



TO: Thomas Driscoll, Amplify Movement

FROM: Dr. Amy Hecht, *Vice President for Student Affairs* *Amy Hecht*

DATE: April 3, 2020

RE: Appeal Related to the Spring 2020 Student Government Association Election

The matter has come before me as a result of an appeal filed seeking review of a recent decision of the Florida State University Student Government Supreme Court related to the Spring 2020 Student Government Association election. Review has been requested by Thomas Driscoll following the decision of the Supreme Court related to their finding of the Amplify Movement in violation of Student Body Statutes 7116.C1. The Vice President for Student Affairs has appellate jurisdiction over decisions of the Student Supreme Court.

Student Body Statutes Chapter 700, The Election Code, outlines a process for parties and organizations to file alleged violations with the Supervisor of Elections to be heard, if necessary, by the Elections Commission with an appeal to the Supreme Court.

With regards to the first allegation filed by the Amplify Movement, the stolen banner from a sorority house, I do find it reasonable to suspect a competing political party to be responsible. Greek Houses consistently display banners, and they are not stolen. I am disappointed that, in this case, it seems the Amplify Movement decided, based on limited evidence, to name an individual as the perpetrator in this process. I agree with the Student Supreme Court that by naming an individual, it led to false claims aimed at hurting the opponent.

Unfortunately, as has been noted in the past, I am disappointed in both parties in how this situation was handled, from accusations, investigations by political parties, and then seeking to counter those accusations through the election commission when unfounded. While the Supervisor of Elections is the appropriate place to bring claims of poster/sign removal, criminal acts should be investigated through the police process and not by individual parties, nor by the Student Government election process. There is more important work to be pursued by our student leaders.

While both parties seem to have fueled animosity in this situation, I will not overturn the judgment of the Supreme Court in this case. As such, The Amplify Movement should remit payment of \$100 within two business days of receipt of this letter as required by Student

Statute. Payment should be made out to FSU SGA and mailed to: Florida State University, Student Government Association, MC 4027, Tallahassee, FL, 32306. Please coordinate proof of payment and postmark by the deadline with Dr. Acosta.

Notice of Appellate Rights: You may seek judicial review of this final University decision pursuant to Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure 9.190(b)(3), applicable to review of quasi-judicial decisions of an administrative body not subject to the Administrative Procedures Act, by filing a petition for certiorari review with the appropriate circuit court within thirty days of this final University decision. If you seek review with the court, you must also provide a copy of the petition to the following university office or official: Ms. Angela Jackson, Office of the General Counsel, 424 Westcott Building, 222 S. Copeland Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32306-1400.

cc: Danielle Acosta, Student Engagement
Carolyn Egan, University General Counsel
Angela Jackson, Agency Clerk