

Complaint #22-02

Petitioner(s): Chief Election Commissioner Urquieta

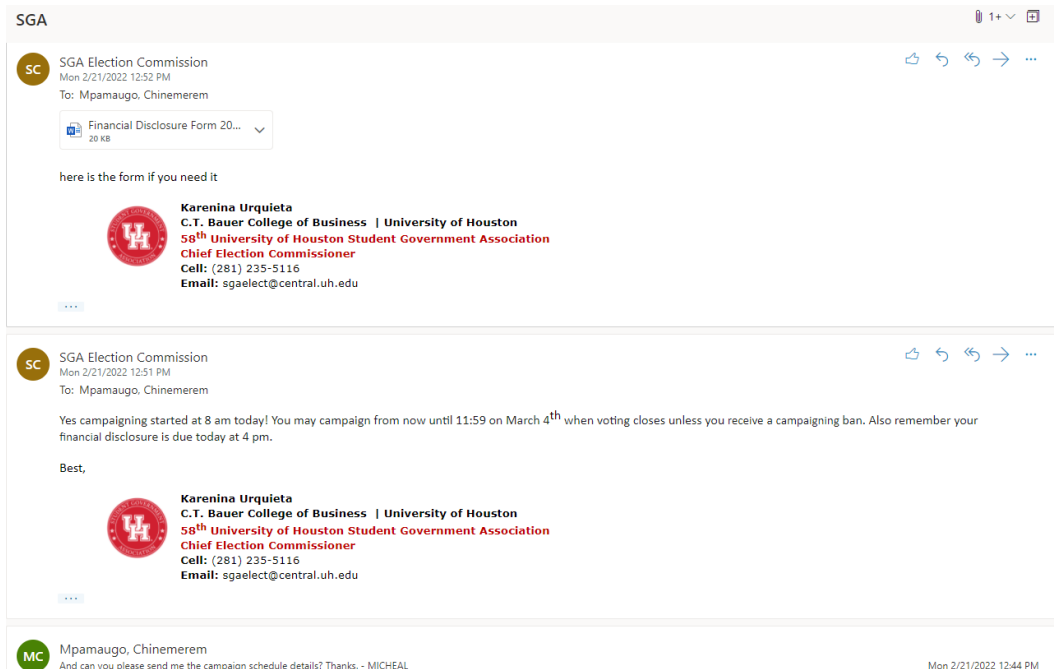
Respondent(s): Michael Mpamaugo, representing THE BLACK COUGARS

The following allegations were filed 2/22/22 at 11:24 AM:

Article 6, section 2, clause 5: Political parties must submit a financial disclosure form that accounts for the spending of all members of the party. This form must be submitted on a weekly basis, defined in the same way as prescribed for independent candidates in Clause 3 of this section.

“THE BLACK COUGARS did not submit a financial statement before the 4 pm deadline. The Party Head was notified of the deadline in the candidate seminar and reminded throughout the day. Although he claims that he has not spent any money or plans too, he was notified that he must still submit a financial disclosure stating this again and acknowledged that he read this email.”

The following evidence was provided by the petitioner:



Financial Disclosures and Endorsements

MM MOMENT WITH MICHEAL <momentwithmicheal@gmail.com>
 Mon 2/21/2022 2:18 PM
 To: SGA Election Commission <sgaelectioncommission@uh.edu>

I did not plan on spending at all, but more networking. But we are allowed to receive funds from our own channels as long as we document it right? And what is my limit?

— MICHEAL

SC SGA Election Commission
 Mon 2/21/2022 1:00 PM
 To: babbonnete@gmail.com; momentwithmicheal@gmail.com; Joshua Martin <Joshumar33@yahoo.com>; Lukemcmahan14@gmail.com


Endorsement Form.doc 32 KB
 Financial Disclosure Form 20... 20 KB

2 attachments (53 KB) Save all to OneDrive - University Of Houston Download all

Here are copies of the financial disclosure and endorsement forms. As so long as your financial disclosure has the same information, it is okay if it is formatted differently. With your disclosure please remember to submit receipts or invoices for your expenses. Donations can also be written on here but please indicate that it was a donation, or if you have received none, write "no donations have been received at this time" or something similar on your form. If you have not spent anything on campaigning please indicate that when you submit your financial disclosure. They are due today at 4pm, but if you need an extension please let me know.

The endorsement form is to allow you to get in writing that you are being endorsed by them so they may post you or your campaign on their social media. Remember one post on their feed and/or one tagged post on their story is the allotted maximum, so coordinate when you want who to post you.

Best Regards,

 **Karenina Urquieta**
 C.T. Bauer College of Business | University of Houston
 58th University of Houston Student Government Association
 Chief Election Commissioner
 Cell: (281) 235-5116
 Email: sgaelect@central.uh.edu

Financial Disclosures and Endorsements

MM MOMENT WITH MICHEAL <momentwithmicheal@gmail.com>
 Mon 2/21/2022 2:26 PM
 To: SGA Election Commission <sgaelectioncommission@uh.edu>

Thank you for the clarification.

— MICHEAL

Reply Forward

SC SGA Election Commission
 Mon 2/21/2022 2:23 PM
 To: MOMENT WITH MICHEAL <momentwithmicheal@gmail.com>

You still need to submit a financial disclosure weekly, even if you do not plan on spending money. Funds received must be spent and received for the purpose of producing campaigning materials. Any donations received even through private channels must be documented on the financial disclosure.

Again the limit can be found in the election code, but for your ease, it is \$1,200 dollars in total. Giveaways are limited to \$50 dollars max total and count toward your total expenditure limit.

Best,

 **Karenina Urquieta**
 C.T. Bauer College of Business | University of Houston
 58th University of Houston Student Government Association
 Chief Election Commissioner
 Cell: (281) 235-5116
 Email: sgaelect@central.uh.edu

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I reached out to the respondent to submit a statement of defense no later than 6:37PM on 2/22/22. The respondent did NOT submit a defense.

Decision [2/23/22 at 8:13am]: Petitioner's complaint **HAS** merit, and this **IS** a violation of the Election Code.

Conclusion: THE BLACK COUGARS did not submit a financial disclosure before the deadline, and also admitted it in a separate email. Even if expenses total \$0, parties **MUST** submit this information to the Election Commission before the announced deadlines.

Sanction: This is a Class C violation. As it is a 1st occurrence, the penalty is a written warning from the Attorney General (which this will serve as).

Respectfully,



Nadiia Hutcherson

Attorney General

Delivered to the Election Commissioner 2/23/22 at 8:25AM.

This complaint will be shared and made public on SGA website for transparency and archival purposes.