

PETITION FOR FULL COURT HEARING

YOUR CASE WILL BE HEARD WITHIN TEN (10) SCHOOL DAYS FROM THE DATE OF PROPER FILING WITH THE SGA CLERK OF COURT. YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED AS TO DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF THE COURT HEARING.

Plaintiff: Aaron J. Jordan

Plaintiff's Phone Number: 504-491-0253

Plaintiff's Student ID Number: 2212794

Defendant: UNOSGA Senate & Vice President of Legislative Affairs Azizah Hinnawi

COMPLAINT (include all important information, i.e. facts, dates, times, witnesses, etc.):

~~On August 31, 2022, the Plaintiff was placed on the Agenda of the SGA Senate for consideration to be appointed to an open Senate seat {Exhibit A}. The Plaintiff was notified about the SGA Senate Meeting through an e-mail dated August 30, 2022, from the Vice President of Legislative Affairs Azizah Hinnawi. However, when the Plaintiff looked at the SGA's website, he noticed that the last Agenda posted for the general public to access was dated May 11, 2022 {Exhibit B}. Further, as of the date of the filing of this Petition, the Agenda for the SGA Senate Meeting of August 31, 2022, is still not posted for public access on the SGA's website {Exhibit B}. On August 31, 2022, after the Plaintiff gave a 3 minute speech, numerous SGA Senators had questions to ask the Plaintiff, as his speech had apparently generated much interest and controversy. The SGA Senate then voted to extend the questioning period for an additional 3 minutes. When the second 3 minute round of questions ended, Vice President of Legislative Affairs Azizah Hinnawi abruptly and unilaterally ended the questioning period and would not allow SGA Senators to extend to a further third 3 minute round of questions. At this point, the Plaintiff left the room and waited outside as the SGA Senate considered and debated his appointment. At some point, a group of Freshmen students, who had been observing the SGA Senate, exited the room and expressed their displeasure at being "kicked out" because the SGA Senate went into Executive Session to discuss the Plaintiff's appointment. At some point later, the Plaintiff was called back into the room by Assistant Director Todd Gitlin. Vice President of Legislative Affairs Azizah Hinnawi then informed the Plaintiff that he had not been appointed to the SGA Senate.~~

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SGA Supreme Court Complaint Form C-001

Case Number #122-1

Specific Violation(s) Alleged (Be sure to include any and all applicable SGA Constitutional provisions, SGA Code(s) of Law(s) and SGA Senate Rules and Procedures. Be sure to note the Article, Section, and Subsections to which you are referring.):

~~The Plaintiff submits to this Court that there were several procedural violations of the SGA Senate Rules and Procedures and The Louisiana Open Meetings Law committed by the SGA Senate and the Vice President of Legislative Affairs Azizah Hinnawi during the Senate's debate and consideration regarding the appointment of the Plaintiff to the SGA Senate. First, the SGA Senate Rules and Procedures Section 3.9,, Subsection 3.9.2, states that Executive Sessions are governed by R.S. 42:16, 42:17, and 42:18 of The Louisiana Open Meetings Law, R.S. 42:16 of The Louisiana Open Meetings Law states in pertinent part that, "A public body may hold executive sessions upon an affirmative vote, taken at an open meeting for which notice has been given pursuant to R.S. 42:19." R.S. 42:19(b)(i) states that, "All public bodies, except the legislature and its committees and subcommittees, shall give written public notice of any regular, special, or rescheduled meeting no later than twenty-four hours before the meeting." Therefore, since the SGA Senate and the Vice President of Legislative Affairs Azizah Hinnawi failed to timely post a 24-hour notice of the Agenda for the August 31, 2022, SGA Senate Meeting to its website, notifying the public of said SGA Senate Meeting, an Executive Session could not have been legally entered into. It is important to note that, for the purposes of The Louisiana Open Meetings Law, the term "legislature" refers to the Louisiana State Legislature and not any legislative body, such as the SGA Senate. Also, R.S. 42:17(1) states in pertinent part that, "Discussion of the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of a person, provided that such person is notified in writing at least twenty-four hours before the meeting and that such person may require that such discussion be held at an open meeting. However, nothing in this Paragraph shall permit an executive session for discussion of the appointment of a person to a public body..." Therefore, since neither the SGA Senate nor the Vice President of Legislative Affairs Azizah Hinnawi notified the Plaintiff 24-hours prior of an Executive Session to discuss his character, professional competence, or physical or mental health, an Executive Session could not have been legally entered into on August 31, 2022, during the SGA Senate's debate and consideration to appoint the Plaintiff to the SGA Senate. (SEE ATTACHMENT)~~

(ATTACHMENT)

Additionally, R.S. 14:17(1) states in pertinent part that, "However, nothing in this Paragraph shall permit an executive session for discussion of the appointment of a person to a public body..." Therefore, since the SGA Senate was discussing the appointment of the Plaintiff to the SGA Senate, which is a public body, the SGA Senate could not have legally entered into an Executive Session to discuss the appointment of the Plaintiff on August 31, 2022. Furthermore, R.S. 14:17(1) states in pertinent part that, "... and that such person may require that such discussion be held at an open meeting." However, neither the SGA Senate nor the Vice President of Legislative Affairs Azizah Hinnawi provided the Plaintiff with the legal option on August 31, 2022, to have the portion of the debate heard during an Executive Session, to instead be heard during an open meeting. This failure on the part of the SGA Senate and the Vice President of Legislative Affairs Azizah Hinnawi to allow the Plaintiff to choose an open meeting, rather than an Executive Session, is a violation of R.S. 14:17(1) of The Louisiana Open Meetings Law. Further, SGA Rules and Procedures 3.7.10 Nominations and Appointees, Subsection 3.7.10.1, states in pertinent part that, "Any senator has the right to question any nominee or appointment in which a senate confirmation vote is needed. Any nominee or appointment shall have the opportunity to speak on the matter if they so choose to." Therefore, since there were clearly additional SGA Senators who still had questions to ask the Plaintiff during the questioning sessions on August 31, 2022, the Vice President of Legislative Affairs Azizah Hinnawi abused her authority by unilaterally ending any further questioning. As previously stated in this Complaint, the SGA Senators had voted to extend the first 3 minute round of questioning to a second 3 minute round. When the second 3 minute round expired, the Plaintiff was finishing up one answer and was in the process of moving on to accept another Senator's question when Vice President of Legislative Affairs Azizah Hinnawi abruptly and unilaterally stopped any further questions or answers or the ability of interested Senators to extend to a third 3 minute round of questioning. This is despite the fact that the Plaintiff was willing to answer additional questions and Senators clearly had additional questions to ask the Plaintiff. The Plaintiff submits to this Court that this is a violation of SGA Rules and Procedures 3.7.10.1 by the Vice President of Legislative Affairs Azizah Hinnawi. The Plaintiff further submits to this Court that if, in fact, additional rounds of questions would have been allowed by the Vice President of Legislative Affairs Azizah Hinnawi, the Plaintiff could have answered the questions of additional Senators and the need to move into an Executive Session could have been eliminated.

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Remedies Sought By Plaintiff (Please state here what you would like the Court to rule.):

~~The Plaintiff petitions this Court to find that the procedures taken by the SGA Senate and Vice President of Legislative Affairs Azizah Hinnawi during the SGA Senate Meeting of August 31, 2022, regarding the appointment of the Plaintiff to the SGA Senate, violated the SGA Senate Rules and Procedures. Therefore, the SGA Senate and Vice President of Legislative Affairs Azizah Hinnawi should be Ordered by this Court to place the Plaintiff on the next available SGA Senate Agenda for new consideration for appointment to the SGA Senate.~~

AFFIRMATION

I, Aaron J. Jordan, do hereby swear that the information contained above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Plaintiff: 

Date Signed: September 6, 2022

YOU MUST PRESENT TEN (10) COPIES OF THIS FORM TO THE SGA CLERK OF COURT AT THE TIME OF FILING.

For SGA Clerk of Court Use Only:

Date Compliant Received: 09/06/2022

Date Notice of Complaint served upon Defendant: 09/07/2022

Method of Service: Email 

PETITION FOR FULL COURT HEARING

Supreme Court Signatures

Granted/Date:

SGA Supreme Court

Denied/Date:

Dwayne J. Crenshaw Sep 13, 2022
Dwayne J. Crenshaw (Sep 13, 2022 12:16 CDT)

Aliyah E Boyle Sep 13, 2022
Aliyah E Boyle (Sep 13, 2022 13:25 EDT)

Aishah Abdalah Sep 14, 2022
Aishah Abdalah (Sep 14, 2022 00:02 CDT)

Selina Rollins Sep 15, 2022
Selina Rollins (Sep 15, 2022 08:29 CDT)

SGA Supreme Court

For SGA Clerk of Court Use Only:

Date Petition of Hearing Received: _____

Date Court Received: _____

Method of Service: _____

Exhibit A



Student Government Association Senate
Wednesday, August 31, 2022
Session Agenda

- I. Call the meeting to order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of the Agenda
- IV. Approval of the Minutes
- V. Communications and Announcements
 - a. Senators
 - b. Non-Senators
- VI. Executive Reports, Judicial Reports, Advisor Reports
 - a. President
 - b. Vice-President
 - c. Vice-President of Legislative Affairs
 - d. Vice-President of Programming
 - e. Judicial
 - f. Advisors
- VII. New Business
 - a. Procedural Amendment
 - I. Amendment 1
- VIII. Nominations and Appointments
 - a. Committee Head Nominees
 - I. Parliamentarian
 - I. Jenna Hymel
 - II. Chief Financial Officer
 - I. Cooper Lemons
 - III. Chief Communications Officer
 - I. Daniel Hunsaker
 - IV. ~~President Pro Tempore~~
 - b. Senator Appointments
 - I. Michael Brown
 - II. Mathieu Ricciardo
 - III. Adam Peters
 - IV. Aaron Jordan
- IX. Open Forum
- X. Adjournment

Exhibit B

