



FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

428 J Street • Suite 620 • Sacramento, CA 95814-2329
(916) 322-5660 • Fax (916) 322-0886

September 18, 2012

✓ Ms. Melanie Berringer
o/b/o Friends of College Democrats at UCSC

REDACTED

Friends of College Democrats at UCSC

REDACTED

Warning Letter Re: FPPC No. 12/598; Friends of College Democrats at UCSC, Melanie Berringer Treasurer, Respondents

Dear Committee and Ms. Berringer:

The Fair Political Practices Commission (the "FPPC") enforces the provisions of the Political Reform Act (the "Act"),¹ found in Government Code section 81000, et seq. This letter is in response to a referral from the Office of the Secretary of State that alleged you have failed to file campaign statements.

The FPPC has completed its investigation of the facts in this case. Specifically, the FPPC found that the last campaign statement you filed with the Office of the Secretary of State was a semi-annual statement ending December 1, 2010. You have failed to file any campaign statements since that time.

The Act requires that committees file campaign statements at periodic intervals. Specifically, the Act provides that committees shall file semiannual statements on July 31 and January 31 of each year reporting activity for the prior six month period. (Gov. Code § 84200.)

¹ The Political Reform Act is contained in Government Code sections 81000 through 91014. All statutory references are to the Government Code, unless otherwise indicated. The regulations of the Fair Political Practices Commission are contained in sections 18110 through 18997 of Title 2 of the California Code of Regulations. All regulatory references are to Title 2, Division 6 of the California Code of Regulations, unless otherwise indicated.

Your actions violated the Act because you failed to file a semiannual campaign statement for the period January 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011, due July 31, 2011, a campaign statement for the period July 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011, due January 31, 2012, or a campaign statement for the period January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012, due July 31, 2012. Since it does not appear that your committee has engaged in significant activity, we are closing our file on this matter.

You must immediately file your delinquent campaign statements outlined above with the Office of the Secretary of State. If your committee did not become active, and you do not anticipate becoming politically active, you may want to consider terminating your campaign committee at this time as well. You will retain an obligation to file semi-annual campaign statements until you terminate your committee by filing a terminating Statement of Organization (Form 410.)

This letter serves as a written warning. The information in this matter will be retained and may be considered should an enforcement action become necessary based on newly discovered information or future conduct. Failure to comply with the provisions of the Act in the future will result in monetary penalties of up to \$5,000 for each violation.

A warning letter is an FPPC case resolution without administrative prosecution or fine. However, the warning letter resolution does not provide you with the opportunity for a probable cause hearing or hearing before an Administrative Law Judge or the Fair Political Practices Commission. If you wish to avail yourself of these proceedings by requesting that your case proceed with prosecution rather than a warning, please notify us within ten (10) days from the date of this letter. Upon this notification, the FPPC will rescind this warning letter and proceed with administrative prosecution of this case. If we do not receive such notification, this warning letter will be posted on the FPPC's website ten (10) days from the date of this letter.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

 **REDACTED**

Gary S. Winuk, Chief
Enforcement Division

GSW/jt

cc: Mr. Chris Reynolds, Chief
Political Reform Division
Office of the Secretary of State