



EC Report on Daniel Wang

March 6, 2024

Allegations Summary:

Daniel Wang is alleged to have committed two Election Violations. Going forward, these allegations are referred to as

Item 1: to have torn down the posters of fellow MathSoc candidates, which we deem is a major contravention of the spirit, or indirect or implicit violation of any other relevant bylaw, policy or procedure of MathSoc, which carries a weight of 11 demerit points.

Item 2: to have misled the Elections Committee. Specifically, he is alleged to have not come forward that it was him removing posters. The EC has since had to determine through other means who was in the footage, and eventually determined that it was indeed him pictured in the footage. This carries a weight of 11 demerit points.

Background:

On **February 17 at 10:04pm**, the EC received the first report about Presidential candidate Remington Zhi's posters having gone missing. On **February 18th at 11:21am**, the EC received a second report about Remington's posters having gone missing.

In two of the pictures provided, the posters of another candidate, Samantha Pater (running for PMAMC&O rep) were seen intact in the same or similar location to Remington's removed posters. Specifically, Remington and Samantha both had their posters on doors and lockers (locations that are allowed), but only Remington's were removed.

Between the dates of **Friday February 16th, and Monday, February 19th**, there were eight posters reported to have been removed, seven of which belonged to Remington. While there were many more posters removed over the course of the campaigning and voting period, **it is these eight poster removals that ultimately produced video footage** from Special Constable Services; all poster removal reports except one (due to lacking sufficient location/time/date information) were reported to both MathSoc's Business Manager and Special Constables. The green circle indicates where Remington's posters were up previously.



Samantha's poster is on the back row of lockers, circled in red.



Over the course of the Spring 2024 General Election, the following poster removals were reported, affecting candidates in multiple constituencies:

- Received February 17th, 10:04pm; three poster removals.
- Received February 18th, 11:21am; two poster removals.
- Received February 19th, 4:54pm; one poster removal.
- Received February 20th, 1:55pm; one poster removal.
- Received February 21st, 9:59am; seven poster removals (one new).
- Received February 25th, 3:31pm; four poster removals affecting multiple candidates.
 - Notably, all the posters on the MC 3rd floor, with one on MC's 2nd floor, had been removed. Posters on the MC 4th floor and in DC were intact.
- Received February 27th, 12:48am; one poster removal.
 - The poster was partially ripped to remove the candidate's name and face.
- Received February 27th, 1:12am; one poster removal.
 - Turned out to be Plant Ops, by mistake.
- Received February 27th, 7:14pm; one poster removal (duplicate of Feb 27, 12:48am)
- Received February 28th, 2:01pm; two poster removals.
- Received February 29th, 4:54pm; two poster removals.
 - Turned out to be Plant Ops, by mistake, again.

Two of the reported poster takedown locations were found to have been a mistake from Plant Ops' part, and so are insignificant to Daniel Wang's allegations. Some of the other reported poster takedown locations produced no footage from Special Constable Services.

On **February 20 at 2:56pm**, the Elections Committee received a report that Daniel Wang and another candidate, Julien Liang, had put up their posters on a painted wall near the SLC-MC bridge.



On **February 26**, the CRO Grace Feng received footage from Special Constables depicting one individual removing posters. In some of the footage, the individual was accompanied by a second person.

This individual was later confirmed to be Daniel Wang, **confirmed by Daniel himself** in his appeal, and to unclear means within the private conversation he had with the CRO. It was also confirmed by cross-checking Daniel's in-person appearance with that of the individual. Daniel Wang **admitted to removing posters** in private messages on **February 26** with the CRO, in his March 2nd appeal email, and in his March 4th appeal to council. The identity of the individual in the footage was also confirmed by in-person interactions with Daniel Wang: the shoes, water bottle, and backpack that he had in-person notably match with those captured on video.

Daniel states in his private conversation with the CRO on **February 26** that he removed posters because they “violated MathSoc policy”, and that he was “just trying to help MathSoc out and stay on Plant Ops good side”. The posters that Daniel admitted to removing were “in the wrong spots like on painted surfaces and doors”. The chat logs may be viewed in Appendix A of this



document. The discussion took place from **3:49pm to 10:59pm**, where the bulk of the conversation happened from **3:49pm to 5:19pm**.

Further conversation would reveal that **the posters did not violate MathSoc policy**. Doors in MC are the one exception that exists in regards to painted surfaces, which the CRO confirmed in the private conversation, and which would have been confirmed by an email to the Elections Committee and reporting the poster locations at any time during the election season.

The footage gathered by Special Constable Services can be viewed in the Council drive. Due to privacy concerns this cannot be made public.

Daniel Wang was a candidate for the President and CS Rep seats.

He withdrew from the President election on **Wednesday, February 21st, at 2:23pm**.

He withdrew from the CS Rep election on **Monday, February 26th, at 6:15pm**, citing that he would like to pursue other volunteer opportunities next term and would not have the time commitment for CS Rep.

Counter-evidence and Defense:

In response to allegation Item 1, Daniel reiterated that he did admit to removing posters because he “thought they were in violation of MathSoc/PlantOps policy”, and states that he did so in “good faith of [MathSoc’s] policies.”

He attached the email from the Elections Committee sent to all candidates about the allowed locations of posters, which was sent after the All-Candidates Meeting (sent **Friday, February 16th, 1:04pm**. ACM happened on Thursday, February 15th, at 6:45pm.)

In the email from the Elections Committee, it states that posters should not be on “Painted surfaces, including walls” and where “putting [posters] in stairwell doors is fine, but only the glass part.” Daniel questions in his email, if

“[candidates] can’t even put them on the walls, how could we put them on the doors, which are also painted? Put this together with the first green check mark point: “Putting [posters] in stairwell doors is fine, but only the glass part.” Why was this specified? All other parts of the door are implied to be off-limits. The same applies to other painted surfaces; posters are not allowed on them.”



Daniel also says that he noticed janitorial staff removing posters from doors during the WUSA election. He tells the EC that this “led [him] to believe that doors and other painted surfaces were off-limits”, and that “[WUSA candidates] were instructed as well to not have posters on painted surfaces.

He apologized for not letting EC know, and stated “my intention was to assist by removing any illegal ones. I acted in good faith, believing it would benefit the EC.”

In response to allegation item 2, Daniel states that “[he] do[es] not feel that [he] “misled” the EC.” Daniel says that

“Given that the whole exchange lasted about one hour, starting at around 4 PM to just past 5 PM, it is unreasonable that this constitutes misleading the EC. I did not deny being in that photo. Rather, I had to confirm when it was taken, as I was under the impression it was taken during reading week. Under this misconception, there was no way it was me as I was at home. However, once I confirmed it was a day that I was still on campus, I told Grace it was in fact me and that I took down posters that I thought violated policy. There is no “misleading”, as I was just trying to get the facts straight. I told her early on at 4:22 PM that I had removed posters that violated policy and said that again at 5:04 PM. The fact that I told her what I did on two occasions shows that I had no intention of “misleading” the EC.”

Daniel also stated that prior to these allegations being presented, “[he] was no longer a candidate, and, as such, should not receive demerit points.” He further stated that “it does not seem reasonable that as someone who is no longer in the election, [he is] penalized, especially since the election is already over.” He further stated that “these allegations serve no purpose to the election and should be dismissed.”

Decision:

The EC decided to uphold the original two violations, assigning him 11 demerit points for the offense and 11 demerit points for the second offense. The EC found that the evidence for the two violations was strong enough to uphold the decision of the two allegations.

For the first offense, Daniel Wang admitted to removing the posters. Regardless of intention,



this is a violation of policy. Despite declarations of good intentions, the issues surrounding poster removal have gone on for far longer than is reasonable, and has consumed the time of not only the Elections Committee, but of the Business Manager, Special Constable Services, and numerous candidates trying to participate in a fair election. Policy 1.4.3 clearly outlines that “no person shall remove a candidate’s campaign material prior to the close of the election, except under authorization of the candidate or the Elections Committee, unless such material violates University policy or law.” As these posters and their placement in fact did not violate University policy and law, the removal of them was a violation of policy.

Had Daniel Wang ever reached out to the Elections Committee with evidence of the suspected violations, which is the correct procedure in every situation, this would have been made clear to him. Additionally, if it did turn out that these posters violated policy, this would have allowed the EC to contact the individuals who put up posters and warn them.

For the second offense, in regards to misleading the EC, the EC finds that Daniel was well aware of the discourse around removed posters. The EC found that until he was confronted with evidence (a photo of the individual removing posters) and a timeline (date from when the footage was extracted), Daniel Wang **did not once notify** the EC of any part he had in poster removal. This is in **direct violation** of Policy 1.4.3, that states that no candidate shall act in bad faith, or knowingly allow another to do so.

Inaction is still an action. Refusing to alert the Elections Committee of his actions at any time can be considered as intentional misleading.

This is after the EC had put out numerous warnings to not interfere with the elections, and to report any election violations to the EC email. This is clearly outlined in MathSoc policy. Being unaware of MathSoc policy is not a defense to any demerits.

Furthermore, in response to demeriting a withdrawn candidate: it would be unfair to the spirit of the elections if a withdrawn candidate did not receive appropriate consequences for their actions, especially if they were still a candidate while those actions transpired. As the EC outlined in their email to Daniel,

“There are significant punishments for future elections if a candidate is disqualified, so being able to withdraw when they would instead face a punishment would go against



the logic of fairness for future elections. As such, the EC believes that withdrawing from an election is no reason to not be given demerit points.”

Appeal:

On **March 4th at 12:30am**, Daniel Wang sent an appeal to the Elections Committee’s decision, which CC’ed the Speaker as required. Daniel attested that the verdict set forth by the Elections Committee be re-evaluated, and attached a document detailing his appeal. Daniel outlined in his appeal defenses for the following points outlined in Policy 1.6.2 3.b):

i. There is reasonable belief that portions of this procedure have been improperly applied in letter or spirit.

ii. There is new information relevant to the original allegation that was not originally discovered or presented, especially pieces of information that could alter the final Decision.

iii. That the determined penalty exceeds the nature of the violation or offence.

In his appeal, Daniel states that **in response to item i**, he does not believe a major contravention to the spirit of the election was committed because he took down the posters in good faith, and because the EC was not clear about what counted as a valid surface for posters. He states that a lesser penalty would seem more reasonable.

He also states that he didn’t just remove MathSoc posters that he deemed to violate poster policy, but that he “indiscriminately” removed posters out of a genuine aid to MathSoc and not to target other candidates. He cites his involvement in MathSoc as a volunteer and his contributions to the society as reasons why he was acting in good faith.

In response to item ii, Daniel provides information as to why he did not come forward regarding the poster removals. He did not approach the EC because “[he] believed what [he] did was not in the wrong and had no reason to reach out” until he was informed that doors are allowed.

He also believes that the EC’s messages about reporting elections violations were not related to his actions, because he believed he was doing the right thing and the warnings sent out by



EC were sent out much later. He claims he did not have the mental capacity to connect the dots, and that he was preoccupied with the hate on Reddit and issues in his personal life.

In response to item iii, Daniel believes the spirit of the penalty was misapplied, because “to mislead or lie means to do so with negative intentions”, and he states that he had none of those intentions. He claims he clarified everything with the CRO once the photograph of the poster remover had landed in his private messages, and let the CRO know early on of his actions.

He also claims that he withdrew before any accusations arose against him, and finds that punishing him after the withdrawal seems unjustified.

Final Ruling:

The EC finds that the admission of guilt combined with the numerous pieces of evidence (displayed below) to be enough evidence to uphold both decisions on allegation Item 1 and allegation Item 2.

For **Item 1**, the EC finds that a repeated assertion of “good faith” does not align with the actions Daniel took. Notably, Daniel did **not at any time** alert the EC of the alleged violations (required by MathSoc election Policy 1.6.1: No candidate shall violate the election rules, or knowingly allow another to do so. A candidate who fails to report a violation of the rules may be held personally responsible for the violation.) until confronted with evidence of his actions.

Even if the actions were truly in “good faith”, good intentions should not outweigh the consequences of these actions. Daniel Wang **admitted to removing these posters** on 3 separate occasions (February 26th DMs with the CRO, an appeal email on March 2, and an appeal to council email on March 4.)

Daniel also highlights that the doors were a weird technicality so he should not be punished for removing said posters. However, had Daniel reached out to the EC at any time this would have been clarified to him. The correct course of action to take with **any election violation** is to reach out to the EC with evidence, which was **never done** by Daniel.

The EC has stated numerous times that clarifications can be sought by emailing them, and that any potential violations can be reported by emailing them. The EC cannot anticipate every



potential misunderstanding. It is up to candidates to reach out if they would like to seek clarification and amend their understanding of elections policy, instead of taking the interpretation of policy into their own hands.

Additionally, there were posters belonging to Daniel Wang that were hung up on a painted surface near the SLC-MC bridge that were reported on February 20th. A candidate who claims to be removing posters with the reasoning of them being on a “painted surface” should have exercised a greater understanding of poster policy when putting up their own posters as well.

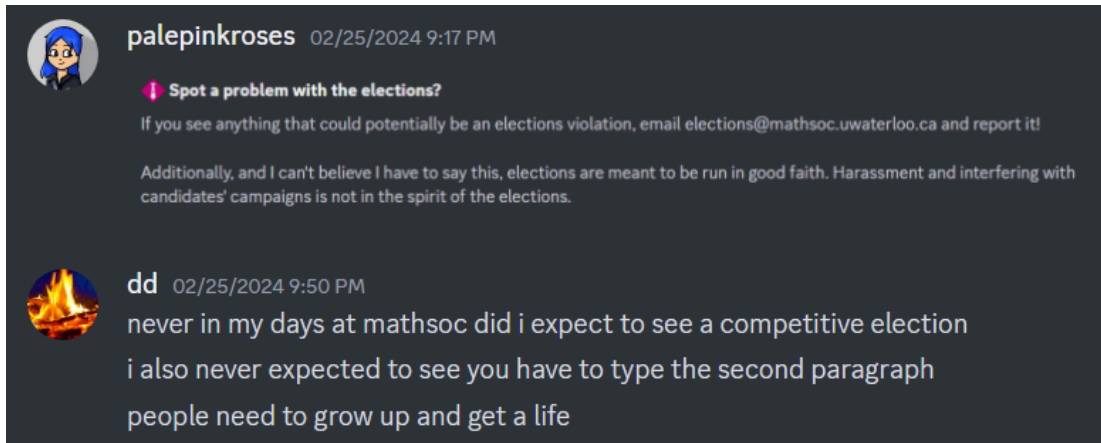
Furthermore, contributions to MathSoc are a moot point. Folks can have contributed to the Society and also have committed election violations; these two things do not conflict. Removing non-MathSoc posters is also unrelated to the discussion at hand, since those do not fall under MathSoc’s jurisdiction. It should also be noted that in the CCTV footage, Daniel was spotted removing a perfectly legal poster from a pillar outside the DC Chatime - in his “indiscriminate” removal of posters, there were posters that were not supposed to be removed that were removed anyways.

Thus, the EC finds that an admission of guilt alongside the CCTV footage from Special Constables is enough evidence to uphold the 11 point demerit for a major contravention.

In response to Item 2, the Elections Committee finds that Daniel’s lack of action to contact the EC is in fact an action that constitutes misleading on his part.

First of all, if he believed that the posters were wrongly placed, then by Policy 1.6.1 he had a reason to reach out: A candidate who fails to report a violation of the rules may be held personally responsible for the violation. The EC finds Daniel’s prior involvement in MathSoc and his personal reasons for not admitting to removing the posters to be insignificant in relation to the offenses he admitted to committing. Had Daniel asked at any point about the policy or reported the supposedly offending posters to EC, this would have been clarified to him. Yet, he neglected to do so, constituting an intentional misleading of the EC.

Additionally, in a private message to the CRO sent on **February 25**, Daniel acknowledged an official announcement by the EC saying that harassment and interfering with candidates' campaigns is not in the spirit of the elections. Daniel reaffirmed that “people need to grow up and get a life.”



Additionally, in a private message to the CRO on February 26, Daniel expressed (quote)

“Hey grace, i just heard that every candidate’s posters are being violated. Like basically someone fucking with the election. Here’s an example of it (photo attached). I’m genuinely annoyed that someone hates mathsoc enough to fuck with the election.”

In his March 4th appeal to council, Daniel admits that “I heard the buzz of many candidates complaining about posters being moved, removed, etc and I can confirm that was in fact not me. I had no reason to inform the EC as the events that took place after this message and during reading week had nothing to do with me.” So, Daniel was aware that there was discourse around removed posters and did not think once to reach out to EC to say that he removed some posters on the 18th of February.

Then, consider the February 26th exchange between Daniel and the CRO. Daniel never outright confirmed that it was him in the footage, using uncertain language like “it **could** be us” that does not confirm nor deny the identity of the person in the footage. It was only during the appeal that there was any confirmation that the statement

“yea we took down a bunch of posters that violated mathsoc policy” (henceforth known as **Line 27**) was meant as confirmation that it was Daniel Wang and his friend.

That is, in his appeal, his assertion that Line 27 was informing the EC that it was him and his friend pictured in the footage was incredibly unclear, and the EC was only aware that Line 27 was an admission that it was indeed him pictured in the footage when the appeal was presented, and not at any point before.



Furthermore, Daniel confirming that he had removed some posters does not necessarily mean that it is him who is pictured in the footage. The Elections Committee had to confirm that it was Daniel pictured in the footage through other means - by confirming his appearance in person - so Daniel did not clearly clarify to the CRO that it was ever him in the footage.

Taken all together, the EC finds that Daniel's lack of action has constituted an act of misleading on his part, and upholds the 11 point demerit for lying to or misleading the EC.

Daniel argues that since these accusations were brought up after he withdrew from the election, "punishing [him] after [his] withdrawal seems unjustified." EC reaffirms that there are significant punishments for future elections if a candidate is disqualified, so being able to withdraw, even if they have not been presented with any allegations, when they would instead face a punishment would go against the logic of fairness for future elections. As such, the EC believes that withdrawing from an election is no reason to not be given demerit points.

Appendix A: CRO and Daniel Wang's Feb 26 Conversation

This was the conversation that transpired between the CRO and Daniel Wang on **February 26th**, and was part of the EC's allegations against Daniel.



February 26, 2024

3:49 PM 🗨️ dd hey grace, i just heard that every candidate's posters are being violated

🗨️ dd like basically someone fucking with the election

🗨️ dd here's an example of it

🗨️ dd



🗨️ dd im genuinely annoyed that someone hates mathsoc enough to fuck with the election

🗨️ dd im genuinely annoyed that someone hates mathsoc enough to fuck with the election

3:54 PM 🗨️ palepinkroses We have footage of some of the folks tearing down posters, do you recognize the person in council-private?


🗨️ palepinkroses and does this look familiar to you?

[pictures from special constable services were then posted to the DMs. They can't be shown publicly.]



MATHSOC

3:55 PM @dd hey grace, i just heard that every candidate's posters are being violated
palepinkroses lol ive been dealing with this for the past week, it's so tiring

4:21 PM @palepinkroses and does this look familiar to you? 
dd do u have a better pic? its kinda blurry lol
dd when was this taken btw, most ppl ik have been home for reading week

4:22 PM @palepinkroses lol ive been dealing with this for the past week, it's so tiring
dd yea understandable
dd my friends and i tried to help with taking down illegal posters

4:26 PM @dd do u have a better pic? its kinda blurry lol
palepinkroses No, this is the highest quality I have, taken during reading week.

4:27 PM @dd my friends and i tried to help with taking down illegal posters
palepinkroses do you recognize any of the people?

4:38 PM **dd** i'll have to take a closer look but depending on the day, it could be my friend and i
dd we were around campus putting up posters last week

4:42 PM **palepinkroses** This was last weekend between Fri - Mon

4:46 PM **dd** hmm idk then
dd do we know who did the trash can and vote bobby?

4:46 PM @dd do we know who did the trash can and vote bobby?
palepinkroses Looking into it
👍 1

4:47 PM @dd i'll have to take a closer look but depending on the day, it could be my friend and i
palepinkroses wdyam "it could be my friend and i", do you not remember what you were wearing or what they were wearing

4:49 PM **dd** huh? ive been home all reading week

4:50 PM **palepinkroses** okay so by "last week" you didn't mean reading week

4:50 PM **dd** wait what did u mean by last week?

4:50 PM **palepinkroses**
dd Today at 4:38 PM
i'll have to take a closer look but depending on the day, it could be my friend and i
we were around campus putting up posters last week

palepinkroses idk what did you mean by last week

4:51 PM **dd** oh wait i think i got confused
dd lemme clarify
dd my friend and i put up posters feb 18

4:53 PM **palepinkroses** Yes, and the footage is from the 16th to the 19th, which overlaps with when you put up posters

5:00 PM **dd** it could be us then



MATHSOC

5:00 PM 🧑🏻‍🎓 dd it could be us then
🧑🏻‍🎓 dd what does footage show happening?

5:00 PM 🧑🏻‍🎓 palepinkroses shows y'all taking down posters.
5:02 PM 🧑🏻‍🎓 dd y'all? who else was doing it that day

5:03 PM 🧑🏻‍🎓 palepinkroses
| it could be us then
🧑🏻‍🎓 palepinkroses from the context i'm given from you, it's you and your friend.

5:04 PM 🧑🏻‍🎓 dd yea we took down a bunch of posters that violated mathsoc policy
5:04 PM 🧑🏻‍🎓 palepinkroses such as?
🧑🏻‍🎓 palepinkroses how did they violate policy

5:05 PM 🧑🏻‍🎓 dd just trying to help mathsoc out and stay on plant ops good side 😊

👤 @palepinkroses how did they violate policy

5:05 PM 🧑🏻‍🎓 dd i dont remember clearly cuz its been a while
🧑🏻‍🎓 dd but most of them were in the wrong spots like on painted surfaces and doors
🧑🏻‍🎓 dd there were also some random posters about some external tutoring thing

5:07 PM 🧑🏻‍🎓 palepinkroses well first of all, MathSoc isn't in charge of external tutoring things so we can set that aside
5:08 PM 🧑🏻‍🎓 dd oops
5:08 PM 🧑🏻‍🎓 palepinkroses There is also nothing against posters being on doors.
5:09 PM 🧑🏻‍🎓 dd i thought we werent allowed to put posters on painted surfaces
🧑🏻‍🎓 dd does door not count?
5:15 PM 🧑🏻‍🎓 palepinkroses doors are the one explicit exception we have to painted surfaces
5:17 PM 🧑🏻‍🎓 dd wait what??
🧑🏻‍🎓 dd it said including walls so i assume doors are included
🧑🏻‍🎓 dd

❌ Painted surfaces, including walls

5:18 PM 🧑🏻‍🎓 palepinkroses You could have also asked the Elections Committee for clarification
5:18 PM 🧑🏻‍🎓 dd

✅ Putting them in stairwell doors is fine, but only the glass part.
🧑🏻‍🎓 dd it didnt say anything about the door itself

🧑🏻‍🎓 dd it didnt say anything about the door itself

👤 @palepinkroses You could have also asked the Elections Committee for clarification

5:19 PM 🧑🏻‍🎓 dd yea that's completely my fault
🧑🏻‍🎓 dd between going home and the online hate, it kinda slipped my mind

6:20 PM 🧑🏻‍🎓 palepinkroses There's a weird technicality that the doors in MC don't count as painted surfaces because they're metal
10:59 PM 🧑🏻‍🎓 dd oh yea we didnt know that, really sorry about it
🧑🏻‍🎓 dd we're more than happy to pay for and help repost the posters that we mistakenly took down