

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

**Complaint #21-15**

**Petitioner(s):** Elliot Carter (further referred to as “he/him”, he/him),

Representing #RiseUpUH

**Respondent(s):** Yazen Hamoudah (further referred to as “Yazen”, he/him),

Representing Student Action Party

**Allegations (filed February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 at 6:02PM):**

(1) Yazen violated A3S3C1 of the Election Code:

*“All candidates are held accountable to the provisions of this code, Student Government Association Constitution and Bylaws and all other University policies. All candidates, by way of registering and running for office, are agreeing to abide by potential sanctions and policies the Attorney General, Election Commission, Supreme Court, and/or designated lower court deem appropriate based on their interpretation of the Student Code of Conduct and University Policy. No sanction will extend beyond the context of an individual or party’s involvement with Student Government and/or Student Government practice.”*

(2) Yazen violated A4S4C9 of the Election Code:

“No candidate will be involved in or have a history of involvement in physical or emotional abuse of any kind within or outside the context of the Student Government Elections. This includes, but is not limited to physically abusive behavior, emotionally abusive behavior, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, etc.”

**Defense (filed February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 12:52PM):**

Statement by Yazen Hamoudah regarding previous tweets

“I, Yazen Hamoudah, deeply apologize for my prior tweets. I never meant to offend anyone but that is not an excuse for my tweets. There is no excuse for the use of the n-word in any context and I believe it to be a racial slur that is unacceptable in today's society. I used the word out of context in my previous tweets however, I now realize that was the wrong choice of words and have never used that word again since. I have been deeply involved in the Black Lives Matter movement and protests and that can be found on my Instagram as well. These tweets do not reflect who I am as a person.

I also want to also apologize for my string of tweets mentioning rape as well. I realize how traumatizing an experience like this may be and have been a feminist ally all my life. I believe women deserve the utmost respect and that all acts of violence against them whether that be harassment or assault should be taken seriously. My string of tweets was taken out of context. I was not attacking women in those tweets but was rather upset that some of my close peers were supporting people as well as public figures such as Donald Trump who have had a history of sexual violence against women and just quoted Trump to further my point. I do not wish to take a political stance nor do I have anything against any particular political party however, I strongly condemn the attack or rape of women no matter who the perpetrator is including the former President of the United States of America. I was especially upset as I have a sister that I deeply care about and I can not imagine someone supporting a rapist in any context no matter what their political views are.

To clarify the last tweet, I was not attacking the LGBTQIAP+ community in any way nor have I ever done so. I believe in the rights of all human beings despite any religious views I may have. I support all LGBTQIAP+ members and am an ally to them especially considering that some of my party members are members of the LGBTQIAP+ community. The tweet I retweeted showed the Holy land of Mecca, an extremely crucial religious site for Muslims to which millions of Muslims make an annual pilgrimage, covered in a pride flag. I was simply asserting that in the religion of Islam it is haram to be gay. Despite this, my religion preaches peace and maintains that despite certain acts being deemed haram that does not allow any person to attack or hurt someone committing those acts as it is not my place to judge others but only myself.

Again, these tweets were all made before I was accepted into the University of Houston and back when I was an SGA historian at my local college, Victoria, and in no way represent my actions or my beliefs. I am a very caring person and look out for everyone in my community. I would like to further this as many may not know but I have trouble expressing myself in an appropriate manner. I had issues in my early development and have been taking speech therapy classes since a young age. Although I have improved, and hope to grow, even more, I still have difficulty getting across my ideas in an appropriate and understandable manner at times and therefore apologize for my previous tweets. As a result, the mentioned tweets have been deleted and removed from all records. I would like to thank the opposing party for bringing this to my attention as they needed to be removed. I now ask that all possessions of these screenshots and mentioning of this case be sealed as this dispute is settled.”- Yazen

**Course of Investigation:** I examined the Petitioner's evidence and reached out for a defense statement. I analyzed the respondent's defense statement as well. I went through the Election Code and identified if a violation was present. After this I had enough to come to a decision.



1

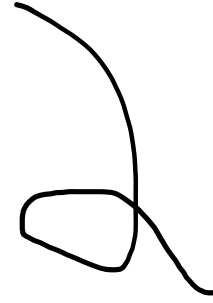
Yazen Hamoudah  
Girl you been raped and still dgaf about it

Amanda  
A why tf you still bringing this shit up

Flores Julian  
Fr fr

Amanda  
A Wasn't that like 3 hours ago

Yazen Hamoudah  
Why y'all on her side all of a sudden?



This Tweet was deleted by the Tweet author. [Learn more](#)

 **mclovin supports palestine** 🇵🇸  
@yaboiimclovin99

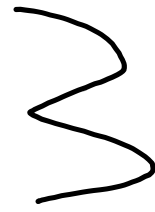
Replying to @notsocoolkarla

That **nigga** didn't appreciate your beauty. Keep doing you girl! Someone will appreciate it \*hint hint\*

11:28 PM · 2/15/20 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

1 Like





mclovin supports palestine 🇵🇸  
@yaboiimclovin99

Hey everyone! I am a part of @uhsga and the @uhstudentaction and I'm coming forward to ask if you are a uH student if you can please vote for me for Senator. I was in student government in my hometown college (Victoria college) as a historian for two years.



Tweet your reply

4

 **mclovin supports palestine** 🇵🇸  
@yaboiimclovin99

Go suck his dick then 😂. Let him grab you by your pussy. Let him **rape** you.

 **Kaitlin Bennett** @KaitMarieox · 5/30/20  
Trump should sign an executive order that if you're spotted at one of these riots, you lose your right to vote this November.

2:52 PM · 5/31/20 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

5

 **mclovin supports palestine** 🇵🇸  
@yaboiimclovin99

Have you experienced **rape**? Or do you just wanna act like you superior than any other rapist? You're pathetic af. Why don't you just deactivate your fucking Twitter or go ahead and hang out with your rapist PREZ.

12:02 PM · 6/6/20 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)

3 Likes

6

This Tweet is from a suspended account. [Learn more](#)



**mclovin supports palestine** 🇵🇸  
@yaboimclovin99

Replying to @agourahill\_

Your such a fucking disgrace to Islam  
you piece of shit! No **women** in Islam  
has never done anything ignorant with  
the hijab except you you ignorant cunt.  
Astagfirullah ya yahmara.



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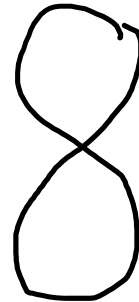
Photos

Videos



**mclovin supports palestine...** · 11/2/18 ···

And I STG if any **nigga** fucked with my little  
sister the bad way , I stg in god idgaf if I'm  
going to jail I'll kill his ass for my little  
sisters protection.





mclovin supports palestine 🇵🇸  
@yaboii mclovin99



You are an ugly piece of white trash!  
You ugly anyways bitch! You are fat af  
too! Don't you dare talk shit about fat  
people! @gmg3324



Giovanna Elizabeth @gmg3324 · 10/24/19

Lol to begin with idk in what moment I put anyone  
down withy picture. Sorry you're a fat fuck that's not  
used to hearing the truth. That's what I stand for. I'm  
not empowering fake bitches. Get off my cock.



Lucia 🌸 @loosh\_face · 2m



Replying to @gmg3324

Lmaoooo you're mad hurt 💀💀 and I  
don't know why you're getting all in your  
feelings about following you and shit  
when you followed me first??? But okay  
you wanna be ugly for no damn reason, go  
for it.

10:38 AM · 10/25/19 · Twitter for iPhone





**Decision (February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 8:30PM):** Elliot Carter’s complaint HAS merit and this IS a violation of the Election Code.

**Sanction:** This is a class B penalty and Yazen Hamoudah will be assessed a 48-hour campaigning ban on Tuesday and Wednesday (the second and third day of voting).

**Further Analysis:**

The evidence provided is very clear that Yazen has a clear history of using social media and private messages to express insensitive things. The office of the Attorney General has applied flexibility in the past regarding the misuse of social media, specifically controversial tweets, but as a matter of recency, these comments have been posted when the respondent was an adult holding a position in a student government, therefore his comments cannot be dismissed under the presumption that the candidate has matured over the course of his adolescence. These tweets are less than a year old and are directed toward specific individuals as well, which is even more concerning. They do constitute an act of emotional abuse per A4S4C9 and are acts of discrimination. Specifically, calling a woman a “c\*nt”, suggesting that Kaitlyn Bennett be raped, and, calling a woman a “fat bitch” are clear acts of misogyny that cannot be tolerated. These negate the ability for a safe space to exist in SGA should Yazen take office, if there be fellow SGA members that were victims of rape in the past. Also, the use of racial slurs despite not being African American is problematic.

Additionally, the tweet regarding a pride photo in London is also very insensitive. While the tweet is not attacking people specifically compared to the other tweets, it is still in the realm of being homophobic. If elected, Yazen will be representing many LGBTQ+ students and this attitude is worrisome and nonprofessional.

**Conclusion:** There are many instances of hateful speech exhibited by Yazen Hamoudah that satisfy instances of discrimination on his behalf in regard to different races, sexual orientations, and gender identities. I would urge Yazen to distance himself from this language going forward. This will also, as stated in his defense statement, disallow any future employers and individuals from finding this disturbing content. This will remain a non-sealed case, as it is important for students to take accountability for their speech and actions.

**Delivered to the Chief Election Commissioner:** February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 8:50PM