



ASUCI ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Under Art. X § 2 of the ASUCI Constitution, the Elections Commission “has all authority for ASUCI elections and related activities, and under this authority has the power:

(a) To plan and manage all ASUCI elections;

(c) To enforce all ASUCI candidate disclosure requirements;

(o) To investigate, on their own initiative, possibilities of electoral nonfeasance, misfeasance, and malfeasance, including any action that could affect the outcome of an election;

(p) To adjudicate electoral disputes, including allegations of Elections Code violations, subject to appeal to the Judicial Board;”

Decision of the Elections Commission Regarding International Senatorial Candidate Renee Zhou

April 18, 2026

**DECISION OF THE ELECTIONS COMMISSION REGARDING INTERNATIONAL SENATORIAL
CANDIDATE RENEE ZHOU**

Preface

On November 6, 2024, the ASUCI Judicial Board released [*Opinion on Investigative Authority in Elections-Related Cases*](#), delineating the ASUCI Elections Commission’s procedural obligations into two broad categories — administrative and adjudicative. To quote the opinion:

Under its administrative capacity, the Elections Commission operates much like the Federal Elections Commission or its various analogues in the several states, making preliminary quasi-judicial decisions to enforce the elections procedures it has been charged to uphold and, if necessary, defending them in full courts of law.

The ASUCI Constitution presents us with a unique departure from this pattern, however, in that it delegates to the Elections Commission the position of a full judicial body. Whereas the aforementioned analogues to the Elections Commission may focus solely on their administrative capacities, outsourcing all judicial functions to distinct courts of law, the Elections Commission’s primary jurisdiction forces an ordering in such cases where these roles may contradict one another. (Bolek et al., 2024)

Following the revision of the ASUCI Elections Code on February 20, 2025, the Judicial Board added on March 15, 2025, that “[their] ruling in [*Opinion on Investigative Authority in Elections-Related Cases*] was found to remain in force” with the revisions.

In observing an explicit violation of the Elections Code, the Elections Commission has determined that an administrative approach would be most appropriate for the circumstances at hand.

Synopsis

Per Art. XI § B of the Elections Code of the Associated Students of the University of California Irvine (ASUCI), “All Candidates and Initiative Coordinators shall submit a Candidate Financial Statement or Referendum Financial Statement respectively to maintain a degree of transparency as to the fiscal nature of their campaigns.” The section further states that “Financial Statements shall be open on the Elections website no later than Monday of Winter Week 8 at 9:00 am and close on Friday of Spring Week 3 at 5:00 pm.”

On April 17, 2026 — the Friday of Spring Week 3 — ASUCI Elections Commissioner Nicole Nowak convened with the ASUCI Elections Commission and Senior Architect and Technical Lead from OIT who oversees the submission and posting of Candidate Financial Statements. It was confirmed that International Senatorial Candidate Renee Zhou did not submit a Candidate Financial Statement prior to the 5:00 p.m. deadline on April 17, 2026 for Candidate and Referendum Financial

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Statements. Pursuant to the Elections Commission's authorities as an administrative body, the following decision is released.

The Elections Commission has deemed International Senatorial Candidate Renee Zhou in violation of Art. XI § B of the ASUCI Elections Code. Accordingly, the Elections Commission has levied a Level 5 sanction - Campaign Disqualification - on their campaigns.

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*NOWAK, N. delivered the decision of the Commission. LEE, A.; GROVER, K.; GARCIA, K. ;
and SUH, K. approve of what is written.*

Art. XI § B of the ASUCI Elections Code explicitly states that “Failure to submit a Financial Statement Form shall result in an automatic disqualification for the applicable Candidate or Initiative.” The opening line of Article XI states the reasoning that “[a]ll Candidates and Initiative Coordinators shall submit a Candidate Financial Statement or Referendum Financial Statement respectively to maintain a degree of transparency as to the fiscal nature of their campaigns.” Because of this, the matter at hand is not contingent on the existence of a Petitioner and a Respondent (which would require our adjudicative authority), but instead our independent application of the laws enumerated in our governing documents. Therefore, it is through our administrative authority that **we deem International Senatorial Candidate Renee Zhou in violation of Art. XI § B of the ASUCI Elections Code and restrict their campaign.**

We would like to emphasize here that our decision today does not opine on the Candidates themselves or the particulars of their campaigns. Rather, in pursuing our administrative obligations as the Elections Commission, we find it necessary to sanction the Candidates to fulfill our constitutional duty to “[c]onduct all ASUCI elections fairly, impartially, and with integrity, in ways that ensure students’ rights are protected” (ASUCI Constitution, Art. X § 3(a)). It is incumbent upon us as the Elections Commission to uniformly apply the law to all Candidates, and indeed all undergraduate students in general. To decline to do so in this instance would not only violate our governing documents, but would be unfair to the Candidates and Initiative Coordinators who submitted the Financial Statements on time.

Accordingly, we levy a Level 5 sanction - Campaign Disqualification - on International Senatorial Candidate Renee Zhou.

It is so ordered.