



ASUCI Judicial Board

“The Judicial Board has final judicial authority for ASUCI, which extends to all cases arising under the governing documents of ASUCI, all official actions of ASUCI officials and staff, and any matters delegated to the Judicial Board by the Senate or Student Advocate General.”

Opinion on Interim Term Duration for Senators Who Have Switched Schools

November 6, 2024

KARATAS, Z.; MALANI, A.; and RINGDAHL, N. delivered the opinion of the Judicial Board. BOLEK, C.; MARIN R.; MENG, S.; and MOVAHEDI, N. agree with what is written.

I

On September 26, 2024, the Judicial Board was requested by Senate President Harshvardhan Rathore to review Article IV of the ASUCI Bylaws, specifically regarding the stipulation concerning interim terms for school-based Senators who had changed their majors and no longer were students within the school that they were originally elected or appointed to represent. The petition, in particular, requested the Board to determine whether a Senator, who had sent notice of their change of major on September 13, would serve the remainder of the Fall Quarter on an interim basis or would have to vacate their seat.

When determining our ruling, the Judicial Board considered the ending and beginning dates of Summer Session II and the Fall 2024 academic quarters, respectively. Within the context of

the academic year, we found that the Senator’s notification of the school change occurred after the Summer Session II quarter had concluded. Given this timeline, the Judicial Board concludes that the Senator who changed schools does not need to vacate their position until the end of the 2023-24 Fall Quarter.

II

Article IV, Section D.1 of the ASUCI Bylaws specifies that “[i]f a school-based Senator changes majors and no longer is a student in the school they were originally elected or appointed to represent, they will serve, on an interim basis” (ASUCI Bylaws). The Judicial Board interprets the circumstances brought forth to align with the description defined in this Article, and so we used the instructions laid out when reasoning. Moreover, Article IV, Section D.1 of the ASUCI Bylaws states that a Senator in these conditions shall “maintain their seats until the end of their term of office the quarter [in which] the change occurred” (ASUCI Bylaws). Hence, we have determined that the Senator, in this case, is subject to maintain their position until the end of this Fall Quarter.

III

Therefore, the Judicial Board finds that Senators who change their major, resulting in them no longer being part of the school in which they were originally elected, are not required to vacate their seat until the end of the quarter in which the change occurred. If the change of major has specifically occurred after Summer Session II has concluded, the Senator may retain their seat through the fall quarter.

It is so ordered.

Appendix

Relevant Sections of the ASUCI Bylaws

As of the writing of this opinion, Article IV. Section D.1 of the ASUCI Bylaws read as follows:

Article IV. Senate Responsibilities

Section D. Change of School

1. “If a school-based Senator changes majors and no longer is a student in the school they were originally elected or appointed to represent, they will serve, on an interim basis, to maintain their seats until the end of their term of office the quarter during the change occurred.”