

Dear Student Body,

The Undergraduate Student Government Judicial Panel is charged with ensuring the integrity of the undergraduate student elections. In the recent events surrounding the issue of Clerk vs. OSU Divest, we ruled in accordance with the USG election by-laws in that the lack of circulation signatures on OSU Divest's petition entitled "Issue One" invalidated the overwhelming majority of their petition pages and determined that Issue One would not be on this year's election ballot.

This ruling still stands and the by-laws were clear on this particular hearing. However, given that the Judicial Panel acknowledges the presence of procedural error in the handling of this case (most notably the timing of the hearing to determine the validity of Issue One which was held the day before elections & the fact that the petition was confirmed without the presence of a circulator spot on the page), and given that the panel is responsible for maintaining fair elections, the Judicial Panel feels that the procedural errors present in this case were unjust.

As an independent initiative that did not have previous ties to USG, OSU Divest's Issue One lacked accessibility to familiarity of USG processes and procedures in securing an initiative on the ballot. This independent status hindered their ability to understand the by-laws in the same manner that we as a panel interpreted them.

The students of OSU Divest have been systematically stifled by the bureaucracy and procedural errors that have marked this case, which have not been the whole responsibility of the Judicial Panel. The students in OSU Divest are entitled to freedom of speech and representation within **their** Undergraduate Student Government.

To ensure fairness and student representation in this case, the Judicial Panel is instituting a special election as the only body charged with handling the entirety of undergraduate student elections. This will not disrupt the results of the election that is currently occurring. Rather, this special election will be held at a later date: March 30<sup>th</sup>-April 1st. As in the current elections, all undergraduate students are allowed and encouraged to vote.

The Judicial Panel is not and has never been against free speech and does not discriminate against any student group. We apologize that the decision we made in Clerk vs. OSU Divest was so controversial and gave invalid implications that we wanted to censure OSU Divest or any other student group. This is the opposite of who we are as individuals and as a collective panel.

We call upon the rest of USG, namely the General Assembly to approve the issuance of a special election. We also call upon President Celia Wright and Vice President Leah Lacure (who have expressed their concerns about OSU Divest's voice being blocked) to aid us in the assurance of fairness and integrity of elections and allow OSU Divest the chance to express their student voice via the special election on Issue One.

Additionally, due to the fact that elections are still in progress, further information on the disqualified senate candidates will be provided post-election. Ensuring that they get a fair chance at representation in USG is and will continue to be a priority.

We look forward to welcoming the vote on Issue One

Thank You,

The Undergraduate Student Government Judicial Panel  
Chief Justice Brandon Cruz  
As written by Justice Andrew Braun