



## **Associated Students of the University of California, Merced**

April 25, 2016

ASUCM Court  
5200 North Lake Road, KL 167  
Merced, CA. 95348

Undergraduate Students of UC Merced,

*Merced:* On April 22, the ASUCM Court released a decision on the Bernal v. Elections Commissioner hearing. The conditions of the ruling required Christopher Bernal to write a conciliatory letter addressing the Election By-Laws violations he committed prior to the case hearing.

We received his first conciliatory letter at 8:01 a.m. for approval. However, after careful review of the document, Court found it necessary for Christopher Bernal to edit his letter so it would appropriately address the infractions that were brought upon the court hearing.

You may read Christopher Bernal's revised letter as it was submitted to the Court in the following page.

You may read the court case at:

[https://ucmcrops.ucmerced.edu/access/content/group/07ed490d-8a37-4b14-00385440cdc7c767/ASUCM%20Archives/Court%20Documents%20\\_Public/\\_Majority%20Opinions/BERNAL%20V.%20ELECTIONS%20COMMISSIONER%20COURT%20DECISION.pdf](https://ucmcrops.ucmerced.edu/access/content/group/07ed490d-8a37-4b14-00385440cdc7c767/ASUCM%20Archives/Court%20Documents%20_Public/_Majority%20Opinions/BERNAL%20V.%20ELECTIONS%20COMMISSIONER%20COURT%20DECISION.pdf)

Respectfully,

ASUCM Court

“Undergraduate students of UC Merced,

I know there has been recent confusion in regards to this year’s ASUCM elections, so I have written this letter to apologize for any wrongdoing and clear the record.

On Friday, April 8th 2016, I arrived at the OSL office at 5:20 PM to have my posters stamped and begin physically campaigning for the 2016 Spring

ASUCM Elections. Unfortunately, I did not realize that the office has different hours on Friday, and the usual 8 PM closing time I had anticipated was in fact 5 PM. Concerned by the fact that the Spring Elections themselves hadn't at all really been communicated and were quickly approaching, I felt the need to post my flyers anyway, as they read boldly "Spring Elections 2016". I recognized that this was in violation of OSL rules, but I so often see posters without stamps that simply get taken down and figured the same thing would happen. So I put them up in hopes of raising some awareness for the elections and anticipating that they would be just taken down, and that I would simply get new posters stamped on Monday. I was mistaken in this assumption, receiving countless complaints by the end of the weekend.

I should have been more thorough in my investigation of the campaign bylaws, and both recognize and apologize for this shortcoming. I made a mistake, for which there are natural consequences. But after additional complaints for using an "A.L.U.M. Week" cover photo for my campaign Facebook page and an accusation of slander without substantive evidence, I was rapidly disqualified with no opportunity to defend myself. I was deeply disconcerted by this swift decision and filed a case with ASUCM Court for its rectification, “Bernal v Elections Commission.” ASUCM Court recognized the absence of evidence in these claims and decided in my favor to reverse the decision. the censure of my campaign activity as of 8 AM on Monday, April 25th and the requirement of the publication of this apology.

As a result of the case there are to be more scrutinous requirements for the construction of the elections committee and the appointment of the elections commissioner. The court further enacted disciplinary stipulations for my admitted wrongdoing, including

I want nothing more than the fair, transparent, democratic election of our next ASUCM President. I deeply apologize for any trouble I may have caused, in adherence to any campaign bylaws, and heartache I may have produced. My intentions are sincere, and upon the information of any mistakes I have been quick to correct them. I have faith in our elections process and dutifully respect any provisions either the committee or court propose. I apologize to the Students of UC Merced for putting up posters without stamps and in areas of study. I hope that I did not sway you in favor or against me but rather brought to your attention the election itself. I respect

actions toward a more inclusive and elucidated student government. Together we can operate as a powerful unified body, one that serves our most earnest campus needs and considers our growth toward a sustainable, thriving campus.

each and every person willing to sacrifice the time and energy for the representation of their fellow students, and wish them all nothing but the best. I hope this has opened an awareness and a consciousness surrounding ASUCM that will help shape future e

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Christopher Michael Bernal

Candidate, ASUCM President 2016-2017"

