



Dear Student Body,

We are writing this with much frustration and regret for the situation that is unfolding regarding the ballot initiative introduced by OSU Divest and the removal of three senators from the ballot.

Throughout this process, we have been alarmed and disturbed by the lack of efficiency and attentiveness in the Judicial Panel's (JP) handling of the issue since its inception. Unfortunately, our grievances have not been actionable, as the Constitution clearly separates the JP from the Executive and Legislative branches, which are under the purview of the President and Vice President, respectively.

Numerous options for intervention by our Executive and Legislative branches that we have considered have been waylaid by the separation of powers between our branches and the JP, which exist to protect the integrity of elections from the influence of those in other branches who may have campaign interests. We apologize to the student body for our inability thus far to mitigate harm to the community as a result of JP actions, which are currently under review by several parties.

On Wednesday, March 4th, the General Assembly approved our resolution to convene a Constitution and Bylaws Review Committee as allowed by the Constitution (Article VII:B.), in order to address the conflicting interpretations of the governing documents to ensure the process of ballot initiatives and referenda are clarified and this type of situation is avoided in the future.

Until this point, we, as President and Vice President, have respected the constitutional autonomy of the JP in spite of concerns that have been expressed throughout this process. However, we can no longer allow the actions of one branch of our government to imply at best, gross incompetence, and at worst, bias of USG as a whole. We continue to seek ways to rectify this issue, and denounce the actions taken by the JP that have resulted in a non-transparent and extremely frustrating process for students invested in this issue.

As of this afternoon, we have filed for the impeachment of the Chief Justice of the Judicial Panel as a result of what we perceive to be several breaches of Constitution, Organizational Bylaws, and Elections Bylaws throughout this process. We have also been in touch with the President of OSU Divest to hear concerns regarding this process, and are committed to ensuring that the ability of students to express their voice is restored.

Finally, we are appalled that someone with access to the USG twitter account has blocked individuals who have expressed criticism of this process. This does not align with our organizational value of openness and inclusion. As we have dealt several times with concerns regarding the security of our social media accounts, we believe that this was not a member of our organization but rather an outside party who is no longer a member of USG and should not have retained access. Regardless, we take responsibility for this offensive act and will continue to investigate the situation to determine responsibly and take punitive action where necessary.

In the meantime, we deeply apologize to the student body for the unacceptable duress caused by a branch of our organization.

Sincerely,

Celia Wright, President, Undergraduate Student Government

Leah Lacure, Vice President, Undergraduate Student Government

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