



University
of Manitoba
**STUDENTS'
UNION**

Election/Referendum Complaint Form

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		
Date and Time Received:	Complaint #	Staff Initials
N/A	2023-31	ER

All complaints must be submitted to the CRO, using this form, within 48 hours of the alleged breach. Contact the CRO at cro@umsu.ca or 204-474-8033. Submissions preferred via email.

Complainant name	Erin Robert, CRO
Complainant student #	
Complaining email address	cro@umsu.ca
Date and time of incident	Prior to campaigning period beginning 2023-03-07 at 5:28pm
Specific section(s) of the Election Rules that are alleged to have been breached	UMSU Board of Director motion passed on 2023-02-26 stated: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT The UMSU 2023-2024 General Election Chief Returning Officer (CRO) conduct further investigation into Victoria Romero regarding complaints of pre-campaigning for the 2023-2024 UMSU General Election, exhibiting slate behaviour with other potential candidates regarding the 2023-2024 UMSU General Election, and using paid time and office space allocated to Victoria Romero in her current role as UMSU VPA to plan her campaign for the upcoming 2023-2024 UMSU General Election.
Specific Candidate or Referendum Side that is alleged to be in breach	Victoria Romero Ivan Nunez Gamez Divya Sharma Zeeshan Nisar

<p>Specific facts which, if proved, constitute a breach.</p> <p>(Continue on separate page as necessary.)</p>	<p>I believe that it is extremely likely that Victoria Romero commit the offenses outlined in the motion from the UMSU Board of Directors.</p>
<p>Evidence of these facts.</p> <p>(Continue on separate page as necessary.)</p>	<p>I have had one-on-one meeting with every UMSU executive currently in office, as well as several full-time UMSU staff, as these would be the witnesses in these claims.</p> <p>I have read the Presidential Report on Victoria Romero that was provided to the ad-hoc committee that requested my investigation.</p> <p>Additionally, I have requested follow-up information from Victoria. As these were official meetings on her calendar, there was supposed to be a record of the meeting that did take place on Jan 19th as is in the UMSU Employee Guide. Victoria states she had taken handwritten notes and would send me pictures of these and email them but she has failed to provide this.</p> <p>The Jan 19th meeting was with the PSA. This meeting was supposedly about International Student Healthcare and planning an International Student Social.</p> <p>While meeting with clubs is generally VPSL and not Victoria, the international student healthcare made sense. However the social does not. If you were planning a social it would've been VPSL involved, not just yourself and the international rep at the time.</p> <p>I understand that one member in the meeting with you, as per the picture you provided me, is also the campaign manager for Zeeshan Nisar.</p> <p>You had a follow-up meeting with the campaign manager by name but due to your schedule it fell through.</p>

	<p>Ivan and Victoria are close friends and that is not their fault, however their behaviour of constant in and out and hanging around the office is inappropriate and should've halted immediately upon initial request from the UMSU President and other staff.</p> <p>Ivan, I understand wanting to wait around for Victoria if you had plans later on, but the campus has many other spots for you to hang out.</p> <p>This was ongoing for the months leading up to the election and occurring a minimum of 3 times a week.</p> <p>While Victoria does have many issues with booking meetings into your calendar, which has been documented, and using the proper protocol, Ivan is Governance in his current role, whose meetings are held online. If Ivan did need to have a one-on-one with you it should've been in your calendar.</p> <p>This does constitute as slate behaviour as this was a constant presence and not related to your current roles.</p> <p>Divya was seen 3 separate times at a minimum in the UMSU offices with no meeting booked and no other current role or reason to be there.</p>
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CRO Ruling as of 2023-03-10 at 12:30 pm:

Zeeshan – No Demerits given.

Ivan – No Demerits given.

Divya – No Demerits given.

Victoria:

After reading your powerful written response, I do understand your point of view. I do still believe that pre-campaigning is most likely to have occurred, however meeting with friends alone is not enough to prosecute for this and I do not have any stronger evidence at this time.

You will not receive demerits for the offenses listed in this complaint.

You will however, receive demerits for elections breaches that were discovered throughout the investigation.

Please understand that I know that this investigation was likely a very stressful time, especially while trying to run in the elections and balance your incumbent role, but I must hold **all candidates** to the same standards.

It was made abundantly clear to candidates that any duties they wanted to continue during the campaigning period needed to have prior approval. This was to be sent in a list with details of each meeting, event, etc. that the candidate wanted to continue with.

I never received this list from you until 2023-03-08 at 11:47pm. You also outlined various meetings and duties you had completed prior to sending this in and apologized. While I appreciate the apology, you will be receiving **10 Demerits** for not getting the approval prior to holding these various meetings and completing tasks.

This is in addition to the 10 Demerits you were given on 2023-03-08 at 2:26pm for trying to schedule a Student Senate Caucus meeting on a voting day. I appreciate you cancelling the meeting quickly upon notification that this would not be an approved meeting. As explained to all candidates not only is there no in person campaigning allowed on voting days, but meetings with many students-at-large would not be approved. I also did not appreciate learning about this meeting from an UMSU staff member and not yourself directly, as you did not seek approval before contacting students at large to schedule this meeting in the first place.

I have required from other candidates to pass off their email duties to another executive on their team if they must sign off on the email and reach out to students-at-large (not just internally on their team).

You are now at 20 Demerits.

If you wish to appeal this ruling you must do so through the Judicial Board with the appeal form provided on the UMSU elections website under Candidate Resources. Please note, only the party of the complaint can place an appeal.