EDD 01-25-26

Kleinschmidt v. Sterns Opinion

On Tuesday, February 10th, the Judicial Branch decided that Senator Noah Sterns violated Section 9(c) of the Election Rules. This section states that "the discussion of potential or actual candidates will be strictly prohibited in the USG office." After the Judicial Branch discussed the information provided to us by the complainant Eliza Kleinschmidt, defendant Noah Sterns, and witness Ryan Kasik, we found that a violation of the Election Rules did indeed occur, and we ruled that the violation falls within level one of sanctions as seen in section 15(e)(i)(a) of the Election Rules.

This decision comes as a result of the information we received from each party. Senator Sterns admitted in his statement to continuing to ask about Senator Kleinschmidt's status in the USG Spring Election after Senate Chair Kasik had warned against discussing the topic in the office. At this point, others had left the office to discuss such topics further, showing an understanding of this section of the Election Rules. This means that Senator Sterns knowingly and willingly violated section 9(c) of the election rules. It should be noted, however, that Senator Sterns has, since this incident, stopped all discussion of the election in the USG office. As such, we do not wish to enact a significant sanction, but, as a violation has occurred, something must be done about this.

The Judicial Branch hopes that this decision will serve as a reminder that we have strong rules in place to ensure that the Undergraduate Student Government has clean and fair elections. Discussion of the USG Election has no place in the USG office, and the Judicial Branch decrees this so.

We recommend that, under the first level of sanctions, Senator Sterns review the election rules. We hope that this review will serve as a reminder of how important our Election Rules are without being too harsh a repercussion for a mistake well understood by Senator Sterns.

Respectfully,

Executive Justice Reimer

Associate Justice Adams

Associate Justice Geib

Associate Justice Groen

Associate Justice Jones

Associate Justice Papatonis

*This opinion was written following the Judicial Branch meeting on 2/10/2025 and was written by Executive Justice Reimer. This opinion was reviewed and approved by the signees prior to being sent out.