
INDIANA UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS - 2005

DATE: 2/9/2005

TO: ALL CANDIDATES IN THE 2005 IUSA ELECTIONS

CC: THE 2005 IUSA ELECTIONS COMMISSION, ASSOCIATE DEAN OF STUDENTS STEVE VELDkamp, THE ASSOCIATE JUSTICES OF THE STUDENT BODY SUPREME COURT OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY, FILE COPY

FROM: THE CHIEF JUSTICE BRIAN CLIFFORD, THE STUDENT BODY SUPREME COURT OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY

RE: 2005 IUSA ELECTIONS

With the 2005 IUSA Elections season upon us, I here take a moment to remind each of you of the vital ethical obligations you have to uphold the IUSA Elections Code. Having been involved in student government on the Indiana University – Bloomington campus for the last five years, I have seen the tragic effects of contested and disputed IUSA Elections. Once the legitimacy and the integrity of the institution as a whole is questioned by the student body, the actual results of the elections are insignificant. Regardless of who is Student Body President or other executive and legislative officers, who can accomplish his or her goals when the students see the organization as a “joke”? Each candidate and ticket has a platform, a vision of change, an idea for the future of our campus – but if elections are not respected by the student body’s constituent members, no one will have the opportunity to see these ideas come to fruition, regardless of whether or not the individuals are in office. Not just for the benefit of student government as a whole, but also for your individual success in your student government careers, the IUSA Elections Code must be followed by all candidates.

People familiar with the history of student government elections in Bloomington know that the Student Body Supreme Court upheld the disqualification of an entire executive slate of candidates last year for violations of the IUSA Elections Code. When affirming this harsh sanction, the Court stated:

The Elections Commission and this Court do indeed hold the candidates for the IUSA elections to high standards. The executives [of] the Indiana University Student Association administer more than \$150,000 dollars in the trust of the student body. The[y]...are among the most powerful members of the student community at Indiana University . Bloomington. This Court has no remorse in demanding that the candidates for these positions adhere to the standards set forth in the IUSA Elections Code, a code created, debated, and passed by the student body’s representatives. (The Crimson Action Ticket and The Fusion Election Ticket v. The Big Red Election Ticket, SBSC-04-02 (2004) at 5, §VI (emphasis added)).

Therefore, following your obligations under the IUSA Elections Code is in your own best interest as future leaders of the student body in solidifying the legitimacy of your mandates for change, but these obligations are also ones that both the Court and the IUSA Elections Commission take very seriously; those who choose improper actions, either under the letter and under the spirit of the Elections Code, can expect similar harsh results as were required last year. I wish you each a great elections season, and remember that you all are looked to as the model examples of Indiana University students.

