

## **Complaint #22-06**

**Petitioner(s):** Jasmine Arani (Conscious Coogs)

**Respondent(s):** Joshua Martin (For The Student #ChangeUHSGA)

### **The following allegations were filed 2/26/22 at 12:03 PM:**

**Article 7, Section 2, Clause 3:** Class A violations include but are not limited to: select violations of the Student Code of Conduct and/or local, state, and/or federal laws, select violations of the Election Code campaign ethics section (Article 4, Section 4), election fraud, falsified campaign documents, and identity theft.

**Article 3, section 3, clause 2:** Candidates will be held responsible for any activities by their supporters that are in violation of the provisions of this code if evidence supports that a candidate had actual or constructive knowledge of illicit activities and/or authorized or acquiesced in such activities.

**Constitution Article IX:** Anti-Hazing and Anti-Discrimination Statements Section 9.02 As a Registered Student Organization at the University of Houston we adhere to the University of Houston's Non-Discrimination Policy. The University of Houston is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity institution. The university provides equal treatment and opportunity to all persons without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, genetic information, disability, or veteran status except where such distinction is required by law. Additionally, the System prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

**Student code of conduct 21:** Student Groups and Registered Student Organizations 21.2 Student groups and registered student organizations, their members, as well as other students may be held collectively and/or individually responsible for violations that occur on University grounds, on premises used or controlled by the group or organization, and/or at University sponsored activities on or off campus. The disciplinary jurisdiction set forth in Item 1.1 applies to individual students, student groups and registered student organizations. & 3.17 Mental or Bodily Harm- (a) Intentionally inflicting mental or bodily harm upon any person; (b) taking any action for the purpose of inflicting mental or bodily harm upon any person; (c) taking any reckless, but not accidental, action from which mental or bodily harm could result to any person; (d) engaging in conduct, including, but not limited to stalking, that causes a person to believe that the offender may cause mental or bodily harm; (e) communicating a threat to cause mental or bodily harm to any person; (f) any act which demeans, degrades, or disgraces any person and that causes, or would be reasonably likely to cause, mental or bodily harm. "Any person" as used in this section may include oneself. & 3.4 Discrimination - Intentional discrimination against a person or group of people on the basis of age, race, color, disability, religion, national origin, veteran status, genetic information, or sex (including pregnancy) except where such distinction is allowed by law. Additionally, the UH System prohibits discrimination in all aspects of employment and educational programs on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression

**The complaint states:**

The following individuals bore witness to the violation of the election code, constitution of the Student Government Association, and Student Code of Conduct: Tuyen Le (CC senator) , Lauren Morton (attendee), Alexis Boehmer (CC VP), Eduardo Moeller (CC senator), Julian Cheng (attendee), Sameer Abdulmajeed (CC senator) During the night of the presidential debate, the above individuals heard and witnessed the ChangeUHSGA party and its affiliates, repeatedly misgendering presidential candidate, Brett Bonnette throughout the debate. Lauren Morton, while waiting to discuss matters contingent to the FTS policy with Joshua Martin post debate, overheard and witnessed vehement and violent misgendering of the candidate. The issue continued while they were standing outside and discussed the debate. This is a clear violation that resulted in psychological harm of a member of the student government association as well as member of the 2022 election period. Isaiah Martin as well as senators performed in this act of degradation of character, therefore it can be acknowledged and understood that the presidential candidate know the extent of disrespect against the opposing candidate. We urge the department of justice to discuss these matters with the candidate and affiliates and have them issue a public apology.

**The following evidence was provided by the petitioner:**

Hello,

Those of us who heard the multiple instances of misgendering during the debate have identified the main person doing it to be Elliot Carter.

~~Isaiah Martin~~

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**From:** SGA Attorney General <[sgadoj@Central.UH.EDU](mailto:sgadoj@Central.UH.EDU)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 26, 2022 12:11:04 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; SGA Election Commission <[sgaelect@Central.UH.EDU](mailto:sgaelect@Central.UH.EDU)>  
**Subject:** Complaint - Additional Info Request

Hello,

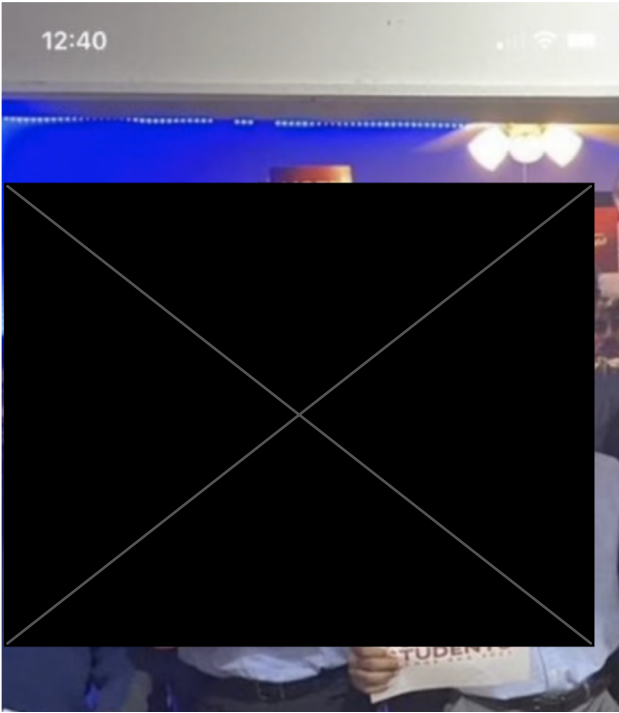
I've received your complaint. Could you please specify which members of FTS #ChangeUHSGA were involved?

I am only seeing "Isaiah Martin and senators." but would like to identify the specific ones in question.

If you do not know the name of his senatorial candidates please attempt to identify them through their parties instagram.

If that does not provide names, please let me know.

We identified this individual to mainly be doing it, (the one in the hat) but a woman in their party was also doing so behind us, and the group as a collective loudly did this without correcting one another at all throughout the debate.



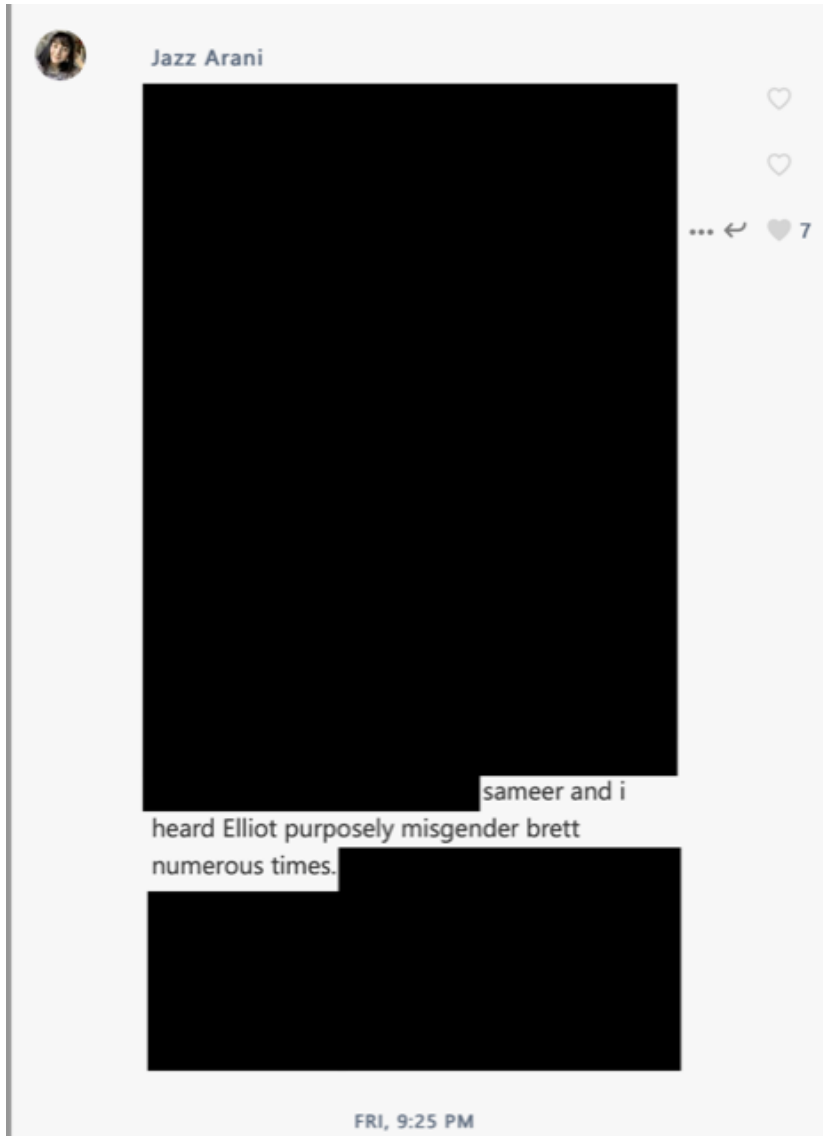
Fri, 7:13 PM



Lauren Morton | Campus Organizer

Y'all during and after the debate ppl in the for the students party kept misgendering Brett :(





**I reached out to the respondent on 2/28/22 at 8:00AM for a response, with a deadline of 2:00PM 2/28.**

**Defense:** The allegations from Mr. Bonnete’s campaign are false and inflammatory. Lauren, who is clearly pictured on Brett’s campaign Instagram was treated with dignity and respect as well as all members of the Conscious Coogs party. Not only do these allegations lack any merit, This is nothing more than a desperate attempt to distract from the fact that Brett Bonnete has several sexual harassment allegations that include misconduct in the workplace from current and former members of the student government association. Mr. Bonnete is clearly trying to take attention from their performance at last weekends’ debate and lack of interest generated by their campaign - i.e. the lack current students that attended the debate to support them. Our party

posted videos on social media and sent out texts before the debate asking all supporters to be respectful - and that, they did. We will now use this time to continue our movement to reach every student, to bring wide spread change to our great university. We view this complaint as a complete waste of our campaign's, the attorney general's, and all other relevant party's time.

**Decision [2/28/22 at 10:35am ]:** Petitioner's complaint **LACKS** merit, and this **IS NOT** a violation of the Election Code.

**Conclusion:**

The Election code clearly states that parties are responsible for their supporters, however there must be proof that there was knowledge of the violation. Evidence has not been provided to show constructive or actual knowledge that Joshua Martin was aware, or encouraged the act of his supporters committing the alleged violation.

Additionally, attempts to gain clarification regarding those who committed the violation did not provide a clear idea that those within For The Students #ChangeUHSGA are the "senators" in question from the original complaint. There is no evidence provided that Joshua Martin himself participated in the alleged violation. I can not find this as a violation of the Election Code due to that.

The Student Government Association as a whole, **STRONGLY** disapproves of actions of discrimination. I recognize the harm that the transphobic act of misgendering may cause, and sympathize deeply with this allegation. The University takes allegations of discrimination seriously and I urge the petitioner to file a complaint with the Dean of Students or EOS, as the Election Code can not supercede the process outlined in University Policy.

**Sanction: N/A**

**Delivered to the Election Commission at 10:55AM on 2/28/22**

Respectfully,

**Nadiia Hutcherson**

**58th Attorney General**

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