

From: [Skyler Johnson](#)
To: [Office of the Assemblies](#)
Cc: [Committee for Campus-Constituency-Elected Trustees](#)
Subject: Re: Notification of Challenge
Date: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 1:55:10 PM

Hello,

Thank you again for considering my response. Because I understand the Committee may resolve the challenge without further correspondence, I wanted to provide several additional points that I believe are relevant to the interpretation of Sections V.9 and V.10.

First, the challenge appears to read Section V.10 more broadly than its text supports. Section V.10 does not state that an individual must affirmatively opt in before receiving any campaign communication. Rather, it addresses communications made “via social media lists, electronic distribution lists, or equivalent media” and provides that members must have actively opted in to join the relevant “list or group.” I did not obtain or communicate through a preexisting list or group of that kind. I independently identified individual members of the Cornell community using publicly available information and contacted them directly at their individual email addresses.

In addition, the mechanism I used was not a distribution list capable of sending a single communication to a group through one list address or group channel. Each message was sent to an individual recipient at that recipient’s individual email address. The recipients were not members of a shared communication channel, and there was no list address, group account, or other mechanism through which one communication was distributed to all members at once.

Relatedly, Section V.10 is written in terms of membership in a list or group. It refers to “members,” people who “join” the list or group, and communications made “via” that list or group. The individuals I contacted were not members of any list or group that I accessed, nor did they join one. They were simply individuals whom I independently identified and contacted directly.

Section V.9 also expressly distinguishes personal campus email from prohibited Cornell resources. It prohibits the use of Cornell resources while excluding “personal campus e-mail,” and separately identifies Cornell listservs and electronic distribution lists as prohibited resources. My outreach was sent from my personal campus email and did not use an official Cornell listserv or institutional distribution channel.

A broader interpretation of Section V.10 would also create significant uncertainty about ordinary individualized campaigning. If the provision were read to require affirmative opt-in before any electronic campaign communication, it would seemingly prohibit a candidate from texting a friend, directly messaging a classmate, or emailing an individual acquaintance to discuss the election unless that person had first opted in to receive campaign communications. Nothing in the text of Section V.10 appears to establish such a general prohibition. Instead, the provision specifically addresses communications made through lists or groups.

Nor does the rule identify a numerical threshold at which otherwise individualized outreach becomes an “electronic distribution list.” If the Committee’s interpretation turns on the number of people contacted, the Procedures do not appear to state where that line is drawn. My understanding was therefore that the relevant distinction was whether a candidate used a

prohibited list or group, not simply how many individuals the candidate contacted.

I also believe my prior correspondence with the Committee is relevant to both interpretation and fair notice. Before campaigning began, I specifically asked whether I could send “individual, one-to-one emails” to members of the Cornell community introducing myself as a candidate and asking what issues mattered to them. The Committee responded that the described outreach was prohibited because campaigning had not yet begun under Section V.4. I then stated that I would refrain from that outreach “until campaigning opens,” and I was not advised that individualized email outreach would remain prohibited after the campaign period began under Section V.10.

I relied on that guidance in good faith. The later emails now being challenged were materially similar in kind: direct emails to individually identified members of the Cornell community introducing my candidacy, discussing issues, providing election information, and inviting questions or ideas. They did not ask recipients to vote for me.

I also want to emphasize that I have tried throughout this process to comply with the Procedures in good faith. When I was uncertain about the pre-campaign rules, I affirmatively sought guidance from the Committee. After learning that the pre-campaign outreach could violate Section V.4, I stopped and disclosed the two messages I had already sent. I have not attempted to conceal my campaign methods or evade the Committee’s rules.

For those reasons, I respectfully maintain that Sections V.9 and V.10 do not prohibit the individualized outreach at issue here.

If the Committee nevertheless interprets Section V.10 differently, I respectfully ask that it consider the ambiguity of the provision, my prior request for guidance, my good-faith reliance on the Committee’s response, and the availability of corrective measures short of disqualification. I would of course comply with any prospective direction the Committee provides regarding future outreach.

Thank you for your consideration.

Skyler Johnson
J.D. Candidate, Class of 2028 | *Cornell Law School*
Vice President, *Cornell Law Student Association*
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On Tue, Sep 15, 2026 at 12:30 PM Office of the Assemblies <assembly@cornell.edu> wrote:

Your response has been received, thank you.

-- Jessica

From: Skyler Johnson <sqj2@cornell.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 12:16 PM
To: Office of the Assemblies <assembly@cornell.edu>
Cc: Committee for Campus-Constituency-Elected Trustees <trustee-elections@cornell.edu>
Subject: Re: Notification of Challenge

Hi all,

Thank you for reaching out regarding this challenge.

The emails at issue were not sent through a Cornell email listserv or electronic distribution list. I independently identified individual members of the Cornell community across various departments using publicly available information and contacted them at their individual email addresses using my personal campus email.

Accordingly, Section V.9 was not violated. Section V.9 prohibits the use of Cornell resources, including Cornell email listservs and electronic distribution lists, while expressly excluding “personal campus e-mail.” I did not obtain or use a Cornell listserv or electronic distribution list; I contacted individually identified community members through my personal campus email.

Section V.10 likewise does not prohibit this outreach. That provision permits candidates to communicate “via social media lists, electronic distribution lists, or equivalent media” where members have actively opted in to join the relevant “list or group” and the list or group is not an official Cornell communication channel. I did not communicate through such a list or group. I independently identified individuals whom I wished to contact and communicated directly with their individual email addresses.

The challenge appears to interpret Section V.10 as requiring an individual to affirmatively opt in before a candidate may contact that individual. That is not what the provision states. The opt-in requirement applies to membership in the “list or group” through which a candidate communicates. Because I did not use such a list or group, that requirement is not implicated here.

I am happy to provide additional information regarding how the individual email addresses were identified if that would be helpful.

Thank you,

Skyler Johnson

J.D. Candidate, Class of 2028 | *Cornell Law School*

Vice President, *Cornell Law Student Association*

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On Tue, Sep 15, 2026 at 11:44 AM Office of the Assemblies <assembly@cornell.edu> wrote:

Dear Skyler –

A challenge against you has been filed in the Office of Assemblies. A copy of the challenge and any supporting documents are attached to this email and posted to the Student-Elected Trustee election [website](#). Pursuant to the [Student- and Employee-Elected Trustee Procedures](#), Section VIII, Subsection 7, a challenged candidate, “shall have 24 hours from receipt of the challenge to submit a response to the OA in writing.”

As such, please be notified that any responses to this challenge must be received as a “reply-all” to this email by Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 11:45 a.m.

Thank you,

Jessica

Jessica Withers (she/her)

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