

Opinion of the Commission
**ELECTIONS COMMISSION
OF THE UNIVERSITY PARK
UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION**

| No. 16-001 |

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY v. CATHY ZHOU,
AS CANDIDATE FOR THE SMEAL COLLEGE OF
BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE SEAT**

DETERMINED BY THE ELECTIONS COMMISSION

[March 31, 2021]

HEAD COMMISSIONER ZAIA delivered the opinion of the Commission

On Tuesday, March 30, 2021, around 2:00 P.M. Smeal College of Business candidate Cathy Zhou posted an endorsement selfie on Instagram with her endorser in the Office of the University Park Undergraduate Association.

The question before the Commission is whether or not posting an endorsement selfie in the Office of the University Park Association is considered a violation by campaigning in a “Campaign Free Zone.”

I

A

The Elections Code permits candidates to take certain actions during the campaign period (See UPUA Elections Code Article V). Included in this, however, is that candidates may not campaign in a “Campaign Free Zone.”

B

As stated in Elections Code §5.8, “The Office of the Commission, the UPUA Offices, and any/all official UPUA functions shall be Campaign Free-Zones.” By posting a selfie with her endorsement in the Office of the

University Park Undergraduate Association in 314 HUB, Catherine Zhou partook in campaigning in a “Campaign Free Zone” and her campaign is held responsible for the action. Cathay Zhou pleaded RESPONSIBLE.

* * *

Cathy Zhou posting the Instagram selfie violated §5.8 of the Elections Code pertaining to “Campaign Free Zones.” The Elections Commission has assigned one point to Cathy Zhou’s campaign. Her campaign’s spending is decreased from \$100 to \$99.

It is so ordered.