



June 10, 2019

Adam O'Neill
COGSSpeaker@fsu.edu

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

I received your appeal on Friday, May 3, 2019, for the Florida State University (FSU) Student Supreme Court Decision 2019-AP-02. The FSU Law Student Bar Association brought this action against the Congress of Graduate Students (COGS) and the COGS Speaker, appealing the decision to not fund the conference registration for the 2019 University of Virginia Law Softball Invitational.

After a careful review of your case record and all the materials submitted, I agree that this matter should be remanded to the Speaker for reconsideration. However, in doing so, I refer the Speaker to an additional provision of the COGS Administrative Code.

Article IX, Section 4 of the Student Body Constitution states that COGs shall have the authority to make its own internal Administrative Code, rules, and procedures that shall be set down in the COGS Administrative Code. COGS shall control its funds provided to it in section (2) of this article, and establish its own rules for its expenditures, subject to applicable Federal, State, Local, University, and Student Body Statutes laws. Pursuant to section 300.6(C) of the FSU Congress of Graduate Student Code, all Law School Council allocations, whether original allocations or after the fact amendments to the budget, shall require the signature of either the Speaker of COGS or the Deputy Speaker for Finance. The Speaker or Deputy Speaker may deny any allocation or amendment deemed excessive or irresponsible.

Provided that an allocation is otherwise in compliance with applicable statutory limitations, the Speaker or Deputy Speaker may approve it through their signature unless the Speaker or Deputy Speaker finds that the allocation should be not funded on the grounds stated above. The Speaker, in this case, found that the purposes for which the funds are to be used were not appropriate; however, it is unclear whether the Speaker specifically considered this provision of the Code in reaching that conclusion.

Accordingly, I remand this matter to the Speaker for consideration in a manner consistent with this determination. In doing so, I do not find it necessary that I reach a decision at this time on the remaining merits of the appeal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "amy Hecht".

Dr. Amy Hecht
Vice President

cc: Dr. Danielle Acosta, Student Governance & Advocacy
Dr. Allison H. Crume, Associate Vice President
Mr. Robert Large, Associate General Counsel