



MIT UNDERGRADUATE
ASSOCIATION

Election Commission Report: Findings, Reasoning, and Decisions Regarding the Lipkovitz–Donegan Ticket

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This report was jointly written and developed by members of the UA Election Commission. Any inaccuracies, questions, or concerns should be addressed to ua-elect@mit.edu.

I. Executive Summary

This report documents the findings, reasoning, and decisions of the Undergraduate Association (UA) Election Commission (hereinafter “the Commission”) regarding substantiated campaign violations committed by the Lipkovitz–Donegan ticket (Rivka Lipkovitz, presidential candidate, and Anthony Donegan, vice-presidential candidate) during the Spring 2026 UA Presidential and Vice-Presidential (P/VP) Election. After thorough review of formal complaints, documentary evidence, witness accounts, and consultation with the Office of Student Leadership, Engagement (SOLE), the Commission has determined that the Lipkovitz–Donegan ticket committed multiple violations of the UA Campaign Rules and Election Code warranting removal from the ballot.

The Commission received four formal complaints between February 22 and March 11, 2026, as well as an amicus curiae brief submitted on March 7, 2026. Additionally, Commission members directly observed violations during the election period. The violations span premature campaigning, the dissemination of misleading information through dormspam, failure to comply with sanctions, and conduct that blatantly violated the spirit of the campaign. Taken together, these constitute Level II and Level III violations under the Campaign Rules, resulting in a “considerable, unfair advantage” for the ticket.

II. Authority and Structure of the Election Commission

The UA Election Commission is a subdivision of the UA Judicial Branch and operates under the authority of the UA Judicial Board (JudBoard). The Commission is responsible for administering UA elections and ensuring compliance with the Election Code and Campaign Rules. It is **separate** from the UA Executive Branch, which holds the offices of UA President and Vice President, as well as the UA Legislative Branch, which includes the UA Council and living group representatives.

The Commission is not responsible for adopting the Election Code or Campaign Rules. These are voted upon by the UA Council after proposed amendments are adopted or rejected via a three-fourths population vote. Amendments are typically made after an election in response to concerns or issues, such as recent amendments clarifying the referendum and recall procedures, enabling dormspam emails that follow established norms and guidelines, and others.

The Commission’s role is to interpret and enforce the Election Code and Campaign Rules as written. It does not create new rules during the election process but applies interpretations of existing rules as circumstances arise.

A. Composition

The members of the Commission for the Spring 2026 election cycle are: **Karena Caton** (Chair), **Maddox Brandenburg** (Commissioner), and **Christina Ding** (Commissioner). A fourth member, **Ananth Venkatesh**, resigned from the Commission on February 23. His resignation was precipitated by a conflict of interest: An undergraduate sent evidence to the Commission that Ananth had been collaborating with Anthony Donegan on a potential referendum to dissolve the UA, and that he intended to use dormspam to promote the idea. Due to increased workload and logistical challenges, **Diego Temkin** (former Chair, 2022–2025) and **Elaina Emery** from SOLE were asked to assist the Commission in an advisory capacity throughout the proceedings.

B. Complaint Process

The Commission reviews and acts upon formal complaints submitted to the Commission and violations of campaign rules directly witnessed by Commission members. Any member of the Undergraduate Association (defined as any undergraduate student at MIT) is eligible to submit a complaint.

C. Governing Standard

As stated in the Campaign Rules, Article II, Section A, Part 1:

Rules are meant to ensure fairness, keep order, and preserve the integrity of the election. In general, candidates should try to maintain the “spirit of the campaign” which is an atmosphere of friendly competition with others and respect for the election process.

The Campaign Rules further establish that the purpose of imposing sanctions is to “eliminate any unfair advantage the candidate may have gained by committing the violation” (Article IV, Section A, Part 3). The Commission is guided by the principle that sanctions must be proportionate and limited to the extent necessary to restore fairness.

III. Timeline of Events

Date	Event
Feb 22, 2026	Anthony Donegan sends the first “UA Files” email via dormspam, containing misleading claims about the UA budget. Rivka Lipkowitz responds in the same thread, announcing her candidacy and soliciting petition signatures from unknown individuals via dormspam. Complaint 1 received (12:47 PM).

Feb 23, 2026	Anthony Donegan officially joins the Lipkovitz ticket as VP candidate. Commissioner Ananth Venkatesh resigns from the Election Commission.
Feb 24, 2026	Anthony sends a follow-up dormspam (“followup on the ua files”) at 2:22 AM, referencing the “leaked” budget and linking to the Harvard Undergraduate Council Wikipedia page, suggesting abolition of the UA. He also links a Google Form soliciting input.
Feb 27, 2026	Petition signature deadline.
Mar 4, 2026	Complaint 2 received, raising concerns about continued use of dormspam to fuel campaigning and the dissemination of false claims. A poll conducted before official campaigning began (8:00 AM) already shows a surprising lead for Rivka and Anthony, indicating unfair advantage from pre-campaign activity.
Mar 5, 2026	Commission requests meeting with SOLE to fact-check claims made in Anthony’s emails and meet with all candidates.
Mar 6, 2026	Meeting held with candidates to discuss restorative sanctions. Group chat established with all P/VP candidates to discuss ideas. Candidates are given 24 hours to propose a collective resolution to avoid sanctions. Candidates do not agree to a collective resolution, so the sanction process begins on the 7th.
Mar 7, 2026	Complaint 3 received: an amicus curiae brief outlining the full legal case for disqualification. Complaint 4 received (11:45 PM): photographic evidence of campaign posters in Building 56 in violation of the campaign ban. Commission issues sanction at approximately 11:00 PM: the Lipkovitz–Donegan ticket is banned from campaigning and ordered to take down all posters. Follow-up email sent by commissioner at 11:59 PM to take down all posters ‘as soon as possible’
Mar 7, 2026	Anthony sends a second dormspam (“The UA banned us from campaigning”) mischaracterizing the sanction as a blanket UA action, using the color tag “silenced-silver” for bc-talk. This email generates widespread animosity toward the UA and the Election Commission, interfering with Commission operations.
Mar 10, 2026	Campaign posters observed by the Commission in New House. Chair encounters Rivka in the New House lobby and, in conversation with Rivka (in person) and Anthony (over phone), provisionally reverses the campaign ban without consultation with the full Commission. This decision is later identified as procedurally improper.

Mar 11, 2026	Follow-up photographic evidence: campaign posters remain displayed in the Infinite Corridor (Building 8). Meeting with SOLE at 2:50 PM confirms that the initial reversal should not have been made unilaterally.
Mar 12, 2026	The Commission issues this final report and decision after full deliberation.

IV. Formal Complaints Received

A. Complaint 1 (February 22, 2026)

A complainant raised concerns that Rivka’s dormspam response to the UA Files thread, in which she announced her candidacy and attempted to recruit students to print, collect, and return petition signatures, violated election rules on impersonally collecting votes. The complainant also questioned whether soliciting help from unknown individuals was consistent with Article II, Section A, Part 2 of the Campaign Rules, which requires candidates to be responsible for any helpers they are aware of. The Commission determined that impersonally collecting votes in this manner constitutes a violation of the Election Code.

B. Complaint 2 (March 4, 2026)

A second complainant expressed concern that Anthony’s dormspam emails were actively fueling his campaign and that he had continued to repeat claims he acknowledged as false in a face-to-face conversation. The complainant emphasized that the reach and visibility of dormspam created a significant and uneven advantage that could materially influence voters and compromise election fairness. The complainant requested that the Commission consider reparative sanctions.

C. Complaint 3 (March 7, 2026) – Amicus Curiae

A detailed amicus curiae was submitted as a complaint, outlining the full case for disqualification. The brief argued that the Lipkovitz–Donegan ticket: (1) began campaigning prematurely, (2) spread disinformation without due diligence and in poor faith, and (3) gained a significant unfair advantage from doing so. The brief cited specific provisions of the Campaign Rules, Election Code, and MIT Policies and Procedures (Section 9.2) to support its conclusions. It recommended removal from the ballot as the appropriate sanction.

D. Complaint 4 (March 7, 2026) and Subsequent Evidence

Photographic evidence was submitted showing a campaign poster for “Rivka & Anthony for UA President” displayed in Building 56, in direct violation of the campaigning ban and the demand to take down posters issued earlier that evening. Subsequent photographic evidence documented posters in New House (March 10) and in the Infinite Corridor in Building 8 (March 11), demonstrating continued non-compliance.

V. Findings of Fact

A. The “UA Files” Dormspam and Misleading Claims

On February 22, 2026, Anthony Donegan sent a dormspam presenting what he described as a “leak” of the UA’s 2025–2026 budget. The Commission, in consultation with SOLE, has established the following facts:

1. The UA budget, while hard to find, was always a publicly available document and was not “leaked.” Anthony’s characterization of it as a leak was misleading and designed to generate outrage, as suggested by its wording.
2. The figures Anthony highlighted were *requested allocations*, not amounts actually spent, as confirmed during our investigation.
3. Anthony’s claim that the UA spent “\$6,300 of your money on a private retreat” was inaccurate. The retreat was a legitimate organizational activity, and the amount represented a budget request, not the actual expenditure of \$4,431.
4. The email’s reference to the former UA President Enoch Ellis, suggesting he was “impeached for \$300 of coffee chats”, was factually misleading. Ellis was serving as one of the UA’s representatives to the Student Group Funding Council (SGFC), was removed via a vote of the UA Council and concurrence of the UA Officers, and circumstances of his removal were materially different from what Anthony implied. Questions regarding the removal of Ellis can be addressed to the UA Judicial Board at ua-judboard@mit.edu.
5. Anthony refused to issue an apology or clarifying statement at the request of the Election Commission, and has gone on record stating he would send the email again despite the inaccuracies.

The Commission acknowledges that the UA budget document was poorly organized and liable to misinterpretation. However, this does not excuse the failure to exercise basic due diligence, the refusal to seek clarification from UA leadership, or the deliberately

inflammatory framing of the email. His conduct is made even more inexcusable considering that he is currently serving as the Living Group Council representative to the UA Council, and has held positions on the Dormitory Council and the Student Group Funding Council.

B. Premature Campaigning

Both Rivka Lipkovitz and Anthony Donegan engaged in campaign activity before their petition was approved and before the official candidates' meeting had taken place, in violation of Article 2, Section A.4 and Article IV, Section B.5 of the Campaign Rules.

Specifically:

- **Rivka Lipkovitz** announced her candidacy, published a candidate statement, and solicited petition signatures from unknown individuals via dormspam on February 22, 2026.
- **Anthony Donegan** joined the ticket on February 23 and sent a follow-up dormspam on February 24 that contained a call to action to “reform or change” the UA, a link to a Google Form asking for thoughts on “what to do about the UA”, and a pledge to “act on” said thoughts. Anthony was already an official candidate at the time of this communication.

By the Campaign Rules, Article IV, Section B, Part 2, Item (b), Example (i), campaigning before petition approval constitutes a Level II violation.

C. Unfair Advantage Gained

The impact of the pre-campaign activity was substantial and measurable. A poll conducted on the morning of March 4, 2026, before official campaigning had even commenced, showed Rivka and Anthony with a lead over other candidates. This lead was directly attributable to the widespread visibility and engagement generated by the “UA Files” dormspam chain, which produced a long email thread with numerous branches. Informal polling by members of the Commission to other undergraduate students confirmed that a majority of likely voters were aware of the controversy and that their voting behavior would be affected. The incumbent candidate’s campaign, in particular, faced significant difficulty in countering the misinformation that had taken root.

D. Non-Compliance with Sanctions

After the Commission issued a campaigning ban and ordered the candidates to take down all of their posters on March 7, 2026, the ticket demonstrated repeated non-compliance:

- Campaign posters were found in Building 56 on March 7 (the same evening the ban was issued), in New House on March 10, and in the Infinite Corridor (Building 8) on March 11.
- Anthony sent a second dormspam on March 7 mischaracterizing the sanction. The email, titled “The UA banned us from campaigning,” falsely attributed the decision to the UA as a whole rather than the Election Commission. It used the bc-talk color tag “silenced-silver,” a choice that was inherently inflammatory and generated widespread animosity toward the UA and the Election Commission, directly interfering with the Commission’s ability to perform its functions. Furthermore, publicly announcing his sanctioning **unprompted** on dormspam was not explicitly approved by the Commission and constitutes campaigning.

E. Violation of the Spirit of the Campaign

The Commission finds that the cumulative conduct of the Lipkovitz–Donegan ticket—the dissemination of misleading information via dormspam, the deliberately inflammatory tone, the refusal to correct known inaccuracies, the premature campaigning, and the non-compliance with sanctions—constitutes a blatant violation of the “spirit of the campaign.” The Campaign Rules define this spirit as “an atmosphere of friendly competition with others and respect for the election process.” The actions of this ticket have instead fostered an atmosphere of hostility, mistrust, and disrespect for the electoral process. Additionally, multiple members of the MIT community have reported receiving direct and indirect verbal abuse online as a direct result of Anthony’s actions and the controversies they ignited.

VI. Application of Campaign Rules and Election Code

A. Level II Violations

Campaigning Before Approved Petitions (Campaign Rules, Article IV, Section B, Part 2, Item (b), Example (i)): Both Rivka and Anthony campaigned through the dormspam email chain and through Anthony’s follow-up message on February 24 before their packet was approved. This constitutes a Level II violation.

Violation of the Spirit of the Campaign (Campaign Rules, Article IV, Section B, Part 2, Item (a)): The misleading and inflammatory dormspam by Anthony violated the spirit of the campaign at the Commission’s discretion.

B. Level III Violation

Blatant Violation of the Spirit of the Campaign with Considerable, Unfair Advantage

(Campaign Rules, Article IV, Section B, Part 3, Item (a)): The totality of the conduct—misleading claims disseminated via dormspam, the resulting widespread public awareness and voter influence before campaigning officially began, the refusal to correct misinformation, and the inflammatory response to sanctioning—constitutes a blatant violation that gave the ticket a considerable, unfair advantage. This is the most serious category of violation under the Campaign Rules.

C. Additional Policy Violations

MIT Policies and Procedures, Section 9.2, requires all members of the MIT community to conduct themselves with professionalism and personal integrity. The Commission finds that the deliberately misleading characterization of the UA budget, the refusal to issue corrections, and the inflammatory framing of the sanction violated this standard.

VII. Decision and Sanctions

OFFICIAL DECISION

The UA Election Commission, having reviewed all evidence, complaints, and arguments, and in consultation with SOLE, finds that the Lipkowitz–Donegan ticket has committed multiple Level II violations and a Level III violation of the UA Campaign Rules. In accordance with Article IV, Section A, Part 3 of the Campaign Rules, which provides that sanctions must eliminate any unfair advantage gained through violations, and given that no lesser sanction is sufficient to restore fairness to the electoral process, the Commission hereby orders:

The removal of the Lipkowitz–Donegan ticket (Rivka Lipkowitz and Anthony Donegan) from the Spring 2026 UA Presidential Election ballot.

Both candidates remain eligible to attend the debate and to run in future election cycles.

A. Rationale for Sanction Severity

The Commission has determined that removal from the ballot is the only sanction that adequately addresses the severity and breadth of the violations. This conclusion is based on the following considerations:

- A. **Proportionality:** The Campaign Rules state that sanctions must eliminate the unfair advantage gained. The Lipkovitz–Donegan ticket’s advantage was built through dormspams reaching the entire undergraduate population, generating a level of name recognition and voter influence that cannot be undone by lesser sanctions such as temporary campaigning bans or mandatory corrections.
- B. **Multiplicity of Violations:** The ticket committed violations across multiple categories, including premature campaigning, misinformation, non-compliance with sanctions, and violation of the spirit of the campaign, demonstrating a pattern of disregard for the election process rather than a set of isolated errors.
- C. **Harm to Other Candidates:** The misinformation disseminated by the ticket placed a substantial burden on other candidates, particularly those associated with the current UA leadership, who were forced to expend significant campaign resources countering false claims rather than advancing their own platforms.
- D. **Interference with Commission Operations:** Anthony’s mischaracterization of the campaign ban as a UA-wide action generated hostility toward the Commission itself, undermining its ability to fairly administer the election.
- E. **Lack of Remorse:** Anthony has not publicly apologized for his actions, and the ticket demonstrated non-compliance with the initial sanction through continued poster displays and inflammatory dormspam.

VIII. Procedural Notes and Acknowledgments

A. Regarding the Johnnie–Matthew Ticket

During review of the initial dormspam thread, the Commission also identified a potential violation by Johnnie Jones, who had posted his platform via dormspam before becoming an official candidate. A sanction was issued on March 10, 2026, prohibiting dormspam for the remainder of the election. The Jones–Barnett ticket subsequently appealed on due process grounds, noting that they had received no prior notice of a complaint and that the sanction was initiated by the Commission itself rather than through an external complaint. The Chair accepted this appeal on March 11, finding the reasoning sound, and the sanction was reversed. The Commission acknowledges this procedural gap and will recommend that future Election Codes clarify the Commission’s authority to initiate sanctions independently of formal complaints.

B. Regarding the Mariam–Francesca Ticket

Complaints were also received on March 11, 2026, documenting that the Mariam–Francesca ticket had placed two posters on a single board at two separate locations (the Infinite Corridor at the Building 4 intersection and in front of the Laboratory for Advanced Materials). Alleged ASA postering issues are minor postering violations and have been addressed separately from the present matter.

C. Procedural Self-Correction

The Commission acknowledges that the Chair’s unilateral reversal of the campaign ban on March 10 was procedurally improper, as confirmed during the March 11 meeting with SOLE. All subsequent decisions in this matter have been made with full Commission deliberation and SOLE consultation. The Commission is committed to transparent and fair governance and recognizes the importance of collective decision-making in matters of this gravity.

IX. Right of Appeal

In accordance with the UA Election Code, sanctions imposed by the Election Commission are subject to review by the UA Judicial Board. The Lipkovitz–Donegan ticket may appeal this decision by contacting JudBoard at ua-judboard@mit.edu. All questions, comments, or concerns regarding this report may be directed to ua-elect@mit.edu.

THE UA FILES

From Anthony Donegan <ajzd@mit.edu>
Date Sat 2026-02-21 12:02 PM
To ua-council <ua-council@mit.edu>

did you know that the ua spent \$6,300 of your money on a private retreat?

UA Retreat	Other	\$6,300.00
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someone leaked the \$332,767 ua budget to me, thought i should share it with all of you guys :)

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1DU7CfZPi-IK1RoU-vUC8kA5FeoK3zfi/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=100407493277943654244&rtfpof=true&sd=true>

given the ua no longer funds clubs i honestly am not sure why they need so much money

fun fact, the budget also has not been publicized since 2024

ABOUT

- WHAT DO WE DO?
- OVERVIEW
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- UA OFFICERS

APPROVED UA BUDGETS

If you have any questions about the UA budgets, please feel free to contact the UA Treasurer at ua-treasurer@mit.edu.

- 2023-2024 Budget
- 2021-2022 Fall
- 2019-2020 Overall Distributions - Justifications - COVID Donations
- 2017-2018 Fall

anyways heres a highlight reel from the budget

Internal UA Bonding Fund- 1 event per semester	Program Costs	\$5,000.00
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honestly just curious what \$5,000 of internal ua bonding means

Weekly Coffee Chats	Food Event	\$3,000.00
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didnt they impeach enoch for \$300 of coffee chats or something

Recruitment Fund	Event Costs	\$6,000.00
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who are they recruiting with \$6,000??

Party in Barker	Food Event	2,500
-----------------	------------	-------

i wasnt invited to this barker party :(

NAMI Water Bottle Cleaner	Program Costs	3,000
---------------------------	---------------	-------

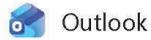
honestly not even mad about this one but why/how are we spending \$3,000 on a water bottle cleaner

anyways, please go explore the budget for yourself, and reply with any highlights i missed :)

anthony

bcc'ed to dorms, your money green btw for bc-talk

Figure 1: The original dormspam from Anthony.



followup on the ua files

From Anthony Donegan <ajzd@mit.edu>

Date Tue 2026-02-24 2:22 AM

To Anthony Donegan <ajzd@mit.edu>

in light of the discussion surrounding the leaked ua budget, I think it is time that we fundamentally reform or change the ua. maybe we should do the [harvard thing](#). maybe we should reallocate their funding towards the barker party. maybe we shouldnt do anything at all. i wont claim to know what we should or shouldnt do, but we have the momentum to make real change. so, what should we do? please add your thoughts here. i will act on them.

<https://forms.gle/5sE3GUtLU5Fhhkd29> (anonymous)

respectfully,
anthony donegan

bcc'ed to dorms, **reform-red** for bc-talk

Figure 2: Follow-up dormspam from Anthony.

The UA banned us from campaigning

From Anthony Donegan <ajzd@mit.edu>

Date Sat 2026-03-07 11:41 PM

To Anthony Donegan <ajzd@mit.edu>; Rivka Lipkovitz <rivkal@mit.edu>

The UA Election Commission sanctioned us as a result of my first dormspam by banning us from campaigning. However, we will still be on the ballot.

Hi Rivka and Anthony,

I'm writing to inform you both of our decisions regarding the complaints made against your campaign. The Election Commission finds that you both violated the following sections of the Campaign Rules:

Article 2, Section B.2: Campaigned before approved petitions (see campaigning criteria in Article 2, Section A.4)

- Both Rivka and Anthony campaigned by the definition set forth in the Campaign Rules through the dormspam email chain and through Anthony's follow-up message on 2/24. This was before your packet was approved on February 28th.

Article II Section A.1.b: Violation of spirit of the campaign

- The statements sent by the VP candidate Anthony, while good-intentioned, have led to a clear unfair advantage. The statements suggest inaccurate spending on the UA's behalf and led to large fallout and animosity directed towards the UA when the actions alleged did not occur. An informal polling had your ticket as likely winners despite no official campaign statements had been made since the campaigning had been allowed. Additionally, given that there were open avenues to discuss this information, no correction has been made to Anthony's initial email that would satisfy and seemingly rectify the errors. All in all, this chain has put Johnnie and Mariam's campaigns at a jarring disadvantage.

According to the Campaign Rules document, these actions constitute a Level II and III violation, giving your ticket a "considerable, unfair advantage". Given the severity of the violation, the Election Commission has decided your ticket is not allowed to campaign for the remainder of this election. Campaigning includes anything set forth in the campaign rules AND discussing your campaign and platform one-on-one with students. Any more violations will lead to the utmost consequence of removing your ticket from the ballot. You still will be allowed to attend the debate and your ticket will be on the ballot.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email ua-elect@mit.edu.

If you would like to appeal this decision, please email JudBoard ua-judboard@mit.edu.

Respectfully,
Anthony and Rivka

bcc'ed to dorms, silenced-silver for bc-talk

Figure 3: Dormspam from Anthony announcing his campaigning ban.

Re: [Macgregor] THE LORD OF THE FILES

From Rivka Lipkovitz <rivka@mit.edu>

Date Sun 2026-02-22 12:34 PM

In response to this, I am going to run for UA president with Hugo Sanchez as my VP. To get on the ballot, our ticket needs **450 signatures by February 27**, and I can't physically collect them all in time. **If you want the money to be returned to the people**, please help me (Rivka Lipkovitz) and my VP (Hugo Sanchez) by collecting signatures. To do so, please **print out [this document](#), collect signatures**, and **email me a copy** once you are done.

Here is my candidate statement for context. Hugo shares these values:

I'm Rivka Lipkovitz, an aspiring economist (Course 18 + 6-14) from San Francisco, CA. I care about an accountable, fair student government, and I've published peer-reviewed research on election integrity.

The \$420 Student Life Fee is effectively a tax on MIT students, and a substantial portion goes to the UA. Some of the General Institute Budget, which is sponsored by our tuition, also goes to the UA. Basic economics tells us that taking money from people and giving them items is inefficient: unless spending generates clear benefits for the broader community (positive externalities—like student groups and shared resources), it would be better to leave that money with students.

*That's why, as president, my goal is simple: cut unnecessary spending to the bone and push for the bulk of UA funds to be returned directly to you all as a per-student rebate. Furthermore, I will eliminate all spending that goes directly to UA officers, like food for meetings and the UA retreat. Based on my conservative estimates, I should be able to **return at least \$50** to each student.*

In addition, I will immediately share all previous UA budget documents and provide regular updates on how the budget is being allocated during my term.

I'm not running to fund retreats or parties. I usually spend my free time at economics seminars. I'm running to make the UA's budget reflect students' priorities and to treat student money like it actually belongs to students.

bcc'ed to dorms, prez for bc-talk

Figure 4: Rivka's dormspam announcing her campaign.

Appendix A: Spring 2026 UA Election Substantiated Complaints

Please respect the anonymity of complaints. The Election Commission is required to provide a list of substantiated complaints to any undergraduate, but we anonymize the complaints to ensure that no undergraduate is afraid to report any issues or potential violations. This has been standard practice for previous UA elections. **Any attempts to harass or intimidate students for complaints they have allegedly made will be immediately brought to the attention of MIT administration.**

Substantiated complaints listed here do not include follow-ups, sanctions, or other conversations had between the Election Commission, candidates, and, complainers. Please direct all questions, comments, or concerns to ua-elect@mit.edu.

Rivka and Anthony

Complaint 1 (2/22/2026 12:47pm)

[in reference to then-ongoing "THE UA FILES" -> "THE LORD OF THE FLIES" dormspam thread]

Hello,

I would like to inquire whether this violates the election rules on impersonally collecting votes, and I also have concerns about whether the request for unknown individuals to collect signatures is in keeping with Article II, Section A, part 2 which clarifies that all candidates must be responsible for any helpers they are aware of. If Rivka is not personally aware of who intends to help, does this absolve the campaign of any culpability for potential violations?

Thank you.

Best,

[NAME REMOVED]

Complaint 2 (3/4/2026 10:21am)

Hi Everyone,

I hope you are well and not too overwhelmed with midterms.

I am writing to express concern regarding a Dormspam that was recently sent by one of the candidates and appears to be actively fueling his campaign, both passively and actively. Even after he expressed to my face that he understood he made false claims, he has

continued to vocally repeat these lies and reference the emails while gathering petition signatures. From my understanding of the election code, the use of Dormspam in this way constitutes a clear violation.

Beyond the procedural issue, I am particularly concerned about both the practical impact and the content of the message. The reach and visibility of Dormspam communication channels create a significant and uneven advantage, which could materially influence voters and compromise the fairness of the process. Additionally, the Dormspam contains statements that are inaccurate and misleading. The combination of an improper communication channel and false claims heightens the potential harm to the integrity of the election.

Given the nature of the violation and its potential impact, I believe it would be appropriate to explore some form of reparative sanction to help preserve the integrity of the election. I trust the committee's judgment in determining what action, if any, is warranted, but I felt it was important to formally raise this concern.

Please let me know if any additional information from me would be helpful.

Best,

[NAME REMOVED]

Complaint 3 (3/7/2026 2:34pm)

Hello,

I would like to file an amicus curiae — a friend of the court — brief outlining the case for Anthony's and Rivka's disqualification from the UA election. [REQUEST FOR ANONYMITY]

In my admittedly very long, legalistic document, I describe the facts of the case as were confirmed today along with the specific citations to the Campaign Rules, Election Code, and MIT Policy and Procedures that demonstrate exactly how the rules were violated. These helpfully justify the full extent of the proposed action from the UA Election Commission.

You are welcome to read the whole thing through — I kept everything air tight — but I don't want to waste your time, so please read it to the extent that allows you to be confident in its conclusion.

Thank you for your service in all things MIT, I wish you the best.

Kindly,

[NAME REMOVED]

Hello,

Sorry for just sending to Diego before. I'd like to file an official complaint. Please see the attached.

Best,

[NAME REMOVED]

UA Amicus Curiae Brief

To determine the correct action of the UA Election Commission (UAEC) and the office of SOLE, three steps are necessary:

- 1) **State clearly the scope of the allegations**, the infractions as outlined in the Election Code and Campaign Rules.
- 2) **Fact-find and Argue** — determine the specific details of what was said, done, and can reasonably be said to have followed and to continue to follow from these events. Then, ***with the facts decided***, allow for the litigant, the defendant campaigns, and interested parties (i.e. UAEC, other tickets) to **submit arguments based on the facts as *relevant* to the allegations**.
- 3) Delegate authority to the **proper body** for resolution with an appropriate timeline.

Part 1. The Scope of the Allegations

The Campaign Rules have the purpose defined in Article II, Section A, Part 1 of the following:

Rules are meant to ensure fairness, keep order, and preserve the integrity of the election. In general, candidates should try to maintain the "spirit of the campaign" which is an atmosphere of friendly competition with others and respect for the election process.

The claims against the Lipkovitz-Donagan ticket are that they (1) began campaigning prematurely, (2) spread disinformation without due diligence and in poor faith, and (3) have gained a significant advantage from doing so. With these three points, if proven together, these actions would call for a Level III sanction for "blatantly violating the 'spirit of the campaign' and giving the candidate a considerable, unfair advantage"(Campaign Rules, Article IV, Section B, Part 3, Item (a)). If the proposed variety of violations were demonstrated, it would call for a severe Level III Sanction, such as the removal of the

candidate from the ballot. The UA Campaign Rules say that "the purpose of imposing sanctions is to eliminate any unfair advantage the candidate may have gained by committing the violation," so the harshest measures must be **clearly and compellingly** demonstrated to warrant these repercussions and be limited **only** to the extent necessary.

Part 2. Fact-Finding and Arguments

In the email entitled, "followup [sic] on the ua files," Anthony writes, in all lowercase,

in light of the discussion surrounding the leaked ua budget, I think it is time that we fundamentally reform or change the ua. Maybe we should do the harvard thing. maybe we should reallocate their funding towards the barker party. maybe we shouldnt [sic] do anything at all. i wont [sic] claim to know what we should or shouldnt [sic] do, but we have the momentum to make real change. so, what should we do? please add your thoughts here. i will act on them.

Anthony clarifies the "harvard thing" by linking to a Wikipedia page titled, "Harvard Undergraduate Council." The very first sentence reads,

"The Harvard Undergraduate Council, Inc., colloquially known as 'The UC,' was the student government of Harvard College between 1982 and 2022, until it was abolished by a student referendum."

The apparent suggestion is the abolition of the UA, but given that it is followed by an equivocation to inaction, the intent is unclear based on this email alone. Several undergraduates interacted with Anthony regarding a petition of his during this time, however, and they have confirmed that it was a referendum to abolish the UA. This detail and the rest of the message demonstrate an overt platform pertaining not just to student life in general, but the UA particularly with specific action in mind. By the Campaign Rules, Article IV, Section B, Part 2, item (b), item (i), this instance of campaigning (i.e. supplying a public platform) would be a Level II violation for a potential UA Candidate.

The question of whether campaign code applies to a candidate before they decided that they were campaigning is irrelevant in this case on two grounds. The first is that he already was a candidate at the time of this communication: Anthony joined the Rivka Lipkowitz ticket February 23rd, and this email was sent out February 24th and could be considered campaigning for its mass media communication and statement of goals, satisfying the description in the Campaign Rules, Article II, Section A, Part 4. The second is that, regardless of this first fact, the entirety of Anthony's dormspam emails, even those before officially becoming a candidate, should be considered under the purview of the Election Code and Campaign Rules. For one, the "followup [sic] on the ua files" email and prior activity indicate that Anthony had the intention to "act on" suggestions he was given

("followup [sic] on the ua files"). Formerly a member of Dormcon, and presently a member of UA Council, Anthony's prior engagement in undergraduate politics, though shallow by itself, make treating his comments prior to officially becoming a candidate as those of a mere student somewhat dubious. When accompanied by the fact that Anthony very quickly joined the Rivka Lipkovitz ticket — there were two days in between the initial "UA Files" dormspam and his becoming an official candidate — it is clear that the Campaign Rules should apply. After all, the loose criterion of being chosen as a 'running mate' should not absolve someone who is now a candidate from their prior, politically relevant behavior. In brief, both of these arguments are grounds to hold him accountable for his actions according to the UA Election Commission's rules

Regarding sanctions, if the UA Election Commission determines the allusion to the abolition of the UA to be serious, as was propagated following the initial email (see Irene Dong's responses for instance), then this may "violate the Spirit of the Campaign" at the discretion of the UAEC. As it does not yield a direct advantage to the campaign, however, it would qualify as a Level II Violation (UA Campaign Rules, Article IV, Section B, Part 2, Item (a)). Secondly, if the UAEC decides that this qualifies as "Campaigning before getting the petition approved," this would also qualify as another Level II Violation (Campaign Rules, Article IV, Section B, Part 2, Item (b), Example (i)).

The primary object of inquiry is the infamously named "UA Files" email sent by Anthony, which is too long for complete inclusion here, but as was shown in the previous argument, should nevertheless be subject to UAEC overview. The summary of the first UA Files email is that Anthony was given a link to the UA 2025-2026 Budget which, though technically publicly available, was not accessible by any normal sense of the word, so he described his exposé as a "leak" and proceeded to offer his nominal understanding of a few budget items, highlighting their apparent absurdity and calling on others to "reply with any highlights." The email demonstrates a flippant tone and very clearly impugns the integrity of the UA Executive board by falsely accusing them of private retreats and selfish abuse of funds. The readily perceived intent was to incite outrage and further engagement from the undergraduate student body. (The astute reader may also consider this as evidence for why this initial email should be understood as relevant to Anthony's later campaign)

Since the infractions are many, they are listed as follows: Anthony exhibited gross negligence by (A) failing to include important context (e.g. the title of the column that indicated that the amounts were *requested*; or the reality of the budget item); (B) not requesting any follow-up from the UA Executive board on the actual budget items; (C) using intentionally unsportsmanlike language (e.g. "your [the undergraduate student body's]

money on a private retreat"); (D) refusing to issue a statement clarifying the misinformation in his original email at the request of the current UA Vice-President, (E) demonstrating a lack of repentance (e.g. he has gone on record saying that he would do it again). A line-by-line reading is outside the scope of this paper, but with hope, these can be reviewed by the UAEC and the SOLE UA associate. For fair context, it must be noted that the UA budget was incredibly unclear and indeed, *liable to misinterpretation* as has been shown without a shadow of doubt; nevertheless, it is always inappropriate to excuse rule-breaking, disrespectful conduct in response to a job that was done poorly. In any case, there were other, more productive avenues for publicizing these criticisms of the UA.

The reception to this post was widespread. One resultant email chain exceeds 13 pages, and there were several branches. Moreover, informal polling shows that a majority of likely-to-vote undergraduates are aware of the UA Files scandal, and their voting behavior will be impacted. Please refer to the problems faced by the other candidates' campaign of resolving misinformation.

The specific policy violations can be argued severally. To begin, MIT Policies & Procedures, Section 9.2 says, "all members of the MIT community are expected to conduct themselves with *professionalism* [and] *personal integrity*" — this was clearly abridged in Anthony's dormspam messages. Further, in light of the publicity surrounding his present candidacy and the aforementioned violations, these circumstances "blatantly violate the 'spirit of the campaign' and give the candidate a considerable, unfair advantage," constituting a Level III Violation (Campaign Rules, Article IV, Section B, Part 3, Item (a)). Accordingly, since "the purpose of imposing sanctions is to eliminate any unfair advantage the candidate may have gained by committing the violation," any sanctions to correct this offense would need to fully detract from this gain (Campaign Rules, Article IV, Section A, Part 3). Additionally, the cost to the other candidates in resolving this controversy must be kept in mind. All these together justify the utmost sanction possible for a UA election ticket.

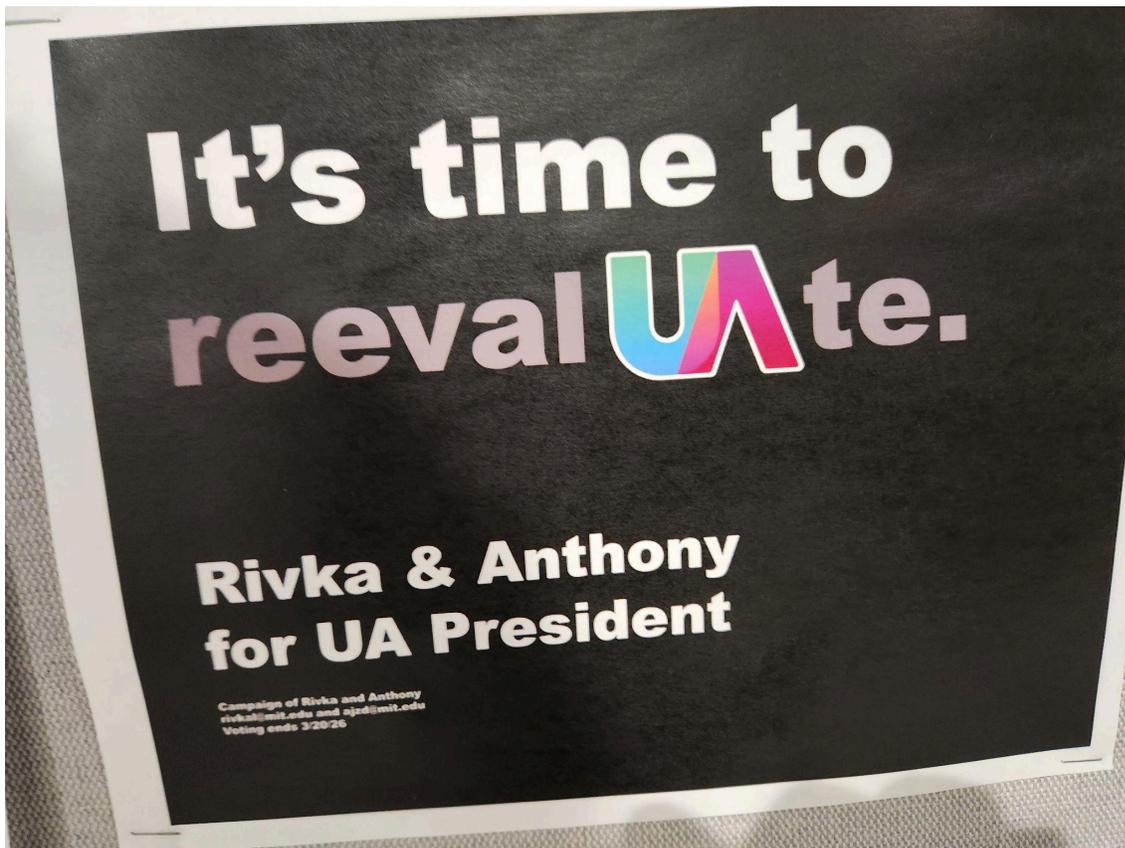
The arguments here demonstrate that the advantage gained prior to the campaign is incredibly significant and unfairly gained. Given that no ordinary sanction is sufficient to reduce the unlawful publicity, and the policy violations are several and the conduct unsportsmanlike, the appropriate course of action is to preclude Anthony Donegan from running this cycle, and since Rivka Lipkowitz shares foundational associations to the UA Files controversy — her electoral debut was in the UA Files chain — as well as infractions of her own (e.g. unlawfully soliciting signatures on dormspam), she should likewise be removed from this year's electoral race. With hope, the lessons learned this year will better

prepare them to lawfully run next cycle, so they may serve the undergraduate population of MIT.

Part 3. Delegation and Resolution

The above argument is one suggestion based on the facts of the case, but the Chair of the UA Election Commission has authority to make the final decision, notwithstanding intervention from the UA SOLE associate. Sanctions, if imposed, are subject to review by the UA Judicial Board.

Complaint 4 (3/7/2026 11:45pm)

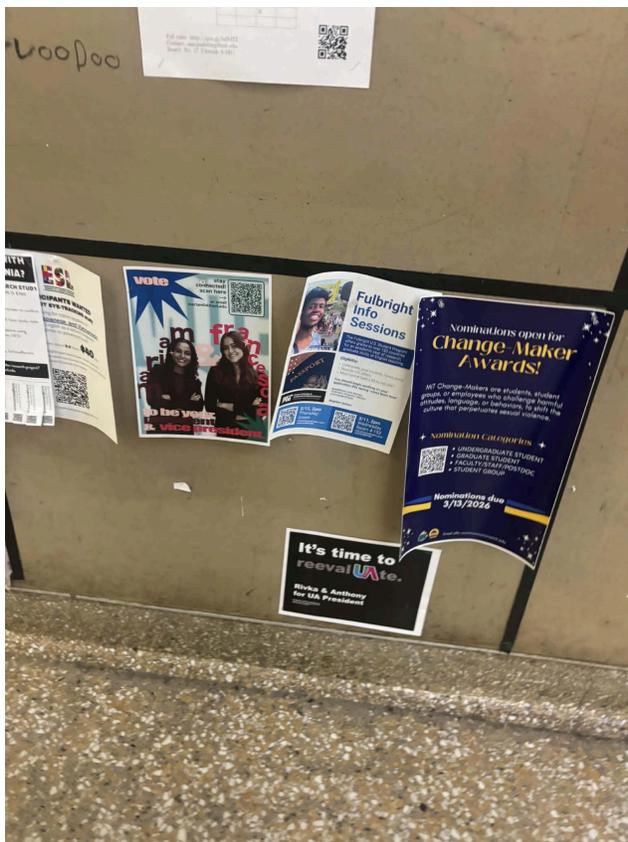


In Building 56.

Spotted in New House (3/10/2026 6:29pm)



Follow Up (3/11/2026 3:17pm)



"this is now"

"infinite building 8"

Mariam and Francesca

Complaint 1 (3/11/2026 1:50pm)

Hi Karenn,

Mariam and Francesca have two posters on one board. This is in the infinite at the intersection with building 4.

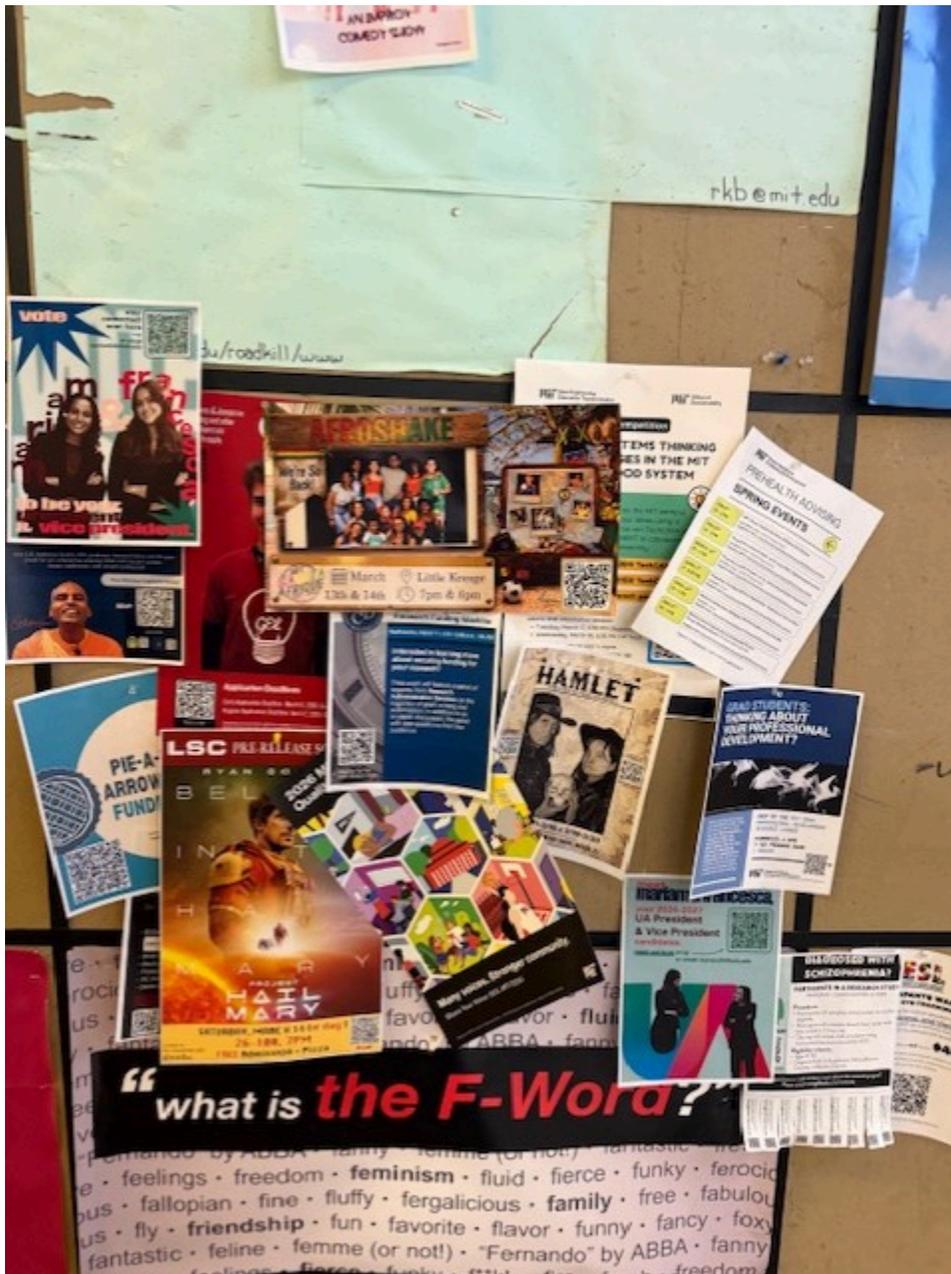


Best,

[NAME REMOVED]

Complaint 2 (3/11/2026 1:52pm)

Also here in front of the laboratory for advanced materials



Johnnie and Matthew

Complaint 1 (3/11/2026 2:09pm)

Hi Karena,

In the Campaign Rules, it says

> Campaigns may not reserve poster space or put up posters bigger than 187 square inches (ex. 11x17). This rule precludes campaigns from reserving Lobby 7 kiosks or hanging large banners from fraternities.

However, Johnnie Jones and Matthew Barnett have this display, which is almost certainly larger than that.



Best,

[NAME REMOVED]

Appendix B: UA Election Meeting Summary Notes 3/6/2026

Notes taken by Elaina Emery from SOLE. Any questions or concerns should be directed towards ua-elect@mit.edu.

A formal complaint was filed with the Election Commission regarding unauthorized "dormspam" communications distributed by candidate Anthony. The complaint alleges that these communications contained significant misinformation, providing an inequitable advantage to his campaign. Following a failed mediation attempt, the Commission has issued a formal sanction.

Timeline of Actions

- **Initial Mediation (Friday 3/6):** A meeting was convened involving the Election Commission, Student Organizations & Leadership Education (SOLE) representative, and all active candidates. The objective was to reach a collaborative resolution.
- **Proposed Resolution:** All parties initially agreed to issue a Joint Statement. This was intended to demonstrate sportsmanship and provide a public correction of the misinformation. Each candidate had 24 hours to discuss what they would need in a statement and bring those requirements back to the group.
- **Mediation Failure:** Prior to the 24-hour mark, Anthony's party had indicated they were prepared to send a statement early. After 24 hours, candidates were unable to reach a consensus on the statement's language and content, necessitating a formal ruling by the Commission.

Appendix C: Personal Statement from Chair of the Election Commission

Any concerns or questions regarding this section may be addressed to karenna@mit.edu.

I think we have been very lenient and forgiving throughout this process. I understand that Rivka and Anthony were trying to do what they believed was right, but the situation was not handled well, and it was not done in accordance with the code or the campaign rules. At the end of the day, we still have to follow and enforce those rules. On 3/10, I also did not want them to be taken off the ballot; I understand what it's like to be a student here and how high the stakes can feel. However, I recognize that I handled the decision improperly and that I should have consulted with others before making the call to "unban". As recommended by my peers, I had to "stand on business."

I also want to address those suggesting that I am colluding because of my appointment by the UA P/VP. I have been on the election commission for four years. We had to organize the recall election of David Spicer, who threatened to sue Diego and I as freshmen; the Gaza ceasefire referendum in which we had to deal with voter intimidation by unaffiliated digital billboard trucks, campaigning by faculty, and verify 400+ signatures manually; and class council chaos in which potential candidates would needlessly try to rat out the other ones. Because of this, I am personally shocked by how far this has gotten to. Given that I am the only person who has stayed this long and was willing to put up with all of this, I had to take Diego's place as chair.

Additionally, the UA P/VP and I are all Black and Brown, and I suspect that some people assume that means we must be working together (because obviously, minorities must do that!). I have never spoken with Alice before this fall, and I have only spoken to Mariam a few times given we're both in Course 9. That assumption perpetuates hurtful and, one might argue, racist, ideas. Suggesting because I know someone else whose black/brown means I'm colluding does not make any sense. To elaborate on my independence, I rejected a UA Officer's persistent request to use our budget for a candidates' meeting because I thought it was unnecessary. If people want to suggest wrongdoing, they can say it to my face or Judboard instead of being cowards with anonymity protecting them. I might stutter and stammer, but I will still say what I need to say. All in all, I think I acted in earnest, integrity, honesty, and, I admit, mild impulsivity in my position.

If you want to approach me in public, I'm a black woman, have mini-braids and glasses, and typically wear a Course 9 backpack. I am also very friendly most of the time, but those of you who are just unashamedly wrong and indirect make it very difficult.

- Karenna