

**Preface:**

(1) All bylaw references will be coded Title (if applicable) ##, Article ##, Section ##, Clause ##, part (if applicable) ##, as “T##A##S##C##P##.” For example, Article 1, Section 1, Clause 1, will be coded as “A1S1C1” for reference;

(2) Per both the Respondent and Petitioner’s rights: you may appeal any/all decisions made (including either a finding of merit or a finding of a lack of merit) by the Office of the Attorney General, per A7S1C6 of the SGA Election Code, to the Student Government Supreme Court or the Supreme Court’s designated lower court;

(3) Any referenced website links may or may not be active by the time future individuals review this write-up.

**Complaint #21-01**

**Petitioner(s):** Brendan Bennett (further referred to as “Brendan”),

representing N/A

**Respondent(s):** Laura Rincón-Bianchi (further referred to as “Laura”),

representing N/A

**Allegations (filed January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 2:51PM):**

(1) Laura violated A4S1C6 of the Election Code

*“Campaigning does not include any actions taken by known and/or prospective candidates, campaign staff, or parties to organize or recruit on a peer to peer basis before the close of the filing deadline. Party meetings are permitted, but a candidate or party staff member may not, through any means, publicly or broadly recruit candidates. This includes, but is not limited to: mass advertising, listservs, and public announcements of party recruitment.”*

Laura advertised her candidacy and performed pre-campaigning in a groupme server to try to recruit people by gauging interest through “liking” her messages. In addition, Laura made a public announcement of party recruitment.

**Defense:** N/A

**Course of Investigation:** I examined the Petitioner’s evidence and reached out for a defense statement, which was not provided to me in a timely manner. I went through the Election Code and identified if a violation was present. After this I had enough to come to a decision.

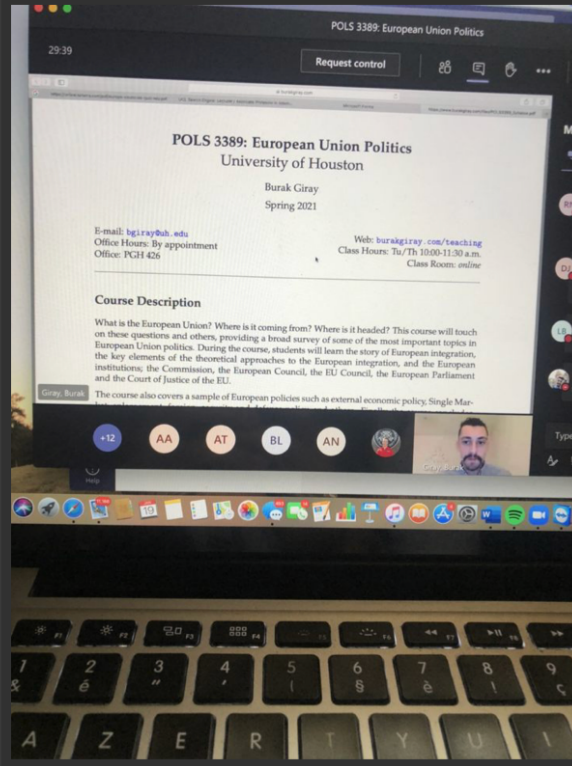
2:27



## European Union Politics (Pols3389)



Phonexay Chitdara



Muminah Idris  
Thank you so much



2:27 PM



Laura Rincon Bianchi  
Hey y'all! I'm running for student government this year and we're looking for people to fill our ticket from all backgrounds! If you're interested like this and I'll message you privately about it! It's great experience and looks great on your resume👉



Send Message...



**Decision (January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 10:00PM):** Bennett's complaint HAS merit and this IS a violation of the Election Code.

**Sanction:** Laura Rincón-Bianchi will be assessed a Class C penalty. The penalty for this violation is a written warning at the first occurrence and a temporary suspension for every subsequent offense.

**Further Analysis:** Though the penalty is unique to a public party recruitment violation, it is important to note that the respondent ought to amend the other aforementioned behaviors reported that founded this complaint, as they are also in breach of other facets of the Election Code.

**Conclusion:** Laura violated election code as she committed an act of public party recruitment on a peer by peer basis before the close of the filing deadline which is disallowed. A written warning will be issued to dissuade this kind of circumstance in the future.

**Delivered to the Chief Election Commissioner:** January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 10:21PM