TO: Supervisor of Elections  
FROM: Elections Commission  
RE: Elections Commission Meeting  
Date: January 29, 2010  

Decision:

The violation against the Heritage Party was filed pursuant to Section 710.2 G. Therein, the respective parties are required to send a representative to a “mandatory Candidate Seminar” given by the Supervisor of Elections. The Heritage Party failed to have a representative at the seminar held January 27, 2010, at 7:00 P.M.

This failure was in direct conflict with the requirements of § 710.2 and under the Elections Code, the “candidates or parties who fail to attend the seminar shall lose their eligibility for office unless they show proof of class conflict or illness.”

The Heritage Party’s representative merely forgot to attend. This is not a sufficient excuse under the outline section and as such, there must be ramifications. The ramifications should be directed at the party for this campaign cycle.

Failing to allow the members of the former Heritage Party to participate in the Florida State University Student Government Association’s elections seems to be outside the purpose and intent of student government. As such, we have decided to allow the candidates, originally filed under the Heritage Party, to run as independent candidates without support from the
Heritage Party and are requiring the Heritage Party to be inactive during this campaign. This is our decision because there is very little authority to impose any other type of punishment. The failure to attend the candidate seminar is not a normal violation and fines are inappropriate.

The failure of the party should not deprive the FSU Student Body, the electorate that all SGA officials represent, from electing the otherwise qualified students they so choose. Barring all of the candidates whom failed to attend the seminar from this election would do a disservice to the process and not truly represent the students’ appropriately.

The significance of this decision should not be taken lightly. The code allows for all candidates who missed the candidate seminar to lose their eligibility for the current election. While the Elections Commission did not want to do that in this case, there is a good chance that if this is to happen again that will be the decision.

The Supervisor of Elections will host another candidate seminar for those candidates originally filed as Heritage Party Candidates at a date to be determined. This decision should not be used in the future as binding on any future Elections Commission hearing a similar violation. This should be limited to this specific violation, filed by Supervisor of Elections Andre Gooden, in January 2010.

Respectfully,

The Elections Commission without Member Pierce Burch.