

Election Board  
Student Government Association  
22 April 2016

INVESTIGATION OF ELECTION CODE VIOLATIONS

As filed by Sam DeLeon

PARTIES PRESENT

Aaron Davis, Election Commissioner  
Marlena Jordan, Election Board Member  
Kelsey Chippeaux, Election Board Member  
Jena Chakour, Election Board Member  
Jon Hernandez, Election Board Member  
Christa Coffey, SGA Advisor

Sam DeLeon, Senator  
Barrett Cole, Senator  
Grant Hale, Chief of Staff  
Rishi Talati, Witness

RULING OF THE BOARD

Upon careful consideration, the Election Board ruled unanimously (4-0, with Commissioner Davis abstaining) that the greater weight of the evidence did not support the claim that an Election Code Violation had occurred.

## Complaint Submitted

“I'm e-mailing you in regards of a complaint from two students who stated that the people that were tabling for the Grant/Barrett campaign were forcibly voting for students without their consent, while physically changing their votes and not allowing them to vote for the other candidates. As stated previously before, this is a form of voter fraud and the constituent felt as if she was personally being attacked for trying to vote for another candidate. This incident happened earlier today, around 4PM in the Union - Market Place 8. From what the victims stated, it seems as if the person who was forcibly making students vote for their campaign team was TAM's Senator-Elect Rishi Talati. The victims name is D'Andre Coulter, and her eye-witness is Janata Montgomery.

From what the victim and eye-witness stated, Rishi was explaining to D'Andre that she should vote for Grant, and when she started inserting her EUID, he was telling them that he isn't allowed to participate in her voting; although, the moment when she got on the Spring 2016 SGA President/Vice President Run-Off Elections Ballot page, where she could choose her candidate, she chose Sam DeLeon / Owen Saenz. Rishi then looked at it, and moved her vote down to Grant Hale / Barrett Cole instead. D'Andre then spoke up to him and stated "I'm voting for Sam" and tried to proceed to vote for her original choice.

Not only did they feel attacked, and that this situation was a prime example of voter fraud, but D'Andre also said that this was an invasion of her privacy and that she didn't feel welcomed or entitled to have control of her choice of who she wanted to vote for. The two were also unsure if this was how the team was conducting themselves with other students throughout the whole day for their campaign.”

### Bylaws Violation

Article V, Section 1.D.

The Election Code is intended to provide for the fairness, equitability, and efficiency of all SGA elections with respect to candidates, Referendum Parties, and voters. In the absence of established guidelines, rulings concerning elections should be made with this principle in mind.