

Grievances could disqualify Jacobson, Cook

■ Two similar grievances allege the campaign broke University Housing rules

By Jeremy Lang
Oregon Daily Emerald

As ASUO Executive candidates Bret Jacobson and Matt Cook battle through the final day of the primary election, they must also defend against two attacks to remove them from the ballot.

Their campaign placed fliers outside residence hall doors earlier this week, and two separate but similar grievances allege the action broke elections and University Housing rules.

If the ASUO Elections Board agrees with the grievances, they would be automatically disqualified from the presidential race, according to elections rules.

But Jacobson said he and Cook reviewed the elections rules before

they distributed about 100 fliers, and he believes the rules do not forbid him from continuing to do so.

One of Jacobson and Cook's rivals, vice presidential candidate Jeff Oliver, filed the first grievance Tuesday, and Walton Complex resident assistant David Christensen filed the second today, but the issue actually began with another candidate.

Presidential candidate Eric Qualheim, an RA in Carson Hall, noticed fliers outside doors in his hall. He said he called Oliver's running mate, Eric Bailey, who is an RA in the Hamilton Complex.

But Qualheim said he didn't want to muddy the political waters by filing the grievance himself, and he figured Bailey and Oliver might file anyway.

Christensen said he filed his grievance after noticing Jacobson and Cook fliers in his hall and other

halls in the complex when he went on rounds.

Elections Manager Emily Sedgwick is investigating the grievances and will report to the entire five-person board, which will then rule on the allegations.

Sedgwick said she hopes to report to the board later today. The primary election ends at 5 p.m. today.

Oliver and Christensen contend Jacobson and Cook broke an elections rule ensuring equal access to University facilities such as the residence halls.

They also said Jacobson and Cook broke housing department rules created this term by the Residence Hall Association, a group of students that can recommend policy to housing department administrators.

Oliver said University Housing adopted a RHA rule that candidates could place a poster in the common

areas of the four complex lobbies, but not in the actual residence halls.

"RHA's main concern is that the residence halls are people's homes," Oliver said. "You've got to respect that it's their homes."

Jacobson said he didn't speak with Elections Board members before distributing, but he believes that as long as he didn't slide fliers under doors, he did nothing wrong.

"At no time did we put fliers in people's rooms," Jacobson said. "This grievance is an abuse of the process."

Residence halls are locked from the outside, and although a person could simply wait for someone to open the door and then gain access, Oliver said that would violate Housing's trespassing rules.

Jacobson, who called the grievances "mudslinging," said his campaign volunteers delivered the fliers, but he wasn't sure how they

Today is the final day of the ASUO primary election

Voting is happening entirely by computer via Duck Web. But the system has been down at times due to heavy traffic of voters and students registering for classes.
Polls close at 5 p.m. today.

gained access to the halls.

He added that his campaign wanted to target freshmen voters who might only know about Bailey and Oliver because Bailey is an RA.

Oliver said he would rather just talk to Jacobson to solve the problem, but the number of fliers distributed created too much damage to just receive a slap on the wrist.

"[Filing a grievance] is one of the last things we wanted to do," Oliver said.

Food

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packaged by community volunteers and sent to pantries throughout the Lane County area. Catholic Community Services is the largest Food for Lane County agency, serving not only all households in their district, but also those who are homeless and those who do not speak English.

The food options at the pantry consist of many types of canned fruits and vegetables, as well as raw fruits and vegetables. Food for Lane County has a grassroots garden, and some local organic farms also donate their produce. Pasta, beans, bread and dairy products are staples

found at the pantry each week.

"We get our dairy and produce delivered each day," Softich said. "But we never have enough milk for everyone. The government used to donate a lot more, like USDA butter, milk and cheese. Now they only donate 10 percent of our products. Food for Lane County comes up with the other 90 percent."

Food distributors in the community, such as the Safeway supermarket chain, also donate products to Food for Lane County.

"Sometimes there is real good food, like Trader Joe's donates spinach dip, hummus and organic veggies. Umpqua donates milk and cheese," said Allen, whose rice dinner came from this week's pantry. "That's a good day at the food box."

Community food donors are just a fraction of what makes the food operation successful. With a full-time staff of 30 people, Food for Lane County relies heavily on volunteers to get the job done.

"Using volunteers to sort and organize food that has been donated makes more sense in the big picture," said Cheryl Crumbley, communications director for the organization. "The reason Food for Lane County is so effective is due to careful use of its resources."

Today's end to the food drive doesn't end the opportunity to help. Volunteers are always needed to sort donated food at the warehouse, work in the food rescue kitchen, help in the garden and at urban farms, and assist with specialized

events and mailings.

"Waste and inequitable distribution create unnecessary hunger," said Crumbley. "Billions of pounds of food are discarded every year in this country. Hunger is not a result of a food shortage."

Finding solutions to her own food shortage is just the beginning of a long day for Allen, who has given back to the community that helps her by volunteering at Food for Lane County. After waiting in line at the food pantry, Allen will head to LCC to work on one of her two independent studies with the Green Party and OSPIRG. She also holds a job as a caregiver for senior and disabled services in town.

"I make \$150 every two weeks," Allen said. "My rent is \$300 a

month, not including utilities."

A Food for Lane County study uses an average household of two children and two adults with minimum wage income jobs as an example. After basic expenses such as rent, personal care items and doctor visits, the monthly shortfall is around \$400. There is no money left for food.

"Sometimes being so busy it becomes hard to make ends meet," Allen said about her situation. "I could ask my parents for money, but they work hard. They have two kids in college and need their money, too."

"I want to learn how to support myself, and the food box helps me along my way until I am completely stable."

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