

Elections Board Response to Judicial Appeal No. 22-005 Opinion

On, Friday, April 1, 2022, the Judicial Board issued an Opinion in response to Appeal 22-005 (“Op. 5”). This Opinion directed the Elections Board to render a decision, regarding the disqualification of Ms. Madeline Martin for the 2022 SGA Presidential Election by Noon on Monday, April 4, 2022 (Op. 5 at 5). Pursuant to this order, the Student Government Association Elections Board met via Zoom at 8:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 3, 2022. As required by the Elections Board Manual, a panel of six (6) members and the Chair participated in the hearing.

In Opinion 22-005, the Judicial Board held that Ms. Martin’s campaign receive a total of 12 points, the minimum number of points for the Elections Board to consider disqualification, pursuant to XIX. Classification of Violations, Section E, of the Elections Board Manual (Op. 5 at 5). Having reviewed Opinion 22-005, the Elections Board does not support the findings of the Judicial Board based on the evidence provided in the various Appeals. Predicated on the discretion afforded to the Elections Board by the Elections Board Manual, the Elections Board retains the right to determine whether conduct violates the Elections Board Manual as well as the tier in which an alleged violation might fall. Notwithstanding the Election Board’s disagreement with the Judicial Board’s decision to reclassify the violations, the Judicial Board rightfully recognizes that “the Elections Board Manual gives sole discretion of the disqualification of candidates to the Elections Board (Op. 5 at 5).” To cover all bases in utilizing this full discretion, the Elections Board considered the disqualification of Ms. Martin using Judicial Opinion 22-005.

After reviewing all the evidence, the Elections Board voted unanimously to NOT disqualify Ms. Madeline Martin from the 2022 SGA Presidential Election. Further, given that there are no pending elections related complaints or appeals, as required by the Student Elections Board Elections Manual and the Student Government Association Constitution, the Elections Board voted unanimously to officially certify the Spring 2022 SGA General Election Results, of which include Madeline Martin as the 2022-2023 President.