP candidate is present in place of Alex)
 - i. Matthew: Plushies were directly bought with SGA funds and as stated in section 6005.9 of elections code, candidates cannot use SGA funded merch to promote themselves. Most Future is You party candidates and Alex Sutton using it in their campaign pics is a violation of the elections code
 - ii. Santana: you don't have to be an SGA elected official to get the plushie. Alex got the plushie and happens to be in SGA and got it as a content creator. It's no longer SGA property, it's property of the student (in this case Alex Sutton). The Elections code is being followed because the plushie is the property of whoever owns it.
 - iii. Closing statements: Matthew- if someone is in a position of power and they're using anything to promote their campaign using SGA funded items, that's a conflict of interest. If people know it's an SGA funded item, it'll be associated with SGA as a whole and not just the party using it, which is a violation.
 - iv. Closing Statement: Santana- it's not SGA property, it's Alex Sutton's property. Most people don't know it came from SGA unless you tell them it came from a giveaway, so it's clear that SGA is not endorsing the party. Alex got it, just like anyone could have gotten it. He didn't abuse his power to get it.
- c. Elections Board Members
 - i. Melanie: I motion to find The Future Is You party guilty of violating section 6005.9, which is a tier one violation by roll call vote
 - ii. Anna: seconded
 - iii. ANNA: NAY
 - iv. MELANIE: NAY
 - v. ALEX: NAY
 - vi. KELVIN: NAY
 - vii. I motion to find Alex Sutton guilty of violating section 6005.9, which is a tier one violation by roll call vote
 - viii. Anna: seconded
 - ix. ANNA: NAY



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- x. MELANIE: NAY
- xi. ALEX: NAY
- xii. KELVIN: NAY

- d. Advisor
 - i. Elections are after spring break. Zoom room will be open in case people have questions. We'll all have access
 - ii. T-shirts in Larissa's office and can be given out on both election days
- V. Announcement
 - a. Elections March 7th and 8th
- VI. Meeting Adjournment
 - a. Meeting adjourned at 5:38PM