

IN THE STUDENT JUDICIARY
FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

No. 22-003

SARAH SHIELD, GARRETT BURNETT;
STUDENT/S

JOHN DODD;
SENATOR, STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Complainant,

versus

MATTHEW CURL;
CHIEF JUSTICE, STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION;

Defendant,

Appeal for Judicial Review

OPINION

CHIEF JUSTICE THOME delivered the opinion of the Court which was joined in full by the Panel of Justices present on the case.

This Opinion of the Court addresses both Judicial Appeal 22-002 and Judicial Appeal 22-003 as the subject of both appeals is the same.

Chapter 405.2 of the University of Alabama's Student Government Association Code of Laws states that:

Chapter 405.2 Office Hours

Chapter 405.2.1 The Chief Justice shall be required to complete an average of three office hours per week in the SGA office.

In filing their initial appeal, the complainants assert Chief Justice Curl had not completed his office hour requirements. They state:

“This public record only proves what the Complainants would like the panel to recognize, that the Chief Justice of the Student Government Association, Matthew Curl, has served zero office hours during his term.”

It is the opinion of the Court that through the accumulation of office hours at approved events, presentations, and a physical presence in the Student Government Association office, the assertion made by the complainants is categorically false. Chief Justice Curl was present in the Student Government Association office for his required office hours, using the ACT Card scanner in the SGA office and receiving the notification that he was checked in. Despite this, his hours were evidently not recorded by the scanner, indicating a technological error which has occurred with other members of SGA beyond Chief Justice Curl. The Court believes that there is sufficient evidence to support the assertion that Chief Justice Curl regularly exceeded his office hours requirements as the Chief Justice of the Student Government Association.

Furthermore, the confirmation of recorded office hours is not the responsibility of the Chief Justice to maintain, rather the purview of the office of the Executive Secretary; therefore, as Chief Justice Curl received no notification that his office hour requirements were not being recorded—due to a technological error, rather than the blatant disregard of policy that the complainants assert—he cannot be expected to receive penalty. Finally, Chief Justice Curl no longer serves as the Chief Justice of the University of Alabama Student Government Association. When he did, he was often seen in the Student Government Association office completing the office hour requirements stipulated in the guidelines of the office of Chief Justice. This fact can be verified by various members of the Student Government Association, the Student Government Association Advisor, and the Student Judicial Board Advisors.

ORDERS

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED: That no penalties be brought against former Chief Justice Matthew Curl for the allegations brought against him in Appeal 22-002 and Appeal 22-003.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED: That a confirmation of accuracy of the ACT Card scanner in the Student Government Association office take place to ensure that as few discrepancies of this nature take place in the future.

It is so ordered,

Caleb Thome

Chief Justice, Student Government Association