

Election Supervisory Board Advisory Opinion 2020-005

Subject: Accessibility of Resources

The 2020 Election Supervisory Board sees fit to issue an advisory opinion regarding the status of universally accessible on-campus resources for financial disclosures.

Section 7.14 of the Campus-Wide Election Code requires candidates to list all “campaign receipts and expenditures” and in-kind donations in their financial disclosure reports. The Board acknowledges there are on-campus resources accessible to all students involved in a Candidate’s race regardless of college or participation in student organizations.

Thus, if a resource is available and free to all candidates in a given race, that resource need not be reported on a financial disclosure.

For example: If the School of Rock has free checkout of electric guitars to all students in the school, candidates running in a school-wide race may use the guitars without reporting them. However, if a School of Rock student is running in a campus-wide race, they would need to report the fair market value of the resource.

Candidates involved in college-specific or organization specific races are not required to include resources that are reasonably available to all Candidates in their particular race on their financial disclosure reports. Thus, the ESB identifies that the terms “expenditures” and “in-kind donations” do not include resources equally available to all students regardless of college or participation in student organizations.

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