

Election Supervisory Board Advisory Opinion

(ESB/AO 2015-007)

Subject: Requirement that candidates use their legal and/or official University-listed nicknames

Whereas the University of Texas at Austin Acceptable Use Policy states in section 4.3:

“People who use university communication services (such as e-mail) are expected to use them in an ethical and responsible manner, following general guidelines based on common sense, common decency, and civility applied to the networked computing environment.

Electronic communications should meet the same standards for distribution or display as if they were tangible documents or instruments. Identify yourself clearly and accurately in all electronic communications.”

Whereas the UT Honor Code does not allow for misrepresentation of students or their work:

“The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.”

Whereas the Student Government election code states in Section 4.12:

“Candidates shall refrain from knowingly deceptive campaign activities, including any act or statement reasonably calculated to injure or compromise the rights or interests of any student, faculty member, or administrator.”

Therefore, the Election Supervisory Board issues the Advisory Opinion that all candidates for any elected position must use their legal and/or nickname as listed in the University Directory on the first day of campaigning, February 18th at 12:01 am, on any campaign materials or in any campaign appearances. Failure of candidates to properly identify themselves in their campaign activities may constitute a reportable offense to the Election Supervisory Board. Further, infractions found to be in violation of the University Information Technology Policy or the Honor Code will be referred to the Dean of Students office for further consideration.

Nicholas Andrew Molina, Chair

Virginia Kay Luehrsen, Vice Chair

Ryan Lutz, Chair Emeritus

Forrest Wolfe, Secretary

Preston Covington, Member

Zachary Long, Member

Kali Lang, Member

Ali Al-Nahi, Member

David Engleman, Member