

Fresno Teachers Association election won't be rerun

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The state's teachers union has quashed an effort to rerun the Fresno Teachers Association election that swept in a slate of new officers in April.

The election of Fresno High math teacher Tish Rice and her slate will stand, the California Teachers Association ruled, setting aside allegations that candidates misused FTA resources during the campaign.

Rice, 46, will replace Eva Ruiz and Cooper Academy teacher Adam Ebrahim will be vice president. Rice and Ebrahim, plus two other candidates who ran under the slogan "a united voice for teachers," took office July 1.

Rice said she was "very pleased" with the decision, which she said shows FTA is "getting back on track" after a period of election turmoil. Ruiz took office two years ago after three runoff elections against FTA director-at-large Mai Summer Vue.

As part of the decision, CTA will monitor FTA elections for the next two election cycles. The agreement requires all future candidates to submit campaign material to CTA before it is distributed to members. FTA also is required to undergo elections training over the next few months.

Ruiz said the CTA's ruling was disappointing, and she still believes election rules were broken.

"For those who followed the rules, it seems they are being punished," she said.

She said she's proud of the work she accomplished, including finalizing a new teacher contract after months of talks with district administrators. The recent deal gives teachers a raise and reduces class sizes in certain grades.

"All the good work that's been started is going to continue," she said.

The former Sunset Elementary kindergarten teacher said she plans to go back to her position next school year.