

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Label: SGAB-57007

Date introduced: July 15th, 2020

Author(s): Justice Desabhotla

Sponsor(s): Chief Justice Munoz, Senator Gil

Committee: Internal Affairs

Draft: Final

Electoral Justice and Efficiency Act

Whereas, there are some improvements needed in the current Bylaws and Election Code based on the 2020 SGA Election.

Therefore, be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

That Article 7(1)(7) (re-numbered) of the Election Code be amended to read:

“Clause 7. Candidate(s)/individuals may appeal their penalty or its severity before the Student Government Association Supreme Court or designated Election Trial Board.

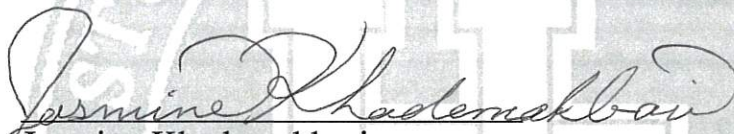
Appeals regarding Class A and Class D violations must be heard by the Supreme Court. The Court, after receiving appeals regarding Class B and Class C violations, may review the appeal and choose to hear the appeal in court, and may reject the appeal. A decision regarding a lack of merit cannot be appealed to any court and are considered final at the point of the Attorney General determining a lack of merit.”

Be it further enacted that Article 7, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Election Code be amended to read:

“Clause 2. The Supreme Court will not hear any election complaint appeal, **except for Class A and Class D complaint appeals**, if the appeal was not first heard by the Election Trial Board. The Election Trial Board will serve as the initial court of appeal on all election complaint appeals **that are not classified as Class A or Class D violations.**”

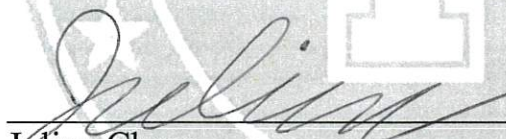
Be it further enacted that Title V, Article 1, Section 2, Clause 4 of the Bylaws be amended to read:

“All Student Government Association statutes, legislative instruments, all Executive Orders, Rules of Order, Rules of Court, and University regulations and policy will **be interpreted based upon their ordinary meaning, that is, the sense of a word or phrase that is most likely implicated in a given linguistic context** . If the **ordinary meaning** of a given provision cannot be determined beyond a preponderance of evidence and moral certainty, the Supreme Court will use the context of the provision, as well as general principles of justice and equity, to give full meaning to the provision in question.”


Jasmine Khademakbari

Student Government President

Date of President's Approval: 7/31/2020



Julian Cheng

Speaker of the Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 7/31/20

APPROVED