

## **UMGSA Elections Committee Appeal Report**

By: Razia Sultana and Chantal Asselin

Carl Neumann filed an appeal on March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019

The specific ruling or action being appealed was that the elections CRO Ademola Adesola did not apply any demerits or penalties to Okechukwu Efobi for exceeding his expense limit for campaign materials and are now campaigning together for Okechukwu Efobi before the beginning of the run-off vote campaign period.

The Election and Referendum Policy and Procedure Manual of the University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association **Article XXVI: Campaign Expenses, number 5** states that:

“Each Candidate or Side is permitted expenses up to a maximum of \$50. Slates of candidates may combine their allowed maximum expenses and may submit a combined account of campaign expenses to the CRO.”

Additionally, the Election and Referendum Policy and Procedure Manual of the University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association **Article XXVII: Expense Summaries and Overspending, number 2** clearly states that:

“Where the CRO determines that a Candidate, Slate, or Side has exceeded the spending limit (for those products and services that are subject to spending limits) or has falsified documents, the campaign shall be penalized in accordance with the demerit and penalty guidelines outlined in Article XV, and this will be communicated directly to the campaign in question.

Therefore, in accordance with the Election and Referendum Policy and Procedure Manual of the University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association Article XV: Demerit System, a total of 1 demerit which is equivalent to the number of votes reduced by 5% of the total number of ballots cast for that candidate. As such a total of 14.95 (5%) votes that were casted for Okechukwu Efobi for the position of UMGSA Vice President Services & Support in the 2019 General Election will be removed.

However, as the candidate Okechukwu Efobi has been actively campaigning against the Experience UMGSA slate prior to the run-off vote campaign period we apply the following penalties as stated by The Election and Referendum Policy and Procedure Manual of the University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association **Article XIV: Penalties, number 1.c.iv:**

“Where a breach has occurred, regardless of cause or the intent of the parties involved, and that breach has provided an unfair advantage to a campaign, the CRO shall assign a penalty that [results in] disqualification.”

The decision of the elections committee is final. Okechukwu Efobi has been disqualified from the election and as a result, the opponent Eric Gagnon will be named the UMGSA Vice President Services & Support for the upcoming Executive term.