

March 13, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Supreme Court Files
FROM: Angel Ortega, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
RE: Spring 2026 Supreme Court

This memorandum formally records and certifies the members of the Supreme Court for the Spring 2026 Term, following the appointment of the new Supreme Court justices on March 12, 2026. This memorandum serves to ensure an accurate historical record of the Court's composition.

SPRING 2026 SUPREME COURT:

Angel Ortega

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

Andrew Vernon

Chief Justice Pro Temp. of the Supreme Court

Brendan Dunlop

Associate Justice of the Supreme Court

Evelyn Perez Martínez
Associate Justice of the Supreme Court

Danapaola Ríncon
Associate Justice of the Supreme Court

Adán Rosales
Attorney General

For the Court,

Angel Ortega
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

March 16, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION RECORD

Administrative Session called to order at 5:03 PM by Chief Justice Ortega. Administrative Session convened at the SGA Conference Room.

Justices Present: Chief Justice Ortega, Chief Justice Pro Temp. Vernon, Justice Dunlop, Justice Perez Martinez, Justice Rincon.

Justices Absent:

Other Officers Present: Senior Coordinator Chavez, Attorney General Rosales, Vice President Madrid.

First Order of Business: Court Administrative Practices

Chief Justice Ortega expressed his goal to implement a Judicial Book this semester. Chief Justice Ortega briefly discussed the Supreme Court Agenda and Session Records practices. The official 03-13-26 Memo, certifying the members of this Court as of March 12, 2026, was presented. After members of the Court introduced themselves, Chief Justice Ortega discussed Judicial term limits and other Judicial norms. Senior Coordinator Chavez discussed the role of SGA, common practices within

the Association, SGA leadership, along with an overview of the Spring '26 Election Season. The Court voted to adopt timeline "A" as the Spring '26 Election Timeline. Senior Coordinator Chavez will provide a copy of this timeline to the Court at a later time.

Justices were introduced to the Standing and Ad-Hoc committees and the respective Justice membership requirements. **ACTION ITEM: Justices shall submit two committee selections by March 20, 2026 to Chief Justice Ortega.**

Second Order of Business: Governing Documents

Justices were advised that the Court will only interpret the current and active governing documents. The *Supreme Court Procedures* and *Supreme Court Guidelines for Administrative Sessions Decorum* will be submitted to Advisor Dr. McCorry for final approval and adoption. The Court will review the amended *Ethics Code* for approval at the next Administrative Session. The Justices will agree on a date and time to review this document.

Final Order of Business: Adjournment

Administrative Session adjourned at 6:14 PM by Chief Justice Ortega. Vice President Madrid provided the new Justices with a brief tour of the SGA Office following adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

A stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'A', a cursive 'J', and a circle with a dot, representing 'AJO'.

Angel Ortega

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

cc: Supreme Court Files

March 25, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION RECORD

Administrative Session was **not convened** due to failure to meet quorum as required by the governing documents of the Supreme Court of the Student Government Association.

The Chief Justice was present at the scheduled meeting time and location; however, quorum was not achieved. Accordingly, **no official business was conducted**, no actions were taken, and no items were entered into the record as adopted or decided.

Justices Present: Chief Justice Ortega, Justice Rincon.

Justices Absent: Chief Justice Pro Temp. Vernon, Justice Dunlop (EXCUSED), Justice Perez Martínez.

Other Officers Present: Senior Coordinator Chavez, Attorney General Rosales

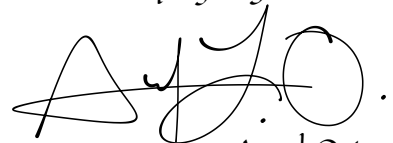
Although the Administrative Session could not be convened, general discussion occurred informally among the Justices present. The discussion was limited to:

- Preliminary review of Articles I-IV of the Ethics Code
- Consideration of proposed amendments currently in draft form

These discussions were non-binding, advisory in nature, and did not constitute official deliberation of the Supreme Court.

As quorum was not met, the Administrative Session was **not called to order**, and no adjournment was necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Ortega', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Angel Ortega

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

cc: Supreme Court Files

March 26, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chief Justice Pro Temp. Vernon, Justice Dunlop, Justice Perez Martínez, Justice Ríncon
FROM: Chief Justice Ortega
RE: Immediate Action Required – Quorum Expectations Moving Forward

Colleagues,

Yesterday's failure to meet quorum was unacceptable. Justice Dunlop was properly excused due to class; however, the remaining absences prevented the Supreme Court from convening.

I want to be very clear: while I am glad this served as a wake-up call, it is a lesson we should not have needed. The Supreme Court cannot function, cannot conduct business, and cannot uphold its responsibilities when Justices do not attend scheduled Administrative Sessions. That reflects directly on our reliability as a Judicial Branch.

Let me be explicit about expectations moving forward:

- *Attendance is mandatory unless excused in advance.*
- *Administrative Sessions are a priority.*
- *Quorum is the minimum standard for us to operate.*

We also have pending business that must be addressed before election training next week. For that reason, plan to remain a few minutes past 6 PM at our next Administrative Session. We will not go past 6:45 PM, but we *will* complete the work that should already be behind us.

Our legitimacy depends on consistency, presence, and professionalism. Yesterday made that painfully clear. I expect us to move forward with a higher level of discipline and no ambiguity about our responsibilities.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Ortega', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the left.

Angel Ortega

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

cc: Attorney General Rosales
Senior Coordinator Chavez

March 30, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION RECORD

Administrative Session called to order at 5:14 PM by Chief Justice Ortega. Administrative Session convened at the SGA Conference Room.

Justices Present: Chief Justice Ortega, Justice Dunlop, Justice Perez Martinez, Justice Rincon

Justices Absent: Chief Justice Pro Temp. Vernon

Other Officers Present: Senior Coordinator Chavez, Attorney General Rosales, Senate Majority Leader Triana, Senator Gonzalez

First Order of Business: Fall 2026 General Election Training

The Fall 2026 Supreme Court and Advisory Board Election Training was conducted by Senior Coordinator Chavez. Mr. Chavez briefly overviewed the SGA Election Code with all members and trained members on how to navigate through MineTracker when reviewing applications and submissions. This portion of the Administrative session concluded at 6:39 PM (MST). **After a closed session, the Court determined that the Executive Candidate Debate shall be from 2:00 to 5:00 PM (MST) on Monday, April 20, 2026 at the Union Cinema.** The Court has agreed to review a date

and time for the Candidate Information Sessions and establish predetermined sanctions for violations of the Election Code with the Advisory Board at the Court's next Administrative Session.

Second Order of Business: Appointment of Ethics Committee Standing Members

At this point in the session, the Court entered closed session. All officers present who are not members of the Court were dismissed. Chief Justice Ortega opened the floor for nominations to the SGA Ethics Committee. Self-nominations were submitted by Justice Dunlop, Justice Perez Martínez, and Justice Rincon. Justices of the Court unanimously agreed to waive the sealed-ballot voting process. The Court notes that current procedures do not specify whether Justices may cast votes for themselves. The Chief Justice permitted self-voting for this proceeding. No deliberation was required. The Chief Justice, acting as presiding officer, abstained from voting. After voting, Justice Dunlop and Justice Rincon were duly confirmed. A formal memorandum shall be delivered to the appropriate parties by Chief Justice Ortega.

Vote Record:

Chief Justice Ortega – Abstained

Chief Justice Pro Temp. Vernon – Not present to vote

Justice Dunlop – 3 votes

Justice Perez Martínez – 1 vote

Justice Rincon – 2 votes

Third Order of Business: Code of Ethics & Committee

The Court reviewed the proposed revisions to the Code of Ethics originally drafted by the Fall 2025 Supreme Court. While numerous administrative and structural revisions were included in that draft, Justice Dunlop noted the need to address one pressing issue prior to the start of the election period. He proposed that the Court limit its immediate consideration to the amendment concerning anonymous reporting, with the remaining revisions to be taken up at a later date.

In accordance with the amendment procedures outlined in the current Ethics Code, the Court discussed and deliberated the proposed change and will place it on the agenda for a vote at the next official session.

Justice Ortega expressed a preference for adopting the full set of revisions at once for clarity and consistency but concurred with the proposal to advance only the pressing amendment at this time, emphasizing that the Court's work reflects the collective judgment of all Justices.

Rationale for Removing Anonymous Reporting:

The Court identified several concerns that warrant eliminating anonymous reporting as an allowable method of submission:

- ***Inability to obtain evidence or clarification:*** Anonymous submissions prevent the Court or Ethics Committee from requesting supporting documentation, clarification, or testimony necessary to evaluate a complaint.
- ***Right of the accused to know the accuser:*** Respondents are entitled to understand the nature and source of allegations brought against them to ensure fairness and due process.
- ***Risk of malicious or retaliatory filings:*** Anonymous reporting increases the likelihood of unfounded, retaliatory, or bad-faith complaints that cannot be properly vetted.
- ***Lack of accountability:*** Without identifiable reporting parties, the Committee cannot ensure that complainants act in good faith or adhere to ethical standards.
- ***Procedural inefficiency:*** Anonymous reports often require additional investigative steps that cannot be completed without a known reporting party, delaying resolution.

The Court affirmed that confidentiality protections and redaction methods will be used to safeguard sensitive information while maintaining the integrity and accountability of the reporting process.

Final Order of Business: Adjournment

Administrative Session adjourned at 7:34 PM by Chief Justice Ortega.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Ortega', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Angel Ortega

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

cc: Supreme Court Files

March 31, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. McCorry, SGA Advisor
FROM: Angel Ortega, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
RE: Appointment of Standing Members to the Ethics Committee

This memorandum serves to formally record the appointment of two of the Supreme Court Justices who will serve on the Ethics Committee as permanent and standing members alongside Attorney General Rosales, as required by the Ethics Code of the UTEP Student Government Association. The Chief Justice and Pro-Tempore are ineligible due to mandatory recusal provisions. The following shall reflect the decision made by the Supreme Court:

Appointed Standing Members: Justice Dunlop & Justice Rincon

These appointments shall remain in effect for the duration of their term unless a vacancy, recusal, or reconstitution of the bench requires reassignment. The Court remains available to clarify procedural questions within the bounds of judicial neutrality.

For the Court,



Angel Ortega

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

cc: Senior Coordinator Chavez

Attorney General Rosales

President Boatright

Senate Majority Leader Triana

Chief Justice Pro Temp. Vernon

Justice Dunlop

Justice Perez Martinez

Justice Rincon

April 06, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION RECORD

Administrative Session called to order at 5:11 PM by Justice Perez Martinez. Administrative Session convened at the SGA Conference Room.

Justices Present: Justice Dunlop, Justice Perez Martinez, Justice Rincon

Justices Absent: Chief Justice Ortega, Chief Justice Pro Temp. Vernon

Other Officers Present: Senior Coordinator Chavez, Attorney General Rosales, Senate Majority Leader Triana, Senator Gonzalez

First Order of Business: Spring 2026 Election Planning

The Spring 2026 Election Planning was conducted by Senior Coordinator Chavez and Attorney General Rosales. During this portion of the session, the Court collaborated to determine availability for facilitating training sessions for candidates seeking election.

After discussion, the Justices agreed upon the following training schedule:

- ***Tuesday, April 14, 2026: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM***
- ***Wednesday, April 15, 2026: 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (Lottery)***

- **Friday, April 17, 2026: 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM (Virtual / Make-up Session)**

The Court required a majority of Justices to be present at Candidate Information Sessions, with Advisory Board attendance remaining optional. This portion of the session concluded at 5:39 PM (MST), after which the Court entered closed session.

Second Order of Business: Code of Ethics and Procedural Review

The Court continued its review of the proposed revisions to the Code of Ethics originally introduced by the Fall 2025 Supreme Court. Building upon prior discussions, the Court revisited several administrative and structural provisions in preparation for the upcoming election period.

The Justices further addressed general procedural considerations related to the implementation and enforcement of the revised Code. Following discussion, the Court voted unanimously to authorize the Chief Justice to proceed with the necessary revisions prior to formal presentation.

Vote Record:

Chief Justice Ortega – Not present to vote

Chief Justice Pro Temp. Vernon – Not present to vote

Justice Dunlop – In favor

Justice Perez Martínez – In favor

Justice Rincon – In favor

Rationale for Removing Anonymous Reporting:

The Court identified several concerns that warrant eliminating anonymous reporting as an allowable method of submission:

- **Inability to obtain evidence or clarification:** Anonymous submissions prevent the Court or Ethics Committee from requesting supporting documentation, clarification, or testimony necessary to evaluate a complaint.
- **Right of the accused to know the accuser:** Respondents are entitled to understand the nature and source of allegations brought against them to ensure fairness and due process.
- **Risk of malicious or retaliatory filings:** Anonymous reporting increases the likelihood of unfounded, retaliatory, or bad-faith complaints that cannot be properly vetted.

- **Lack of accountability:** Without identifiable reporting parties, the Committee cannot ensure that complainants act in good faith or adhere to ethical standards.
- **Procedural inefficiency:** Anonymous reports often require additional investigative steps that cannot be completed without a known reporting party, delaying resolution.

The Court affirmed that confidentiality protections and redaction methods will be used to safeguard sensitive information while maintaining the integrity and accountability of the reporting process.

Final Order of Business: Adjournment

Administrative Session adjourned at 6:06 PM by Justice Perez Martínez.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Evelyn I. Perez Martínez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Evelyn I. Perez Martínez
Justice of the Supreme Court

cc: Supreme Court Files

April 13, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION RECORD

Administrative Session called to order at X:XX PM by Chief Justice Ortega. Administrative Session convened via PAPER MEETING.

Justices Present: Chief Justice Ortega, Justice Dunlop, Justice Perez Martinez, Justice Rincon

Justices Absent: Chief Justice Pro Temp. Vernon

Other Officers Present: Attorney General Rosales

First Order of Business: Spring 2026 General Elections Planning

Members of the Court confirmed their presence to the three (3) Candidate Information Sessions to ensure quorum requirements are met. Candidates also voted on the following motions via Google Forms:

- Chief Justice Ortega moved to adopt the Spring 2026 Elections Candidate Information Session Presentation drafted by himself.
- Chief Justice Ortega moved to "appoint" Attorney General Rosales as Debate Moderator in the event that an El Paso civic leader is unable to attend.

- Chief Justice Ortega moved to adopt the Spring 2026 Elections Debate Itinerary drafted by himself.
- Chief Justice Ortega moved to PROHIBIT THE USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES by Executive Candidates during their debating period.
- Chief Justice Ortega moved to adopt the Spring 2026 Elections Predetermined Sanctions list drafted by himself.
- Chief Justice Ortega moved to host a Virtual Vote Verification (seminar style: no discussion) and permit Candidate presence.

All matters referenced above were adopted by a unanimous vote of the members present.

Second Order of Business: Appointment of Chief Justice Pro Tempore

Nominations submitted:

- Two (2) nominations for Justice Dunlop
- One (1) nomination for Justice Perez Martinez
- One (1) nomination for Justice Rincon

Vote shall be conducted via email after nominations have closed.

Final Order of Business: Adjournment

Administrative Session adjourned at 7:00 PM by Chief Justice Ortega.

Respectfully submitted,



Angel Ortega

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

cc: Supreme Court Files

Opinion of the Court

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

No. 2026-EL-001

ALLAN BAI, *PETITIONER* v. UTEP SGA

ON PETITION FOR HEARING

April 14, 2026

CHIEF JUSTICE ORTEGA delivered the opinion of the Court, in which JUSTICE DUNLOP and JUSTICE PEREZ MARTINEZ joined.

I. Procedural Posture

On April 13, 2026, the Petitioner submitted to this Court a *Petition for Hearing with Emergency Circumstances* challenging the administrative denial of his candidacy application for the Spring 2026 General Election. The petition was received by the Chief Justice the same day and docketed for preliminary review on April 14, 2026. The Petitioner seeks judicial intervention to overturn the administrative determination and to be placed on the ballot as a formal candidate.

The petition submitted by the Petitioner is appended to this Opinion as Appendix A.

II. Background

Given the imminence of the Spring 2026 General Election and the need for timely clarification of the Petitioner's status, the Court granted *emergency review* pursuant to its authority under the Election Code. Emergency review permits expedited judicial consideration but does not predetermine the necessity of a preliminary hearing or the availability of the relief requested.

III. Jurisdiction

The Supreme Court of the Student Government Association possesses jurisdiction over disputes arising under the Election Code, including appeals of administrative decisions affecting candidacy, ballot access, and the interpretation of governing documents. The Court finds that this petition, which challenges the administrative denial of a candidacy application, presents an election-related dispute squarely within the scope of its jurisdiction.

IV. Disposition on Preliminary Hearing

Although emergency review was granted, the Court declines to convene a preliminary hearing. The issues presented are purely legal, the material facts are undisputed, and the administrative record is sufficient for resolution. No additional testimony or evidentiary development would aid the Court in its deliberations or alter the outcome. A preliminary hearing is therefore unwarranted.

The Court notes, however, that the governing documents afford parties the right to *request* a preliminary hearing. Such a request must identify specific factual disputes or evidentiary matters requiring resolution through a hearing. The mere desire for a hearing, without meeting the legal threshold, does not obligate the Court to convene one.

V. Background

The Election Code establishes a mandatory filing deadline for all candidacy applications. The Petitioner submitted his application approximately fifty minutes after the deadline. The application was rejected as untimely by the administrative office responsible for candidate eligibility verification.

The Petitioner asserts that his late submission should be excused due to technical barriers and disability-related impediments. He seeks recognition as a formal candidate on the ballot.

VI. Analysis

A. The Filing Deadline Is Mandatory

The Election Code establishes a fixed and unambiguous filing deadline for all candidacy applications. Such deadlines serve essential purposes: ensuring orderly administration, enabling timely eligibility verification, and preserving fairness among all applicants. The Petitioner submitted his application approximately fifty minutes after the deadline. It is not the Court's intention to waive or retroactively extend a missed filing deadline for the purpose of placing a candidate on the ballot.

B. The Petitioner Has Not Produced Evidence Supporting an Exception

The Petitioner asserts that his late submission should be excused due to technical barriers and disability-related impediments. However, the petition contains no documentation of any disability accommodation filed with the University, nor any evidence of a technical failure attributable to University systems. The Court cannot grant relief based on unsubstantiated assertions. The burden of production rests with the Petitioner, and that burden has not been met.

C. Write-In Candidacy as the Appropriate Path

Although the Petitioner cannot be recognized as a formal candidate, the Election Code expressly permits write-in candidacy for individuals who did not file as formal candidates, provided they

meet all other requirements. This path preserves the Petitioner's ability to participate meaningfully in the election while respecting the mandatory nature of the filing deadline.

VII. Holding

For the reasons stated above, the Court holds as follows.

First, the Petitioner's request to be recognized as a formal candidate on the ballot is denied. The Election Code's filing deadline is mandatory, and it is not the Court's intention to disregard or extend it.

Second, the Petitioner may pursue recognition as a write-in candidate, provided he complies with all requirements of the Election Code and the governing documents of the Student Government Association. To do so, the Petitioner must submit to this Court, no later than 4:00 PM (MST) on Friday, April 17, 2026, a written notice of intent to run as a write-in candidate. Because an application was already submitted by the Petitioner, no further records are needed at this time; however, the Court may request the Petitioner file relevant records if needed to confirm his eligibility.

Third, the Petitioner is reminded that write-in candidates are bound by all campaign, expenditure, and worker-filing regulations applicable to formal candidates. Write-in candidates do not appear on the ballot and may not participate in official debates or town halls unless otherwise permitted by the Election Commission.

Fourth, the Petitioner must attend at least one Candidate Information Session, as required by the Election Code.

VIII. Conclusion

The Court recognizes the Petitioner's desire to participate in the Spring 2026 General Election and has acted promptly to ensure that he receives a fair and timely resolution. While the Court cannot

disregard the mandatory filing deadline, it affirms the Petitioner's ability to pursue election as a write-in candidate under the procedures established by the governing documents.

This Opinion and Order shall be published in the official bound volume of decisions of the Supreme Court of the University of Texas at El Paso Student Government Association.

IX. Order

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Petition for Hearing with Emergency Circumstances is granted in part and denied in part, consistent with the holdings above.

SO ORDERED.

Appendix A: Petition for Hearing



UTEP
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION

SUPREME COURT Petition for Hearing

Cause No. _____

In the Matter of _____ vs. _____

Petitioner Information

Full Name:		Student ID #: [REDACTED]	
Title/Organization (if student, indicate STUDENT):			
Address: [REDACTED]			
City: [REDACTED]	State: [REDACTED]	Zip Code: [REDACTED]	
Phone: [REDACTED]		STUDENT Email:	

Respondent Information

Full Name:		Student ID # (if known):	
Title/Organization (if student, indicate STUDENT):			
Address (if known):			
City:	State:	Zip Code:	
Phone (if known):		STUDENT Email:	

Case Type:

(Nature of the case, including but not limited to constitutional disputes, procedural violations, misconduct allegations, election challenges, legislative reviews, etc.)

Emergency Circumstances:

☐ Yes, this petition requires expedited review due to emergency circumstances.

☐ No, this petition follows standard review procedures.

Explanation of Emergency Circumstances (if applicable):

(Provide a detailed justification for why this petition requires expedited consideration)

This petition qualifies for emergency review because the SGA election cycle is already underway, and timely consideration is needed to avoid missing essential stages of the process. My application was submitted only 50 minutes past the deadline due to unexpected technical issues with the submission portal and disability related timing barriers documented through UTEP CASS. These factors created legitimate obstacles that prevented meeting the exact cutoff. Because the election is progressing quickly, a standard review timeline would limit my ability to participate. Expedited consideration ensures my application can be evaluated fairly within the context of the ongoing election.

Cases qualify for emergency review if they involve: Immediate harm or irreversible consequences that may result if the Court does not act swiftly, urgent violations impacting an ongoing election, governance process, or leadership transition, and/or situations requiring immediate intervention to prevent procedural injustice or misconduct.

Statement:

(Provide a concise explanation of the issue, including relevant rules or policies allegedly violated)

My SGA election application was rejected due to being submitted after the stated deadline. The delay resulted from documented accessibility related challenges and technical barriers that interfered with timely submission. These circumstances align with the intent of policies supporting equitable access and reasonable consideration for students registered with CASS. My petition seeks recognition that these conditions warrant review rather than automatic disqualification, ensuring that procedural timing does not override fairness in the election process.

Relief Requested:

(Specify the resolution or corrective action sought from the Court)

I request that the Court accept and review my SGA election application despite its late submission. I also request expedited consideration so that, if approved, I may still participate meaningfully in the ongoing election cycle. If the Court determines that no extension can be granted, I will respect that decision. My goal is to ensure that my eligibility is evaluated fairly and in alignment with principles of equitable access and student representation.

Supporting Evidence:

☐ Yes (ATTACH EVIDENCE)

☐ No

All supporting evidence must be included with the Petition, unless the Court grants an exception.

Signed: Allan Bai

Date: 4/13/26

Rights for all parties:

1. You have the right to a Preliminary Hearing.
2. You have the right to represent yourself during trial.
3. You have the right to a UTEP SGA Public Defender.

*UTEP SGA Public Defenders collaborate with applicable parties when preparing for trial by offering advice and counsel. Public Defenders are appointed by the Supreme Court at no charge. You may reach our office's main phone line at 915-747-5584 or by appointment at the Student Government Association Office, 304 East Union, during office hours, if you have any questions

Court Use Only

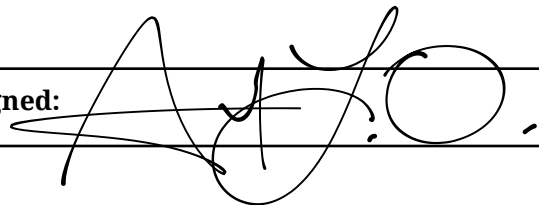
Received by:

Date Filed:

Issuing Justice: 	Date Signed:
Chief Justice: 	Date Signed:

JUDICIAL ACTION ORDER

EMERGENCY REVIEW GRANTED

Signed: 	Date:
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April 16, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. McCorry, SGA Advisor

FROM: Angel Ortega, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

RE: Appointment of Standing Member to the Ethics Committee

This memorandum serves to formally record the reassignment of a Standing Member of the Ethics Committee following the Supreme Court's election of Justice Dunlop as Chief Justice Pro Tempore during the Administrative Session held on April 13, 2026.

Under the Ethics Code, the Chief Justice and Chief Justice Pro Tempore are ineligible to serve as Standing Members of the Ethics Committee due to mandatory recusal provisions. As a result, Justice Dunlop's elevation to Pro Tempore created an immediate vacancy on the Committee.

In accordance with the Ethics Code and Supreme Court Procedures, the Court considered eligible Justices for appointment to the vacant Standing Member position. Justice Perez Martínez was the only Justice eligible for this assignment and, having received no objections, was approved by default.

New Standing Member of the Ethics Committee: Justice Perez Martínez, effective immediately

Justice Perez Martínez will serve alongside Attorney General Rosales and Justice Ríncon for the duration of the term unless a vacancy, recusal, or reconstitution of the bench requires further reassignment.

For the Court,

Angel Ortega
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

cc: Senior Coordinator Chavez
Attorney General Rosales
President Boatright
Senate Majority Leader Triana
Chief Justice Pro Temp. Dunlop
Justice Perez Martínez
Justice Ríncon
Justice Vernon

April 16, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. McCorry, SGA Advisor
FROM: Angel Ortega, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
RE: Appointment of Supreme Court Chief Justice Pro Tempore

This memorandum serves to formally record the action taken by the Supreme Court during the Administrative Session held via paper meeting on April 13, 2026. Pursuant to the Supreme Court Procedures, the Court conducted an internal election to fill the position of Chief Justice Pro Tempore following the recommendation of the outgoing Pro Tempore.

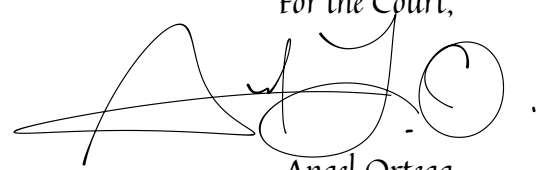
The vote was conducted in accordance with the governing procedures of the Court. Four Justices were present and eligible to vote. Justice Vernon, the outgoing Chief Justice Pro Tempore, was not present and therefore did not participate in the vote. The following shall reflect the decision made by the Supreme Court:

Elected Chief Justice Pro Tempore: Justice Dunlop

Justice Dunlop shall assume the duties and responsibilities of Chief Justice Pro Tempore effective immediately and shall serve for the duration of the term or until resignation, vacancy, or reconstitution of the bench necessitates further action.

As a result of Justice Dunlop's elevation to Chief Justice Pro Tempore, he is no longer eligible to serve as a Standing Member of the Ethics Committee under the mandatory recusal provisions of the Ethics Code. This created an immediate vacancy. Justice Perez Martinez was the only Justice eligible for this assignment and, having received no objections, assumes the role of Standing Member of the Ethics Committee effective immediately. A separate memorandum has been issued to formally record this reassignment.

The Court remains available to clarify procedural questions within the bounds of judicial neutrality.

For the Court,

Angel Ortega
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

cc: Senior Coordinator Chavez
Attorney General Rosales
President Boatright
Senate Majority Leader Triana
Chief Justice Pro Temp. Dunlop
Justice Perez Martinez
Justice Rincon
Justice Vernon

April 17, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tristan Moguel, Applicant for 2026 Spring General Elections
FROM: Angel Ortega, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
RE: Disqualification from Participating in the 2026 SGA General Election

Mr. Moguel,

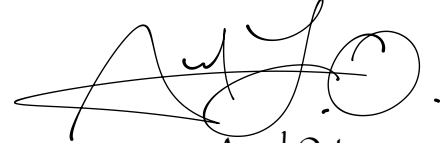
This memorandum serves as formal notice that you have been disqualified from participation in the Spring 2026 UTEP Student Government Association General Elections.

Under Article II, Section 5 of the UTEP SGA Election Code, all candidates are required to attend at least one (1) Candidate Information Session in order to be eligible for placement on the ballot. For this election cycle, three separate sessions were offered throughout the week at different times of day to ensure accessibility for all applicants.

According to the attendance records provided by our Senior Coordinator, you did not attend any of the required sessions. As a result, you have not met the eligibility requirements established by the Election Code, and the Court has determined that you are ineligible to continue as a candidate in this election.

Please contact the Supreme Court if you require clarification regarding this notice or the appeals process.

For the Court,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Angel Ortega', written over a horizontal line.

Angel Ortega

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

cc: Senior Coordinator Chavez

Attorney General Rosales

Chief Justice Pro Temp. Dunlop

Justice Perez Martinez

Justice Rincon

Justice Vernon

Provisional Opinion of the Court

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

No. 2026-EL-002

XIMENA CASTRUITA MEDRANO, *PETITIONER*

ON PETITION FOR HEARING

April 18, 2026

CHIEF JUSTICE ORTEGA delivered the Provisional Opinion of the Court.

I. Procedural Posture

On April 16, 2026, the Petitioner filed a Petition for Hearing with Emergency Circumstances requesting that her candidacy be changed from Senator-at-Large to Collegiate Senator for the College Liberal Arts for the 2026 General Elections. Emergency Review was granted due to the imminence of the election period beginning April 21, 2026.

The Court has not yet deliberated on the merits. Because ballot preparation deadlines create the possibility of irreversible consequences, the Chief Justice issues this Provisional Opinion to guide the parties until the full Court renders a final judgment.

This Opinion does not bind the full Court. Although non-binding, this Provisional Opinion reflects the likely direction of the Court upon full deliberation.

The petition submitted by the Petitioner is appended to this Opinion as Appendix A.

II. Background

The Petitioner timely filed a candidacy application for the 2026 General Elections and designated her position as Senator-at-Large. On April 16, 2026, she submitted a Petition for Hearing requesting that her candidacy be amended to Collegiate Senator for Liberal Arts. The Petition does not allege a violation of the Election Code, nor does it challenge any administrative action. Instead, the Petitioner seeks a post-filing correction to the position she wishes to pursue, asserting that the Liberal Arts College—being the largest college on campus—should not be left without representation in the next administration. Emergency review was granted due to the imminence of the election period and the need for timely ballot preparation.

III. Jurisdiction

The Supreme Court of the Student Government Association possesses jurisdiction over disputes arising under the Election Code, including matters involving ballot structure, candidate designation, and interpretation of governing documents. A request to amend a candidate's declared position on the ballot constitutes an election-related question within the Court's authority. The Court therefore exercises jurisdiction over this Petition pursuant to the Election Code and the Constitution of the Student Government Association.

IV. Disposition on Preliminary Hearing

Although the Petitioner retains the right to request a preliminary hearing, the Court declines to convene one at this stage. The Petition presents no factual disputes, no witnesses, and no evidentiary matters requiring development. The issue is purely legal: whether the Election Code permits or prohibits a post-deadline change in candidacy position. A preliminary hearing would not aid the Court's analysis.

V. Analysis

A. The Election Code Is Silent on Post-Deadline Position Changes

Unlike filing deadlines for candidacy applications, the Election Code does **not** expressly address whether a candidate may amend the *position* they seek after filing closes. The governing documents neither authorize nor prohibit such a change. Where the Election Code is silent, the Court exercises its interpretive authority to determine whether granting relief would undermine fairness, create inequity among candidates, disrupt election administration, or contradict the structure or purpose of the Election Code.

B. No Unfair Disadvantage to Other Candidates

The Petitioner seeks to move from a general at-large position to a college-specific seat. This change does not displace any existing candidate, create a new opponent for any unopposed candidate, alter the competitive landscape for candidates who filed for Senator-at-Large, and does not grant the Petitioner any advantage unavailable to others. No candidate is harmed, and no candidate loses an opportunity they previously possessed.

C. The Relief Requested Is Narrow and Administrative

The Petitioner does not seek ballot access after missing a deadline, reversal of an administrative denial, an exception to eligibility requirements, or a remedy for alleged misconduct. She seeks only a change in designation on the ballot. This is materially different from cases where the Court has refused to extend deadlines or waive mandatory requirements. Here, the Petitioner timely filed; she simply seeks to correct the position she wishes to pursue.

D. The Court's Discretion in Silent Areas of the Code

Where the Election Code is silent, the Court may grant relief when doing so does not compromise fairness, administrative integrity, or the rights of other candidates. Granting the Petitioner's request preserves ballot accuracy, promotes representation within the Liberal Arts College, does not create

inequity, does not require reopening filings, and does not impose administrative burden beyond a routine ballot adjustment.

E. This Should Not Become Regular Practice

The Court emphasizes that post-deadline changes to candidacy positions should not become customary. Candidates are expected to declare their intended position during the filing period.

Future petitions of this nature may not be granted, especially if the change would affect other candidates, the Election Code is amended to clarify the issue, or the request appears strategic rather than corrective. This relief is granted only because the Election Code is silent and no candidate is disadvantaged.

VI. Holding

Based on the Petition and the governing documents, and in light of the Election Code's silence on post-deadline position changes, the Court issues the following provisional determination:

First, the Petitioner is provisionally granted the relief requested. Her candidacy shall be recognized as Collegiate Senator for Liberal Arts for purposes of ballot preparation for the 2026 General Elections.

Second, this determination is non-binding and remains subject to revision upon full Court deliberation.

Third, the Student Government Senior Coordinator may proceed with ballot preparation consistent with this Provisional Opinion unless and until the Court issues a contrary final ruling.

VII. Conclusion

The Court issues this Provisional Opinion solely to prevent uncertainty and potential prejudice to the Petitioner and the Election Commission as the election period approaches. It reflects the likely

direction of the Court based on the Petition and the governing documents, but it is not binding and does not speak for the full Court.

A Final Opinion will be issued following deliberation..

VIII. Order

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Petitioner's request to amend her candidacy position to Collegiate Senator for Liberal Arts is provisionally granted, consistent with the holdings above.

SO ORDERED.

APPENDIX A: PETITION FOR HEARING



UTEP STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

SUPREME COURT Petition for Hearing

Cause No. _____

In the Matter of _____ vs. _____

Petitioner Information

Full Name:		Student ID #: [REDACTED]	
Title/Organization (if student, indicate STUDENT):			
Address: [REDACTED]			
City: [REDACTED]	State: [REDACTED]	Zip Code: [REDACTED]	
Phone: [REDACTED]		STUDENT Email:	

Respondent Information

Full Name:		Student ID # (if known):	
Title/Organization (if student, indicate STUDENT):			
Address (if known):			
City:	State:	Zip Code:	
Phone (if known):		STUDENT Email:	

Case Type:

(Nature of the case, including but not limited to constitutional disputes, procedural violations, misconduct allegations, election challenges, legislative reviews, etc.)

Emergency Circumstances:

☐ Yes, this petition requires expedited review due to emergency circumstances.

☐ No, this petition follows standard review procedures.

Explanation of Emergency Circumstances (if applicable):

(Provide a detailed justification for why this petition requires expedited consideration)

Cases qualify for emergency review if they involve: Immediate harm or irreversible consequences that may result if the Court does not act swiftly, urgent violations impacting an ongoing election, governance process, or leadership transition, and/or situations requiring immediate intervention to prevent procedural injustice or misconduct.

Statement:

(Provide a concise explanation of the issue, including relevant rules or policies allegedly violated)

Relief Requested:

(Specify the resolution or corrective action sought from the Court)

Supporting Evidence:

☐ Yes (ATTACH EVIDENCE)

☐ No

All supporting evidence must be included with the Petition, unless the Court grants an exception.

Signed:

Date:

Rights for all parties:

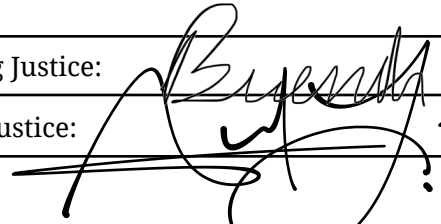
1. You have the right to a Preliminary Hearing.
2. You have the right to represent yourself during trial.
3. You have the right to a UTEP SGA Public Defender.

*UTEP SGA Public Defenders collaborate with applicable parties when preparing for trial by offering advice and counsel. Public Defenders are appointed by the Supreme Court at no charge. You may reach our office's main phone line at 915-747-5584 or by appointment at the Student Government Association Office, 304 East Union, during office hours, if you have any questions

Court Use Only

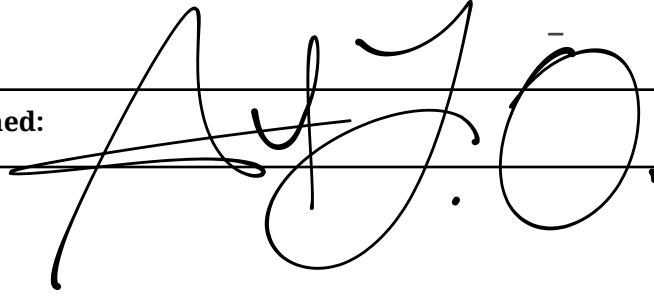
Received by:

Date Filed:

Issuing Justice: 	Date Signed: 4/17/2026 4:01PM (MST)
Chief Justice: 	Date Signed:

JUDICIAL ACTION ORDER

EMERGENCY REVIEW GRANTED

Signed: 	Date:
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JUDGMENT NOTICE

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SUPREME COURT

No. 2026-EL-002

XIMENA CASTRUITA MEDRANO, *PETITIONER*

ON PETITION FOR HEARING

Date of Judgement: April 20, 2026

Issued: April 21, 2026

I. SUMMARY OF JUDGMENT

The Supreme Court of the UTEP Student Government Association, having granted Emergency Review on April 16, 2026 and having docketed the matter for deliberation, issues the following judgment:

The Relief Requested is hereby DENIED.

This Judgment Notice constitutes the Court's official disposition of the petition. The Court's full written opinions—including the Majority Opinion and any separate writings—will be issued and appended to the docket once finalized.

II. PROCEDURAL POSTURE

1. The Petition for Hearing was received on April 16, 2026 at 10:45 AM (MST).

2. Emergency Review was granted the same day due to the proximity of the 2026 General Elections.
3. The Court determined that no Preliminary Hearing was necessary, as:
 - the facts were undisputed,
 - the issue presented was purely legal and administrative, and
 - no evidentiary development was required to resolve the petition.

The matter proceeded to deliberation on April 20, 2026.

III. HOLDING

After review of the petition, applicable governing documents, and the scope of the Court's authority in election administration, the Court holds:

"The Petitioner's request to change her candidacy position on the ballot from 'Senator at Large' to 'Collegiate Senator for Liberal Arts' is denied."

The Court reached its judgment by a vote of 2-1.

This holding is operative immediately upon reaching a final judgement.

IV. OPINIONS TO FOLLOW

The Court will release:

- Majority Opinion
- Dissenting Opinion

These opinions will articulate the Court's reasoning, the standards applied, and any guidance for future election-related petitions.

The absence of a written opinion does not delay or diminish the legal effect of this Judgment.

V. NOTICE TO THE PARTIES

The parties are hereby notified that:

- This Judgment Notice serves as the Court's official action in Cause No. 2026-EL-002.
- Written opinions will be transmitted to the parties upon completion.

COURT ORDER SETTING FOR HEARING

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

No. 2026-EL-003

ALEJANDRO FACUSSE ROBLES GIL *and* ALEXA HILDARY
GONZALEZ VALENCIANO, *PETITIONERS*

vs.

NOVA EXECUTIVE ALLIANCE, *RESPONDENT*

On review of the filings in the above-captioned matter, and pursuant to the authority vested in the Supreme Court of the University of Texas at El Paso Student Government Association, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that this case is set for hearing as follows:

- **Date:** MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026
 - **Time:** 5:40 PM (MST)
 - **Location:** SGA SENATE CHAMBERS, Union East, Room 304
 - **Format:** In-person hearing before the Supreme Court
-

MANDATORY APPEARANCE

The parties, their representatives, and all witnesses shall appear promptly at the scheduled time. Failure to appear may result in the Court proceeding in their absence.

AUTHORITY

This Order is issued under the judicial authority of the Supreme Court. Compliance is mandatory.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 25th day of April, 2026.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is composed of several fluid, interconnected strokes. It begins with a large, sweeping 'A' on the left, followed by a series of loops and curves that form the rest of the name. The final part of the signature is a large, circular loop that ends with a small dot.

Angel Ortega

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

COURT ORDER SETTING FOR HEARING

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

No. 2026-EL-004

HAJALETT ESCALANTE, *PETITIONER*

vs.

FORWARD EXECUTIVE ALLIANCE, *RESPONDENT*

On review of the filings in the above-captioned matter, and pursuant to the authority vested in the Supreme Court of the University of Texas at El Paso Student Government Association, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that this case is set for hearing as follows:

- **Date:** MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026
 - **Time:** 5:55 PM (MST)
 - **Location:** SGA SENATE CHAMBERS, Union East, Room 304
 - **Format:** In-person hearing before the Supreme Court
-

MANDATORY APPEARANCE

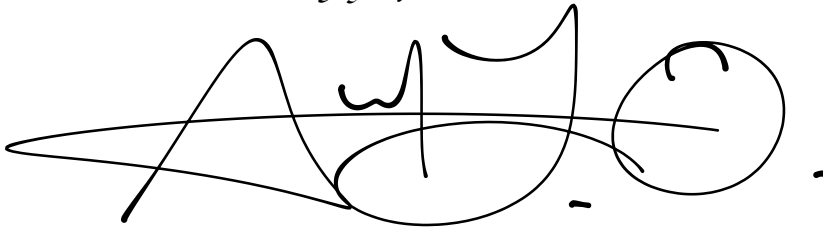
The parties, their representatives, and all witnesses shall appear promptly at the scheduled time. Failure to appear may result in the Court proceeding in their absence.

AUTHORITY

This Order is issued under the judicial authority of the Supreme Court. Compliance is mandatory.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 25th day of April, 2026.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink. It features a long, sweeping horizontal line that starts on the left, dips, and then rises to cross over itself. The signature is composed of several fluid, interconnected loops and curves, ending with a small dot.

Angel Ortega

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

COURT ORDER SETTING FOR HEARING

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

No. 2026-EL-005

ALEXA HILDARY GONZALEZ VALENCIANO, *PETITIONER*

vs.

EMMANUELLA N. AMADI CHINYERE and FORWARD
EXECUTIVE ALLIANCE, *RESPONDENTS*

On review of the filings in the above-captioned matter, and pursuant to the authority vested in the Supreme Court of the University of Texas at El Paso Student Government Association, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that this case is set for hearing as follows:

- **Date:** MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026
 - **Time:** 6:10 PM (MST)
 - **Location:** SGA SENATE CHAMBERS, Union East, Room 304
 - **Format:** In-person hearing before the Supreme Court
-

MANDATORY APPEARANCE

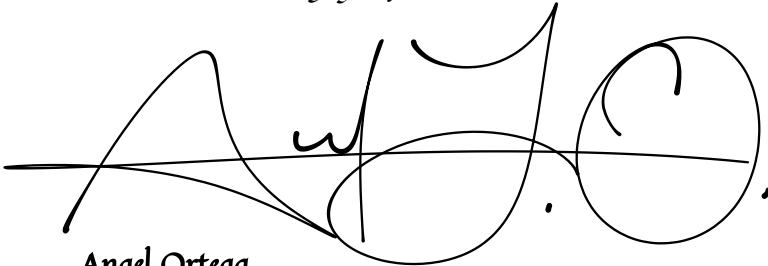
The parties, their representatives, and all witnesses shall appear promptly at the scheduled time. Failure to appear may result in the Court proceeding in their absence.

AUTHORITY

This Order is issued under the judicial authority of the Supreme Court. Compliance is mandatory.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 25th day of April, 2026.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is fluid and cursive, starting with a large, sweeping 'A' that extends to the left. It continues with several loops and curves, ending with a large, circular flourish on the right side. The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Angel Ortega

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

COURT ORDER SETTING FOR HEARING

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

No. 2026-EL-006

JESSE CORRALEJO, *PETITIONER*

vs.

NEW ERA EXECUTIVE ALLIANCE, *RESPONDENT*

On review of the filings in the above-captioned matter, and pursuant to the authority vested in the Supreme Court of the University of Texas at El Paso Student Government Association, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that this case is set for hearing as follows:

- **Date:** MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026
 - **Time:** 6:25 PM (MST)
 - **Location:** SGA SENATE CHAMBERS, Union East, Room 304
 - **Format:** In-person hearing before the Supreme Court
-

MANDATORY APPEARANCE

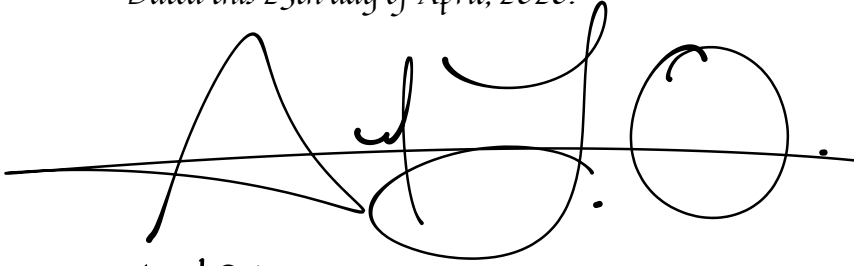
The parties, their representatives, and all witnesses shall appear promptly at the scheduled time. Failure to appear may result in the Court proceeding in their absence.

AUTHORITY

This Order is issued under the judicial authority of the Supreme Court. Compliance is mandatory.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 25th day of April, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angel Ortega', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with large, sweeping loops and a prominent 'A'.

Angel Ortega

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

COURT ORDER SETTING FOR HEARING

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

No. 2026-EL-007

GRECIA ORTEGA, *PETITIONER*

vs.

NEW ERA EXECUTIVE ALLIANCE, *RESPONDENT*

On review of the filings in the above-captioned matter, and pursuant to the authority vested in the Supreme Court of the University of Texas at El Paso Student Government Association, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that this case is set for hearing as follows:

- **Date:** MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026
 - **Time:** 6:40 PM (MST)
 - **Location:** SGA SENATE CHAMBERS, Union East, Room 304
 - **Format:** In-person hearing before the Supreme Court
-

MANDATORY APPEARANCE

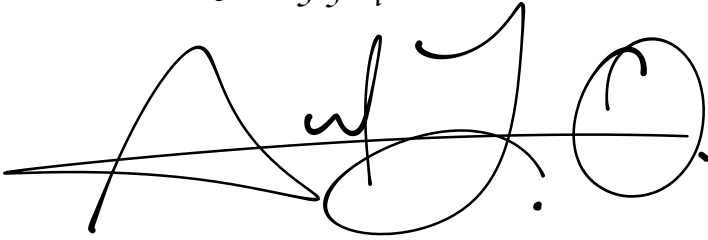
The parties, their representatives, and all witnesses shall appear promptly at the scheduled time. Failure to appear may result in the Court proceeding in their absence.

AUTHORITY

This Order is issued under the judicial authority of the Supreme Court. Compliance is mandatory.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 25th day of April, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' followed by a series of loops and a final circular flourish.

Angel Ortega

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

April 27, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION RECORD

Administrative Session called to order at 5:00 PM by Chief Justice Ortega. Administrative Session convened at UTEP SGA Chambers.

Justices Present: Chief Justice Ortega, Chief Justice Pro Temp. Dunlop, Justice Rincon, Justice Perez Martinez, Justice Vernon.

Justices Absent:

Other Officers Present: Attorney General Rosales, Senate Majority Leader Triana, Senator Gonzalez, Senior Coordinator Chavez

First Order of Business: General Announcements

The Court entered an open discussion with members of the Judiciary and the Election Advisory Board regarding the following concerns:

- *2026-EL-002: Opinion Concerns and Clarification*
- *Upcoming/planned vacancies in the Judicial Branch*

- Stephen Cohen: Write-in Candidate (Denied for failure to appear to at least one (1) scheduled Candidate Information Session)

Second Order of Business: Preliminary Matters (Election Violation Complaint Docket Call Hearing)

Members of the Judiciary discussed upcoming cases before the Court, hearing procedures and protocols, assigned Justices, and deliberation processes.

Final Order of Business: Adjournment

Administrative Session adjourned at 5:42 PM by Chief Justice Ortega.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Ortega', with a large, stylized initial 'A' and a circular flourish at the end.

Angel Ortega

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

cc: Supreme Court Files

Opinion of the Court

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

No. 2026-EL-002

XIMENA CASTRUITA MEDRANO, *PETITIONER*

ON PETITION FOR HEARING

April 27, 2026

JUSTICE RINCON delivered the Opinion of the Court, in which JUSTICE PEREZ MARTINEZ joined.

I. Procedural Posture

On April 16, 2026, the Petitioner filed a Petition for Hearing with Emergency Circumstances requesting that her candidacy be changed from Senator-at-Large to Collegiate Senator for the College Liberal Arts for the 2026 General Elections. Emergency Review was granted due to the imminence of the election period beginning April 21, 2026.

The Court has deliberated on the merits. Following proper deliberation, Justice Rincon, joined by Justice Perez-Martinez, issues the following as the binding Opinion of the full Court. This Opinion reflects the Court's final judgment on the matter.

The petition submitted by the Petitioner is appended to this Opinion as Appendix A.

II. Background

The Petitioner timely filed a candidacy application for the 2026 General Elections and designated her position as Senator-at-Large. On April 16, 2026, she submitted a Petition for Hearing requesting that her candidacy be amended to Collegiate Senator for Liberal Arts. The Petitioner seeks a post-filing correction, asserting that the Liberal Arts College—being the largest college on campus—should not be left without representation in the next administration. Emergency review was granted due to the imminence of the election period and the need for timely ballot preparation.

III. Jurisdiction

The Supreme Court of the Student Government Association possesses jurisdiction over disputes arising under the Election Code, including matters involving ballot structure, candidate designation, and interpretation of governing documents. A request to amend a candidate's declared position on the ballot constitutes an election-related question within the Court's authority. The Court therefore exercises jurisdiction over this Petition pursuant to the Election Code and the Constitution of the Student Government Association.

IV. Disposition on Preliminary Hearing

Although the Petitioner retains the right to request a preliminary hearing, the Court declines to convene one at this stage. The Petition presents no factual disputes, no witnesses, and no evidentiary matters requiring development. The issue is purely legal: whether the Election Code permits or prohibits a post-deadline change in candidacy position. A preliminary hearing would not aid the Court's analysis.

VI. Analysis

A. The Election Code's Silence Does Not Authorize Post-Deadline Changes

The prior provisional opinion treated the Election Code's silence as a flexible space permitting judicial discretion. The Court now rejects that approach. Silence in the Code cannot be read as an open invitation to modify core elements of candidacy after the filing deadline.

Filing deadlines serves a structural function within the electoral system. Even in the absence of explicit language addressing post-deadline changes, the existence of a firm filing deadline necessarily implies finality in a candidate's declared position. To hold otherwise would render the deadline functionally meaningless.

B. The Change Does Create Potential Inequities

The prior reasoning asserts that no candidate is harmed and that the competitive landscape remains unaffected. This conclusion is incomplete. Even if no immediate candidate is displaced, allowing post-deadline changes risks creating structural inequities in the electoral process.

Other candidates complied with the filing deadline and made strategic decisions based on the available positions at that time. Permitting one candidate to alter their candidacy after the deadline introduces unequal flexibility—granting one candidate an opportunity that others did not have or could not anticipate. The harm, therefore, is not limited to direct displacement but extends to fairness in process and equal treatment under the rules.

C. The Requested Change Is Substantive, Not Administrative

The prior opinion characterized the requested relief as narrow or administrative. The Court disagrees. A candidate's chosen position is a defining component of their candidacy.

Changing from Senator-at-Large to a college-specific seat alters the nature of the office sought, the relevant electorate, and the structure of the ballot. Such a change is inherently substantive and therefore subject to the same finality as the initial filing decision.

D. A Clear Rule Is Necessary to Preserve Election Integrity

The prior opinion attempted to both allow discretion and limit future application. The Court finds that approach untenable. Once exceptions are permitted, it becomes difficult to articulate principled limits, leading to uncertainty and potential abuse.

A clear, administrable rule is required: candidacy designations are final upon the close of the filing period. This rule promotes fairness, predictability, and equal treatment for all candidates.

E. This Was a Strategic Move on behalf of the Petitioner

To file to change her position from Senator-at-large to Collegiate Senator is a strategic move made on behalf of the Petitioner. It's important to note that strategy is not to be interpreted in a malicious or ill-intended light. Strategy in this situation is understood purely as a decision made after an unexpected vacancy arose following a strict filing deadline. The Petitioner did not file as a Collegiate Senator initially, and as such, any decisions undertaken by the Petitioner in light of shifting circumstances must be treated with skepticism and understood in the context of the Petitioner gaining a competitive advantage.

VII. Holding

Based on the Petition and the governing documents, and in light of the Court's interpretation of the Election Code's stance on post-deadline position changes, the Court issues the following determination:

First, the Petitioner is not granted the relief requested. Her candidacy shall be recognized as Senator-at-Large on the ballot for the 2026 General Elections.

Second, this determination is binding and is not subject to revision.

Third, the Student Government Senior Coordinator has pursued ballot preparation consistent with this Opinion.

VIII. Conclusion

The Court issues this Opinion to prevent uncertainty regarding the Petitioner's candidacy efforts as the election period approaches.

It reflects the direction of the Court based on the Petition and the governing documents and is binding as it speaks for the full Court.

This is the Final Opinion of the Court following proper deliberation.

IX. Order

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Petitioner's request to amend her candidacy position to Collegiate Senator for Liberal Arts is not granted, consistent with the holdings above.

In spite of the precedent set by the Court following this Opinion, we believe that the issue of whether candidates should be permitted to change positions after filing and whether candidates should have access to information about the status of races before ballots open should be stipulated through written legislation. As such, these matters shall be referred to the Document Review Committee for consideration.

SO ORDERED.

Dissenting Opinion

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

No. 2026-EL-002

XIMENA CASTRUITA MEDRANO, *PETITIONER*

ON PETITION FOR HEARING

April 27, 2026

CHIEF JUSTICE ORTEGA, *dissenting.*

I agree with the Court's recitation of the facts and procedural posture. I part ways with the majority on its conclusion that the Petitioner acted strategically, a characterization that misapprehends both the structure of our Senate and the absence of any advantage gained.

Calling this request 'strategic' misunderstands both the structure of the Senate and the nature of the relief sought. Strategy implies advantage. Here, there is none. The Petitioner does not gain power, influence, or opportunity by switching to a collegiate seat. She gains responsibility. No candidate is harmed, no race is altered, and no inequity is created. The majority's conclusion rests on a misconception of what a collegiate seat is and what strategy means.

1. The Majority Misconstrues What "Strategy" Means

The majority's reasoning rests on an unfounded assumption that the Petitioner's request reflects a strategic maneuver. Strategy, as I understand it, involves a deliberate attempt to obtain a competitive advantage that would not otherwise exist—an action that shifts power, alters the

competitive landscape, or disadvantages others for one's own benefit. Nothing in this record supports such a conclusion.

The Petitioner does not gain additional authority, voting power, or influence by switching to a collegiate seat. She does not displace a candidate, create a new opponent, or alter the dynamics of any race. To the contrary, collegiate senators shoulder more responsibility, not more privilege. Labeling her request as "strategic" imposes a motive unsupported by the facts and unsupported by the structure of our Senate.

Furthermore, Courts do not presume intent; they evaluate it. The Petition contains no evidence of a strategic motive, and nothing in the timeline suggests competitive manipulation. To infer strategy without evidence is to substitute assumption for analysis, and assumption is not a judicial standard.

II. No Candidate is Disadvantaged

In this election cycle, no candidate was disadvantaged by the Petitioner's request. The collegiate seat she sought to fill was vacant. Under these specific circumstances, the requested change displaced no one, created no new competition, and altered no candidate's prospects.

The majority's reasoning collapses further when one considers the nature of the seat at issue. A candidate does not 'take advantage' of a vacancy simply by seeking to fill it. Vacancies exist to be filled; that is the purpose of elections. Strategy implies competition, advantage, and displacement. A vacant seat presents none of these elements. One cannot obtain a competitive edge where no competitor exists, and one cannot exploit an opportunity that is equally available to all. To characterize the Petitioner's request as strategic is therefore to misunderstand both the meaning of strategy and the function of a vacant office.

III. Collegiate Senators Do Not Gain Power – They Assume Responsibility

The majority's conclusion appears to rest, at least implicitly, on a social perception that collegiate senators occupy a more powerful or privileged role than at-large senators. That perception is not grounded in our governing documents. The Constitution and the Election Code assign equal voting authority to all senators, regardless of how they are elected. Collegiate senators do not wield more power; they simply represent a defined constituency and assume the responsibilities that accompany that role. To treat the Petitioner's request as a bid for elevated status is to mistake a social norm for a legal reality.

IV. Silence in the Election Code Should Not Be Filled With Assumptions

The Election Code is silent on post-deadline changes to candidacy positions. Silence is not prohibition. Silence is discretion—discretion that must be exercised in a manner consistent with fairness, representation, and the purpose of the Code.

When the Code does not forbid relief, when no candidate is harmed, and when the requested correction promotes representation rather than undermines it, the Court should not deny relief based on conjecture. The Election Code should not be interpreted to create barriers where none exist.

V. Concurrence in the Court's Decision to Refer the Issue

Although I disagree with the majority's characterization of the Petitioner's request, I agree that this case reveals an ambiguity in the Election Code that warrants legislative attention. Whether candidates should be permitted to change positions after filing, and whether candidates should have access to information about the status of races before ballots open, are policy questions entrusted to the Senate. These matters shall be appropriately referred to the Document Review Committee for consideration. In my view, it is better for the Senate to establish written legislation than for this Court to create precedent on matters of election structure.

VI. Conclusion

For these reasons, I cannot join the majority's conclusion that the Petitioner acted strategically. The record contains no evidence of intent, no evidence of competitive advantage, and no evidence of harm to any candidate. The seat at issue was vacant and the governing documents assign no greater power to collegiate senators than to their at-large counterparts. The majority's reasoning rests on assumptions about motive and social perception rather than on the structure of our Senate or the text of the Election Code.

I agree, however, that this case reveals an ambiguity that warrants legislative attention. Questions concerning post-deadline position changes and access to information about the status of races before ballots open are matters of policy entrusted to the Senate, not to this Court. It is better for the Senate to establish clear, written legislation than for this Court to create precedent in an area where the governing documents are silent.

For these reasons, I respectfully dissent.

APPENDIX A: PETITION FOR HEARING



UTEP
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION

SUPREME COURT Petition for Hearing

Cause No. _____

In the Matter of _____ vs. _____

Petitioner Information

Full Name:		Student ID #: [REDACTED]	
Title/Organization (if student, indicate STUDENT):			
Address: [REDACTED]			
City: [REDACTED]	State: [REDACTED]	Zip Code: [REDACTED]	
Phone: [REDACTED]		STUDENT Email:	

Respondent Information

Full Name:		Student ID # (if known):	
Title/Organization (if student, indicate STUDENT):			
Address (if known):			
City:	State:	Zip Code:	
Phone (if known):		STUDENT Email:	

Case Type:

(Nature of the case, including but not limited to constitutional disputes, procedural violations, misconduct allegations, election challenges, legislative reviews, etc.)

Emergency Circumstances:

☐ Yes, this petition requires expedited review due to emergency circumstances.

☐ No, this petition follows standard review procedures.

Explanation of Emergency Circumstances (if applicable):

(Provide a detailed justification for why this petition requires expedited consideration)

Cases qualify for emergency review if they involve: Immediate harm or irreversible consequences that may result if the Court does not act swiftly, urgent violations impacting an ongoing election, governance process, or leadership transition, and/or situations requiring immediate intervention to prevent procedural injustice or misconduct.

Statement:

(Provide a concise explanation of the issue, including relevant rules or policies allegedly violated)

Relief Requested:

(Specify the resolution or corrective action sought from the Court)

Supporting Evidence:

☐ Yes (ATTACH EVIDENCE)

☐ No

All supporting evidence must be included with the Petition, unless the Court grants an exception.

Signed:

Date:

Rights for all parties:

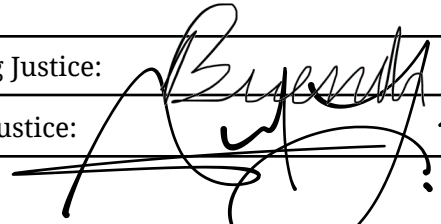
1. You have the right to a Preliminary Hearing.
2. You have the right to represent yourself during trial.
3. You have the right to a UTEP SGA Public Defender.

*UTEP SGA Public Defenders collaborate with applicable parties when preparing for trial by offering advice and counsel. Public Defenders are appointed by the Supreme Court at no charge. You may reach our office's main phone line at 915-747-5584 or by appointment at the Student Government Association Office, 304 East Union, during office hours, if you have any questions

Court Use Only

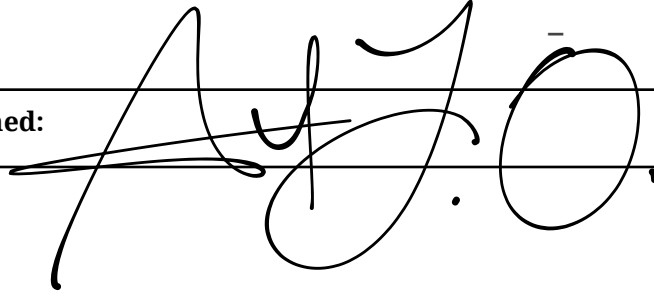
Received by:

Date Filed:

Issuing Justice: 	Date Signed: 4/17/2026 4:01PM (MST)
Chief Justice: 	Date Signed:

JUDICIAL ACTION ORDER

EMERGENCY REVIEW GRANTED

Signed: 	Date:
---	-------

JUDGMENT NOTICE

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

No. 2026-EL-008

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION, *PETITIONER* vs.
NEW ERA TOGETHER EXECUTIVE ALLIANCE, *RESPONDENT*

ON PETITION FOR HEARING

Date of Judgement: April 27, 2026

Issued: April 28, 2026

I. SUMMARY OF JUDGMENT

The Supreme Court of the UTEP Student Government Association, having granted Emergency Review on April 27, 2026 and having docketed the matter for immediate deliberation, issues the following judgment:

The Relief Requested is hereby GRANTED.

The Respondent is **DISQUALIFIED** from candidacy in the 2026 SGA General Election.

The matter is **REFERRED** to the Office of Community Standards for further action.

This Judgment Notice constitutes the Court's official disposition of the petition.

The Court's full written opinions—including the Majority Opinion and any separate writings—will be issued and appended to the docket once finalized

II. PROCEDURAL POSTURE

The Petition for Hearing was received on April 27, 2026 at 8:48 PM (MST).

Emergency Review was granted the same day due to the proximity of the 2026 General Election and the urgent need to protect the integrity of the vote verification process.

The Court determined that no Preliminary Hearing was necessary, as:

- the facts were undisputed,
- the evidence submitted was complete and self-authenticating,
- the violation alleged involved tampering with ballots, systems, or voters,
- the Respondent had not yet been notified but the urgency of the election timeline required immediate judicial action to prevent further harm, and
- no additional testimony or evidentiary development was required to resolve the petition.

The matter proceeded directly to deliberation on April 27, 2026.

III. HOLDING

After review of the petition, the evidence submitted, and the applicable provisions of the Election Code and University policy, the Court holds:

The Respondent's actions constitute (1) tampering with ballots, systems, or voters under the Pre-Determined Sanctions List published and shared by the Court prior to the commencement of campaigning and voting (Article VII Section 17), and (2) a breach of privacy under University policy through the use of an IP-logging mechanism that intercepted and tracked student voting activity. The Respondent is hereby disqualified from candidacy and referred to the Office of Community Standards.

This holding is operative immediately upon issuance of this Judgment.

IV. OPINIONS TO FOLLOW

The Court will release:

- Majority Opinion

These opinions will articulate the Court's reasoning, the standards applied, and guidance for future election-related violations involving digital interference, privacy breaches, or ballot integrity.

The absence of a written opinion does not delay or diminish the legal effect of this Judgment.

V. NOTICE TO THE PARTIES

The parties are hereby notified that:

- This Judgment Notice serves as the Court's official action in Cause No. 2026-EL-008.
- Written opinions will be transmitted to the parties upon completion.

COURT ORDER SETTING FOR PRELIMINARY HEARING OF APPEAL

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

No. 2026-EL-008

ALEJANDRO FACUSSE, *PETITIONER*

vs.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION, *RESPONDENT*

On review of the filings in the above-captioned matter, and pursuant to the authority vested in the Supreme Court of the University of Texas at El Paso Student Government Association, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that this case is set for hearing as follows:

- **Date:** THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2026
 - **Time:** 12:15 PM (MST)
 - **Location:** SGA SENATE CHAMBERS, Union East, Room 304
 - **Format:** In-person hearing before the Supreme Court
-

MANDATORY APPEARANCE

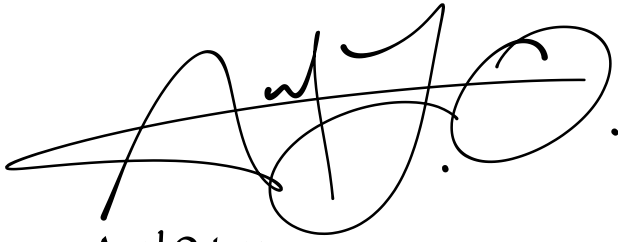
The parties and their representatives shall appear promptly at the scheduled time. Failure to appear may result in the Court proceeding in their absence.

AUTHORITY

This Order is issued under the judicial authority of the Supreme Court. Compliance is mandatory.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 28th day of April, 2026.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Angel Ortega

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

JUDGMENT NOTICE

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SUPREME COURT

No. 2026-EL-008

ALEJANDRO FACUSSE, *PETITIONER*

vs.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION, *RESPONDENTS*

Date of Judgement: April 30, 2026

Issued: April 30, 2026

I. SUMMARY OF JUDGMENT

The Supreme Court of the UTEP Student Government Association, having issued a Notice of Hearing on April 28, 2026 and having heard verbal arguments on April 30, 2026, issues the following judgment:

The Relief Requested is hereby DENIED.

This Judgment Notice constitutes the Court's official disposition of the petition. The Court's full written opinions—including the Majority Opinion and any separate writings—will be issued and appended to the docket once finalized.

II. PROCEDURAL POSTURE

1. The Violation Complaint Form was received on April 27, 2026 at 8:48 PM (MST).

2. A Notice of Judgment was issued after an emergency review was granted on April 28, 2026 at 11:07 AM (MST).
3. A Motion to reconsider and a request for temporary injunction was received on April 28, 2026 at 5:04 PM (MST).
4. The request for temporary injunction was denied.
5. A Notice of Hearing was issued on April 29, 2026 requiring both parties' presence on April 30, 2026 at 12:15 PM (MST).
6. Evidence was entered by the respondent on April 29, 2026 at 11:55 PM (MST).
7. Evidence was entered by the petitioner on April 30, 2026 at 10:00 AM (MST).
8. An update of the representative of record was entered on April 30, 2026 at 10:00 AM (MST).
9. The court heard verbal arguments on April 30, 2026 at 12:20.

The matter proceeded to deliberation on April 30, 2026.

III. HOLDING

After review of the petition, applicable governing documents, and the scope of the Court's authority in election administration, the Court holds:

"The Petitioner's request for a reconsideration of judgment issued in regards to 2026-EL-008 is denied. The judgment in 2026-EL-008 will stand in full"

The Court reached its judgment by a vote of 3-0.

This holding is operative immediately upon reaching a final judgement.

IV. OPINIONS TO FOLLOW

The Court will release:

- Majority Opinion

These opinions will articulate the Court's reasoning, the standards applied, and any guidance for future election-related petitions.

The absence of a written opinion does not delay or diminish the legal effect of this Judgment.

V. NOTICE TO THE PARTIES

The parties are hereby notified that:

- This Judgment Notice serves as the Court's official action in Cause No. 2026-EL-008.
- Written opinions will be transmitted to the parties upon completion.

May 4, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION RECORD

Administrative Session called to order at 5:13 PM by Chief Justice Ortega. Administrative Session convened at the UTEP SGA Conference Room.

Justices Present: Chief Justice Ortega, Chief Justice Pro Temp. Dunlop, Justice Rincon

Justices Absent: Justice Perez Martinez

Other Officers Present: Attorney General Rosales, Senior Coordinator Chavez

First Order of Business: Spring '26 Elections Reflection + Pending Action Items

The members present discussed and shared their feedback on the facilitation of the Spring '26 General Election. Chief Justice Ortega took notes on the items we want to keep, remove, and implement for the next scheduled General Election. Members were also assigned with drafting Opinions on decisions made by this Court during the Election season. Senior Coordinator Chavez was tasked with forwarding the Referral of 2026-EL-008 to the University Office of Community Standards.

Second Order of Business: Review and Modifications to the Supreme Court Procedures

The Justices of the Court entered a close discussion to discuss potential modifications to the Supreme Court Procedures. Members not sitting as Justices of the Court were asked to exit the room.

Final Order of Business: Adjournment

Administrative Session adjourned at 6:39 PM by Chief Justice Ortega.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angel Ortega', written over a horizontal line.

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

cc: Supreme Court Files

May 11, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION RECORD

Administrative Session called to order at 5:16 PM by Chief Justice Ortega. Administrative Session convened at the UTEP SGA Conference Room.

Justices Present: Chief Justice Ortega, Chief Justice Pro Temp. Dunlop, Justice Perez Martinez, Justice Rincon

Justices Absent:

Other Officers Present: Attorney General Rosales, Senior Coordinator Chavez

First Order of Business: 2026-EL-009 – Deliberation on Petition for Relief

After having received a physical copy of a Petition for Requested Relief filed by Attorney General Rosales, the Court deemed it to be appropriate for the Justices present to deliberate on cause no. 2026-EL-009 regarding the vacancy of the Vice President of Internal Affairs-Elect of the Student Government Association. Chief Justice Ortega presided over this case alongside Chief Justice Pro Temp. Dunlop and Justice Perez Martinez. Please see 2026-EL-009 Notice of Judgement.

Final Order of Business: Adjournment

Administrative Session adjourned at 6:32 PM by Chief Justice Ortega.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Ortega', with a large, stylized 'O' at the end.

Angel Ortega

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

cc: Supreme Court Files

JUDGMENT NOTICE

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION SUPREME COURT

No. 2026-EL-009

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION, *PETITIONER*

ON PETITION FOR RELIEF

Date of Judgement: May 11, 2026

Issued: May 12, 2026

I. SUMMARY OF JUDGMENT & PROCEDURAL POSTURE

The Supreme Court of the UTEP Student Government Association, having granted review of the Petition for Relief submitted by Attorney General Rosales on behalf of the SGA Advisor and having docketed the matter for immediate deliberation on May 11, 2026, hereby interprets the governing documents to address the vacancy in the Vice President-elect of Internal Affairs position and issues the following judgment:

The Relief Requested is hereby GRANTED.

In light of the voluntarily-created vacancy in the Vice President-elect role, the Court grants the requested relief by directing that the next eligible candidate under the line of succession shall assume the office. Accordingly, Senator Jesse Corralejo is designated as the new Vice President-elect of Internal Affairs. He shall be sworn into office at the appropriate time in accordance with the timelines prescribed by the Student Government Association Constitution.

This interpretation ensures continuity and aligns with the existing procedures governing officer succession.

Furthermore, the Court directs that this matter be transmitted to the Document Review Committee for procedural clarification. Upon review, the Committee shall formalize the clarified procedure through written legislation.

SO ORDERED.

II. HOLDING

The Court reached its judgment by a vote of 2-0, with one Justice not present to vote.

This holding is operative immediately upon issuance of this Judgment.

III. DISPOSITION WITHOUT JUDICIAL OPINION

The Court's disposition of this matter does not require the issuance of a full written opinion. The Petition presents a narrow question of constitutional interpretation and raises no factual disputes necessitating extended analysis. Accordingly, the Court resolves the issue through this Judgment Notice, which constitutes the final action of the Court in this case.

IV. NOTICE TO THE PARTIES

The parties are hereby notified that:

- This Judgment Notice serves as the Court's official action in Cause No. 2026-EL-009.

May 18, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION RECORD

Administrative Session called to order at 3:08 PM by Chief Justice Ortega. Administrative Session convened via Microsoft Teams.

Justices Present: Chief Justice Ortega, Chief Justice Pro Temp. Dunlop, Justice Perez Martínez

Justices Absent: Justice Rincon

Other Officers Present:

First Order of Business: Supreme Court Procedures (Proposals only)

The Court made proposals to modify and amend Articles I–VIII of the Supreme Court Procedures via open discussion.

Final Order of Business: Adjournment

Administrative Session adjourned at 5:03 PM by Chief Justice Ortega.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Ortega', with a large, stylized 'A' and a circular flourish at the end.

Angel Ortega

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

cc: Supreme Court Files

May 25, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION RECORD

Administrative Session was **not convened** due to failure to meet quorum as required by the governing documents of the Supreme Court of the Student Government Association.

The Chief Justice was present at the scheduled meeting time and location; however, quorum was not achieved. Accordingly, **no official business was conducted**, no actions were taken, and no items were entered into the record as adopted or decided.

Justices Present: Chief Justice Ortega, Chief Justice Pro Temp. Dunlop.

Justices Absent: Justice Perez Martinez, Justice Rincon.

Other Officers Present:

As quorum was not met, the Administrative Session was **not called to order**, and no adjournment was necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Ortega', with a large, stylized 'A' and a circular flourish at the end.

Angel Ortega

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

cc: Supreme Court Files

May 25, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chief Justice Pro Temp. Dunlop, Justice Perez Martínez, Justice Ríncon

FROM: Angel Ortega, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

RE: Immediate Action Required – Failure to Meet Quorum

Colleagues,

We have now failed to meet quorum again. This is becoming a repeated issue, and it directly undermines the Court's ability to function and maintain legitimacy. Even though we can technically conduct business with a majority, we are a stronger and more credible governing body when all five Justices are present.

Let me be clear: in the entire term so far, we have only achieved perfect attendance twice – our first Administrative Session and our Session on April 27. And even then, at least one Justice was virtual. Not once have all five of us been physically present in the same room.

I understand we are just beginning our summer semester, but every Justice agreed to serve through the summer, and if that was a concern, it should have been raised when we were discussing these arrangements. Attendance at Administrative Sessions is a required obligation of this office, and the Bylaws enforce consequences for unexcused absences.

If any Justice feels that these responsibilities are becoming unmanageable, I ask that you reflect on whether you can continue in the role as we approach a new appointment cycle. This is not a request for resignations – it is simply a reminder that the position carries real responsibilities, and the Court cannot operate if those responsibilities are not met.

Stipends will be reduced upon further unexcused absences.

OPINIONS SHALL NOT BE DELAYED ANY FURTHER. All opinions must be submitted in full to the Google Drive by Sunday at 11:59 PM for review on Monday. Failure to do so constitutes a failure to perform assigned duties.

A reminder that Executive and Legislative Swearing-in Ceremony is this week. Attendance is optional but strongly recommended. Please ensure you have RSVP'd – deadlines and details are in Senior Coordinator Chavez's email.

And to be absolutely clear: I do not have an issue with one or two absences. Life happens – I myself had an excused absence. What is unacceptable is the failure to communicate. That is what prevents us from meeting quorum, delays our work, and undermines the Court.

We will reschedule today's set agenda for next week. All Justices are expected to be present unless formally excused by the Chief Justice of this Court.

Respectfully,

Angel Ortega
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

cc: Senior Coordinator Chavez

June 1, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION RECORD

Administrative Session called to order at 5:23 PM by Chief Justice Ortega. Administrative Session convened via Microsoft Teams.

Justices Present: Chief Justice Ortega, Chief Justice Pro Temp. Dunlop, Justice Perez Martinez.

Justices Absent: Justice Rincon.

Other Officers Present:

First Order of Business: Supreme Court Procedures

The Court, following a formal proposal of revisions to the Supreme Court Procedures conducted a vote to Adopt, in part, the Procedures of the Court. The Court voted unanimously to Adopt the following into immediate effect:

- *Article I Section II and III*
- *Article II Section I*
- *Article III*
- *Article VII Section VI*

Second Order of Business: Review and Archive – Supreme Court Opinions (Informal)

Justice Perez Martínez was excused from this portion of the session. An informal review of Election-related Opinions of this Court occurred between Chief Justice Ortega and Chief Justice Pro Temp. Dunlop to approve Opinions for publishing. Justice Rincon was not present to share her feedback on the drafted Opinions, however, Justice Ortega proceeded to continue with this internal review to avoid any further delay.

Final Order of Business: Adjournment

Administrative Session adjourned at 7:11 PM by Chief Justice Ortega.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angel Ortega', written over a horizontal line.

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

cc: Supreme Court Files

Opinion of the Court

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

No. 2026-EL-003

ALEJANDRO FACUSSE ROBLES GIL and ALEXA HILDARY
GONZALEZ VALENCIANO, *PETITIONER*

Vs.

NOVA EXECUTIVE ALLIANCE, RESPONDENT

June 1, 2026

CHIEF JUSTICE PRO TEMPORE DUNLOP delivered the Opinion of the Court, in which CHIEF JUSTICE ORTEGA and JUSTICE RINCON joined.

1. Procedural Posture

On April 24, 2026 at 12:30 PM (MST), the Petitioner filed a Violation Complaint Form regarding unauthorized use of UTEP brand material in social media marketing. Emergency Review was granted due to the imminence of the election verification period ending on April 29, 2026.

The Court has deliberated on the merits. Following proper deliberation, Chief Justice Pro Tempore Justice Dunlop, joined by Justice Rincon, and Chief Justice Ortega issues the following as the binding Opinion of the full Court. This Opinion reflects the Court's final judgment on the matter.

The petition submitted by the Petitioner is appended to this Opinion as Appendix A.

The UTEP Brand Guide is appended to this Opinion as Appendix B.

II. Background

The Petitioner filed a timely violation complaint form for the 2026 General Elections on April 24, 2026. Both named Petitioners filed a violation complaint form at this time against the Respondent for the same allegation. The violation complaint forms were determined by the court to be from the same executive alliance leading to the similar Violation Complaint Forms being condensed into one case. The Petitioner alleged that the Respondent had utilized UTEP brand material in a way that violates the SGA Election Code. The Violation Complaint Form included a photo of the alleged offense. Emergency review was granted due to the imminence of the election verification period and the need for timely ballot preparation.

III. Jurisdiction

The Supreme Court of the Student Government Association possesses jurisdiction over disputes arising under the Election Code, including matters involving campaign material, the use of such material and interpretation of governing documents. A request to review a violation complaint form regarding these matters constitutes an election-related question within the Court's authority. The Court therefore exercises jurisdiction over this Petition pursuant to the Election Code and the Constitution of the Student Government Association.

IV. Disposition on Preliminary Hearing

The Court determined that the filed Violation Complaint Form necessitated a preliminary hearing to hear arguments from the Petitioner and the Respondent. Therefore, a preliminary hearing was granted by the court and scheduled for April 27, 2026 at 5:40 PM (MST).

V. Analysis

A. Article 7, Section 11, Subsection C

The Court determined that the complaint alleged by the Petitioner was based on Article 7, Section 11, Subsection C of the SGA Election Code. This section deals with the use of "Any use of the university mascot, logo (pick) ... may not be used in campaign material". The punishment that was predetermined by the Court for a violation of this nature was a 10 vote deduction to be applied as a sanction.

B. The Evidence Presented

The Petitioner provided the Court with a photo of the alleged offense which was taken from a longer social media video. This evidence is appended to this document within appendix A. This evidence shows the Respondents standing in front of a UTEP shuttle stop located at the Sun Bowl Garage. The complaint presented based on this evidence is that there is "clearly" a pick (logo) found in the image. The Petitioners claim that the use of UTEP architecture resembling a logo is a violation of the Election Code.

The argument presented to the Court by the Respondent was two-fold in nature. In part the claim was that the logo in the evidence was not covered because it was not clearly, and identifiably, a logo. The second claim was that the colors of the logo in the evidence was not consistent with UTEP colors. The Court found that the first part of the argument had merit but did not find the argument based on color to be convincing.

The Court utilized an analysis of the UTEP Brand Guide to determine if the shuttle stop constituted an instance of a logo. The Brand Guide can be found appended to this Opinion in appendix B. The Court finds that the alleged logo was not consistent with what the UTEP Brand Guide specifies as a logo. The Shuttle stop was not at the right orientation, and did not clearly show the top of the pick. This made the alleged logo not meet the qualifications to be considered a logo according to the brand guide.

VI. Holding

Based on the Petition and the governing documents, and in light of the Court's interpretation of the Election Code's stance on the use of the UTEP Logo the Court holds the following:

First, the Petitioner is not granted the relief requested. The Court will not apply the predetermined sanction for unauthorized campaign materials on the Respondent.

Second, this determination is binding and is not subject to revision.

VII. Conclusion

The Court issues this Opinion to prevent uncertainty regarding the Petitioner's Violation Complaint Form as the election verification period approaches.

It reflects the direction of the Court based on the Petition and the governing documents and is binding as it speaks for the full Court.

This is the Final Opinion of the Court following proper deliberation.

VII. Order

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Petitioner's request to apply predetermined sanctions to the Respondent is not granted, consistent with the holdings above.

SO ORDERED.

SGA General Election - Violation Complaint Form

Alejandro Facusse - Fri, Apr 24, 2026 12:30 PM

Dean of Students Office

Approved

Date: Sat, Apr 25, 2026 11:46 PM

By: Angel Ortega Martinez

Untitled

Name of Individual Filing Case:

Alejandro Facusse Robles Gil

Student ID Number:

[REDACTED]

Preferred Phone Number:

[REDACTED]

UTEP Email Address:

afacusseroble@miners.utep.edu

Name of Candidate or Executive Alliance Filed Against:

NOVA Executive Alliance

Date & Time of Alleged Violation:

Tuesday April 21st, and keep visible until Friday April 24th, 2026

Location of Alleged Violation:

Social Media Campaigning

Details of Alleged Violation:

On April 21st, members of the NOVA Executive Alliance published a campaign video through their official campaign account (@vote.nova.2026) on Instagram. The video was recorded on UTEP campus grounds directly in front of the large UTEP pick structure, which is a widely recognized symbol associated with the University and its official branding identity. The campaign video prominently uses this structure as the central visual element while promoting the NOVA Executive Alliance and encouraging student support in the SGA election. By doing so, the campaign integrates a highly recognizable institutional symbol into its campaign material in a manner that may create an implied association between the University and the campaign. Under Article VII of the SGA Election Code, campaign materials must comply with University regulations, and the use of official University identity elements, including logos and institutional representation, is restricted. While the campaign does not display the official logo directly, the deliberate use of a recognizable institutional structure as a primary campaign backdrop raises concerns regarding indirect use of University branding and potential misrepresentation of institutional neutrality. Furthermore, the Election Code grants the SGA Supreme Court authority to interpret and enforce provisions in cases where campaign conduct may affect fairness or create an appearance of institutional advantage. The repeated or intentional use of symbolic University imagery within campaign media may therefore constitute a form of improper campaign material by leveraging institutional association. Screenshots and video evidence are attached for review.

Please upload any evidence below:



DOWNLOAD FILE

By clicking "**YES**" below:

I certify that all statements on this form are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Yes

Discussion

A Angel Ortega Martinez

Write a message

 [Add an Attachment](#)

CANCEL

POST

Your Review

A Angel Ortega Martinez
Your Vote: None



Reviewers



Voting Reviewers

A Andrew Vernon
Association - Form

A Angel Ortega Martinez
Association - Form

B Brendan Dunlop
Association - Form

D Danapaola Rincon
Association - Form

E Evelyn Perez Martinez
Association - Form

Non-Voting Reviewers

A

Adan Rosales

Association - Form

C

Carlos Chavez

Association - Form

D

Diego Triana

Association - Form



Vanessa Gonzalez

Association - Form

SGA General Election - Violation Complaint Form

Alexa Gonzalez Valenciano - Fri, Apr 24, 2026 4:27 PM

Dean of Students Office

Approved

Date: Sun, Apr 26, 2026 12:07 AM

By: Angel Ortega Martinez

Untitled

Name of Individual Filing Case:

Alexa Hildary Gonzalez Valenciano

Student ID Number:

[REDACTED]

Preferred Phone Number:

[REDACTED]

UTEP Email Address:

ahgonzalezv@miners.utep.edu

Name of Candidate or Executive Alliance Filed Against:

NOVA Alliance

Date & Time of Alleged Violation:

Tuesday April 21st

Location of Alleged Violation:

Social Media Campaigning

Details of Alleged Violation:

On Tuesday April 21st, members of the NOVA Executive Alliance posted a campaign video through their campaign account @vote.nova.2026 on Instagram social media platform. The video was filmed on the UTEP campus directly in front of the large UTEP pick sculpture, which prominently displays official university branding and institutional colors associated with The University of Texas at El Paso. The video uses this location as the primary visual backdrop while promoting the NOVA Executive Alliance ticket and encouraging students to support the campaign in the SGA election. Because the video prominently features a recognized university symbol and institutional branding, the use of this location as a campaign backdrop may create the appearance of institutional affiliation or endorsement of a specific campaign. The use of university property and institutional imagery as part of campaign promotional materials may constitute improper campaign materials, which may fall under Article IV, Section 13 of the SGA Election Code governing campaign materials and signage. Additionally, the Spring 2026 Predetermined Sanctions document provides that violations not expressly listed remain subject to the authority of the SGA Supreme Court to interpret and enforce the Election Code when conduct affects the fairness and integrity of the election process. Screenshots of the campaign post are attached as evidence

Please upload any evidence below:



DOWNLOAD FILE

By clicking "**YES**" below:

I certify that all statements on this form are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Yes

Discussion

A Angel Ortega Martinez

Write a message

 [Add an Attachment](#)

CANCEL

POST

Your Review

A

Angel Ortega Martinez
Your Vote: None



Reviewers



Voting Reviewers

A

Andrew Vernon
Association - Form

A

Angel Ortega Martinez
Association - Form

B

Brendan Dunlop
Association - Form

D

Danapaola Rincon
Association - Form

E

Evelyn Perez Martinez
Association - Form

Non-Voting Reviewers

A

Adan Rosales
Association - Form

C

Carlos Chavez

Association - Form

D

Diego Triana

Association - Form



Vanessa Gonzalez

Association - Form



Posts

vote.nova.2026



vote.nova.2026

Frank Ocean · Pink + White



No matter where you are,
★ NOVA ★
is here with you



42 6 5



Liked by anagiselle121 and others

vote.nova.2026 NOVA is here for you! 🌟 Wherever you are in

Opinion of the Court

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

No. 2026-EL-004

HAJALETT ESCALANTE, *PETITIONER*

v.

FORWARD EXECUTIVE ALLIANCE, RESPONDENT

ON VIOLATION COMPLAINT

June 1, 2026

CHIEF JUSTICE ORTEGA delivered the Opinion of the Court, in which JUSTICE DUNLOP and JUSTICE RINCON joined.

I. Procedural Posture

On April 24, 2026, the Petitioner submitted a Violation Complaint Form alleging that members of the Forward Executive Alliance engaged in unsolicited campaigning in violation of Article II, Section 31 of the SGA Election Code. The Complaint included a written witness statement signed by a student who described the incident in detail.

After review of the filing, the Court issued a Court Order Setting for Hearing on April 25, 2026, scheduling an in-person hearing for April 27, 2026. Both parties appeared. The Court permitted questioning by the Justices.

The matter proceeded to deliberation upon the conclusion of all scheduled hearings.

The violation complaint submitted by the Petitioner is appended to this Opinion as Appendix A.

II. Background

According to the Complaint and the witness statement, on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, between approximately 6:00 PM and 7:00 PM, the witness was leaving the UTEP Recreation Center when he was approached by a group of approximately six individuals, including Respondent candidate Anthoni Scarola and several campaign workers.

The group initiated campaign conversation, encouraged the witness to vote for the Forward Executive Alliance, and continued speaking even after the witness stated that he had already voted and did not wish to engage. The witness reported feeling overwhelmed due to multiple individuals speaking to him simultaneously and continuing to insist after he attempted to disengage.

The witness provided a signed written statement dated April 24, 2026, which was admitted into the record. During the hearing, the witness was not present to affirm the accuracy of his written account.

The Respondent acknowledged that campaign workers were present at the Recreation Center during the relevant time but disputed the characterization of the interaction as “insistent” or “overwhelming.”

III. Jurisdiction

The Supreme Court exercises jurisdiction over all alleged violations of the SGA Election Code pursuant to Article III and IV of the Code. Allegations of unsolicited campaigning fall squarely within the Court's authority to interpret and enforce campaign conduct regulations.

IV. Analysis

A. Unsolicited Campaigning Under Article II, Section 31

Article II, Section 31 of the Election Code defines Unsolicited Campaigning/Correspondence as: "communication which does not have clear prior consent of the individual that is being contacted."

Subsection (a) additionally prohibits belittling, repetitive, and/or threatening behavior directed at an individual.

Although the examples listed in the provision primarily address digital or mass-communication contexts, the operative definition applies broadly to any campaign communication directed at an individual without clear prior consent, including in-person interactions. The prohibition is triggered when a student indicates they do not wish to engage and campaigners continue the communication.

B. Application to the Record

The Court finds the witness's testimony credible and consistent with his written statement. The Respondent's acknowledgment that campaigners continued speaking after the initial approach corroborates the essential elements of the account.

Under Article II, Section 31, once the witness stated that he did not wish to engage, any continued campaign communication constituted unsolicited campaigning, regardless of duration, tone, or intent. The Code does not require hostility, coercion, or prolonged interaction; the violation occurs when campaigners continue after consent is expressly withheld.

The Court therefore concludes that the conduct established in the record satisfies the definition of unsolicited campaigning under the Election Code.

The submitted witness testimony is appended to this Opinion as Appendix B.

V. Holding

The Court holds that the Respondent engaged in unsolicited campaigning in violation of Article II, Section 31 of the SGA Election Code.

Pursuant to the Spring 2026 Predetermined Sanctions List, the appropriate sanction for this violation is a reduction of ten (10) votes.

The Court retains discretion to modify sanctions but finds no basis to deviate from the sanction prescribed for this category of conduct.

VI. Conclusion

After reviewing the Complaint, the written witness statement, and the testimony presented at the April 27, 2026 hearing, the Court concludes that the Respondent's conduct constitutes unsolicited campaigning under the Election Code.

The violation is established by written testimony and is consistent with the regulatory definition adopted by the Court for the 2026 election cycle.

The sanction is therefore imposed as required.

VII. Order

IT IS ORDERED that the *Forward Executive Alliance* is assessed a reduction of ten (10) votes for engaging in unsolicited campaigning in violation of Article II, Section 31 of the SGA Election Code.

SO ORDERED.

SGA General Election - Violation Complaint Form

Hajalett Escalante - Fri, Apr 24, 2026 1:44 PM

Dean of Students Office

Approved

Date: Sun, Apr 26, 2026 12:14 AM

By: Angel Ortega Martinez

Untitled

Name of Individual Filing Case:

Hajalett Escalante

Student ID Number:

[REDACTED]

Preferred Phone Number:

[REDACTED]

UTEP Email Address:

hescalante2@miners.utep.edu

Name of Candidate or Executive Alliance Filed Against:

Anthoni Scarola/ Vote Forward Alliance

Date & Time of Alleged Violation:

Wednesday, April 22nd, 2026

Location of Alleged Violation:

UTEP Recreation Center

Details of Alleged Violation:

On Wednesday, April 23rd at approximately around 6:00 PM and 7:00PM, a student was leaving the UTEP Recreation Center (REC) when he was approached by a group of individuals campaigning for Anthoni Scarola and his executive alliance. According to the witness statement provided, Anthoni Scarola and approximately five other students approached the student simultaneously and began speaking to him about the Student Government Association elections. During the interaction, the group encouraged the student to vote for Anthoni Scarola and his alliance. The female students in the group explicitly indicated that they were campaign workers supporting Anthoni Scarola's campaign. The student reports that he informed the group that he had already voted and that he was not interested in the conversation, and attempted to continue leaving the area. However, several members of the group continued insisting and directing campaign messaging toward him even after he indicated that he did not wish to engage, which resulted in the student feeling overwhelmed by the interaction. Because the student explicitly indicated that he did not wish to engage in campaign conversation and the campaigners continued insisting, this conduct appears to constitute unsolicited campaigning, which is subject to sanction under Article II, Section 31 of the SGA Election Code, as reflected in the Spring 2026 Predetermined Sanctions list. A written witness statement describing the incident has been provided and is included as supporting documentation with this complaint.

Please upload any evidence below:



DOWNLOAD FILE

By clicking **"YES"** below:

I certify that all statements on this form are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Yes

Discussion

A Angel Ortega Martinez

Write a message

 [Add an Attachment](#)

CANCEL

POST

Your Review

A

Angel Ortega Martinez

Your Vote: None



Reviewers



Voting Reviewers

A

Andrew Vernon

Association - Form

A

Angel Ortega Martinez

Association - Form

B

Brendan Dunlop

Association - Form

D

Danapaola Rincon

Association - Form

E

Evelyn Perez Martinez

Association - Form

Non-Voting Reviewers

A

Adan Rosales

Association - Form

C

Carlos Chavez

Association - Form

D

Diego Triana

Association - Form



Vanessa Gonzalez

Association - Form

04/24/2026

On Wednesday, April 22nd somewhere around 6:00 PM, I was leaving the UTEP Recreation Center (REC) when I was approached by a group of students.

The group included Anthoni Scarola and approximately five other students. They began speaking to me about the Student Government Association elections and encouraged me to vote for Anthoni Scarola and his alliance. The female students in the group indicated that they were campaign workers supporting his campaign.

I informed them that I had already voted and that I was not interested in the conversation, and I attempted to continue leaving the area. However, several members of the group continued encouraging me to vote for Anthoni Scarola and his alliance, even after I indicated that I did not want to engage.

Because multiple individuals were speaking to me at the same time and continued insisting after I expressed that I was not interested, I felt overwhelmed by the interaction.

I am providing this statement to describe what I experienced.



Signed on April 24th, 2026

Andres Gonzalez Cano

UTEP ID: [REDACTED]

Opinion of the Court

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME Court

No. 2026-EL-005

ALEXA HILDARY GONZALEZ VALENCIANO, *PETITIONER*

Vs.

EMMANUELLA N. AMADI CHINYERE and FORWARD
EXECUTIVE ALLIANCE, *RESPONDENT*

June 1st, 2026

CHIEF JUSTICE PRO TEMPORE DUNLOP delivered the Opinion of the Court, in which CHIEF JUSTICE ORTEGA and JUSTICE RINCON joined.

I. Procedural Posture

On April 24, 2026 at 4:37 PM (MST), the Petitioner filed a Violation Complaint Form regarding unauthorized campaigning and unauthorized cooperation. Emergency Review was granted due to the imminence of the election verification period ending on April 29, 2026.

The Court has deliberated on the merits. Following proper deliberation, Chief Justice Pro Tempore Justice Dunlop, joined by Chief Justice Ortega and Justice Rincon issues the following as the binding Opinion of the Court. This Opinion reflects the Court's final judgment on the matter.

The petition submitted by the Petitioner is appended to this Opinion as Appendix A.

II. Background

The Petitioner timely filed a timely violation complaint form for the 2026 General Elections on April 24, 2026. The Petitioner alleged that the Respondent(s) had engaged in unauthorized collaboration and unauthorized campaigning which violates the SGA Election Code. The Violation Complaint Form included a signed witness testimony from the Teaching Assistant of an Engineering Lab and the Professor of the same Engineering Lab. Emergency review was granted due to the imminence of the election verification period and the need for timely ballot preparation.

III. Jurisdiction

The Supreme Court of the Student Government Association possesses jurisdiction over disputes arising under the Election Code, including matters involving campaigning, and the interpretation of governing documents. A request to review a violation complaint form regarding these matters constitutes an election-related question within the Court's authority. The Court therefore exercises jurisdiction over this Petition pursuant to the Election Code and the Constitution of the Student Government Association.

IV. Disposition on Preliminary Hearing

The Court determined that the filed Violation Complaint Form necessitated a preliminary hearing to hear arguments from the Petitioner and the Respondent. Therefore, a preliminary hearing was granted by the Court and scheduled for April 27, 2026 at 5:40 PM (MST).

VI. Analysis

A. Violation Identified by the Court

The Court determined that based on the violation complaint form there were two different violations being alleged by the Petitioner. First, the Petitioner is alleging that Respondent Emmanuella is responsible for unauthorized campaigning in a UTEP Engineering Lab without the permission of the Professor. The second violation identified is that the Respondents are responsible for unauthorized cooperation. The second allegation is based on the testimony of the TA and Professor. The accusation is that the respondent guided voters to a specific campaign.

B. The Evidence Presented

The Petitioner provided the Court with signed witness statements regarding the events that are outlined in the violation complaint form (Appendix A). The witness statements were provided to the petitioner by the TA and Professor of an engineering lab. The alleged incident took place while the lab was active, and in the care of both the TA and the Professor.

The Court was also given the testimony of respondent Emmanuella. This testimony consisted of a detailed first hand account of what they were doing in the lab. This account included an admission that they had not asked for permission to campaign in the lab. It also included an admission that they guided voters to a particular candidate.

C. Reasoning Behind Sanction

Respondent Emmanuella admitted to the alleged violation in the course of the hearing. This allowed for the Court to determine that there was sufficient evidence to issue a sanction to the responding parties. We found that Respondent Emmanuella, who was actively campaigning, violated the election code in two ways. First they did not have the permission of the professor that was in charge of the lab to campaign. Second, they collaborated with the Forward Executive Alliance.

The second violation is much more serious and resulted in a larger sanction than the first. It is the opinion of the Court that collaboration must be severely punished, even in cases where it is not evident that the collaboration was intentional. Collaboration provides a significant advantage to candidates that is difficult to quantify in exact numbers. This difficulty led the Court to believe that both parties must be sanctioned to ensure the fairness of the election.

In this case the Court did take into account that the Forward Executive Alliance did not have any direct ties, and that there was no conclusive evidence showing intentional collaboration. This lack of direct ties between respondents resulted in a lower penalty being applied than what was required by the automatic sanction list. Rather than issue a full sanction the Court determined that it would be appropriate to sanction the Forward Executive Alliance at 1/3rd of the value of the sanction.

VII. Holding

Based on the Petition and the governing documents, and in light of the Court's interpretation of the Election Code's stance on the use of the UTEP Logo the Court holds the following:

First, the Petitioner is granted the relief requested.

Second, The Court will apply the predetermined sanction for unauthorized campaigning and unauthorized collaboration on the Respondent, Emmanuella N. Amadi Chinyere.

Third, The Court will apply 1/3rd of the predetermined sanction for unauthorized collaboration on the Respondent, Forward Executive Alliance.

Fourth, this determination is binding and is not subject to revision.

VIII. Conclusion

The Court issues this Opinion to prevent uncertainty regarding the Petitioner's Violation Complaint Form as the election verification period approaches.

It reflects the direction of the Court based on the Petition and the governing documents and is binding as it speaks for the full Court.

This is the Final Opinion of the Court following proper deliberation.

IX. Order

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Petitioner's request to apply predetermined sanctions to the Respondent(s) is granted in part, consistent with the holdings above.

SO ORDERED.

SGA General Election - Violation Complaint Form

Alexa Gonzalez Valenciano - Fri, Apr 24, 2026 4:37 PM

Dean of Students Office

Approved

Date: Sun, Apr 26, 2026 12:21 AM

By: Angel Ortega Martinez

Untitled

Name of Individual Filing Case:

Alexa Hildary Gonzalez Valenciano

Student ID Number:

[REDACTED]

Preferred Phone Number:

[REDACTED]

UTEP Email Address:

ahgonzalezv@miners.utep.edu

Name of Candidate or Executive Alliance Filed Against:

Emmanuella N, Amadi Chinyere and Vote Forward Alliance

Date & Time of Alleged Violation:

Wednesday April 22nd around 3:00PM

Location of Alleged Violation:

Engineering Lab E335 Senior Labs

Details of Alleged Violation:

On Wednesday April 22nd at approximately 3pm in an engineering (E335 Senior Labs) laboratory located in Engineering Building, Emmanuella Amadi, a candidate for the position of Senator-at-Large, entered the laboratory while students were present working on their senior engineering projects. While inside the laboratory, Ms. Amadi began speaking to students about the Student Government Association elections. During this interaction, she directly asked students to vote for the Vote Forward Alliance executive ticket, referring to it as the middle option on the ballot, for all the three executive positions and also asked students to vote for her candidacy for Senator-at-Large. As a legislative candidate, Ms. Amadi is not a member of the executive alliance ticket. By actively promoting both the Vote Forward Alliance executive candidates and her own candidacy during the same interaction with voters, this conduct appears to constitute unauthorized association or collaboration with an executive alliance, as referenced in Article V, Section 4(c) and Article IX of the SGA Election Code. Additionally, the individual entered the laboratory without authorization from the supervising faculty member. The laboratory is an academic workspace designated for students working on their senior engineering projects, and the instructor has confirmed that no permission was requested or granted for this individual to enter the laboratory for campaign-related activity. Conducting campaign activity in this setting appears to constitute unsolicited campaigning, which is subject to sanction under Article II, Section 31 of the SGA Election Code, as reflected in the Spring 2026 Predetermined Sanctions list. Multiple students witnessed the situation. While some of the students prefer to remain anonymous, a student have provided signed personal statements describing what he witnessed. Additionally, the person responsible for supervising the laboratory has provided a written statement confirming that no authorization was given for this individual to enter the lab and conduct campaign activity. These documents are included as supporting evidence with this complaint.

Please upload any evidence below:



DOWNLOAD FILE

By clicking **"YES"** below:
I certify that all statements on this form are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Yes

Discussion

A

Angel Ortega Martinez

Write a message

 [Add an Attachment](#)

CANCEL

POST

Your Review

A

Angel Ortega Martinez

Your Vote: None



Reviewers



Voting Reviewers

A

Andrew Vernon

Association - Form

A

Angel Ortega Martinez

Association - Form

B

Brendan Dunlop

Association - Form

Danapaola Rincon

D Association - Form

E Evelyn Perez Martinez
Association - Form

Non-Voting Reviewers

A Adan Rosales
Association - Form

C Carlos Chavez
Association - Form

D Diego Triana
Association - Form

 Vanessa Gonzalez
Association - Form

Violation Form Evidence

Contents:

-Page 2-

Faculty Letter

-Page 3-
Student Letter

Date: 4-24-26

I am the faculty member responsible for supervising an engineering laboratory (E335 Senior Labs) at the Engineering Building at The University of Texas at El Paso where students work on their senior engineering projects.

On Wednesday, April 22nd, I observed an individual enter the laboratory space while students were present working on their projects. The individual began speaking with students about the Student Government Association elections and appeared to be encouraging students to vote.

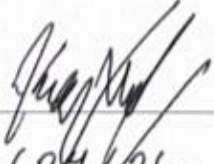
The laboratory is an academic workspace designated for students working on their senior engineering projects, and individuals who are not authorized are not permitted to enter the lab or conduct activities unrelated to the academic work being performed.

I can confirm that no permission was requested or granted for any individual to enter the laboratory for campaign-related activity.

I am providing this statement to document what I observed.

Name: Kevin Valdez

Title / Department: T. A Senior Project II
under Sup. of Dr Erives
ECF department.

Signature: 

Date: 4/24/26

My name is Ramiro Moctezuma, and I am a student at The University of Texas at El Paso. The past Wednesday, April 22nd, 2026, I was present in an engineering laboratory room E335 where students were working on their senior engineering projects when the situation happened.

While we were working in the lab, Emmanuela Amadi, who is running for Senator-at-Large, came into the lab and started talking to students about the Student Government Association elections.

During that time, she encouraged students to vote and mentioned that they should vote for the Vote Forward Alliance, describing it as the middle option on the ballot. She also asked students to vote for her for Senator-at-Large.

As far as I know, she did not have permission from the professor in charge of the lab to enter the space or campaign there.

This statement reflects what I personally saw.

Name: Ramiro Moctezuma

Student ID: [REDACTED]

Signature: 

Date: 4/24/26

Opinion of the Court

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

No. 2026-EL-006

JESSE CORRALEJO, *PETITIONER*

v.

NEW ERA EXECUTIVE ALLIANCE, RESPONDENT

ON VIOLATION COMPLAINT

June 1, 2026

JUSTICE RINCON delivered the Opinion of the Court, in which CHIEF JUSTICE ORTEGA and JUSTICE DUNLOP joined.

I. Procedural Posture

On April 24, 2026, the Petitioner filed a Violation Complaint Form alleging that the *New Era Executive Alliance* violated the Student Government Association Election Code by using the University's pickaxe logo in campaign materials posted on Instagram. Emergency Review was granted due to the imminence of the election verification period ending on April 29, 2026. The Supreme Court issued a Court Order Setting Hearing on April 25, 2026, and the matter was heard on April 27, 2026, in the SGA Senate Chambers.

The hearing has concluded, the evidence has been reviewed, and the Court now issues its final, binding Opinion.

The petition submitted by the Petitioner is appended to this Opinion as Appendix A.

II. Background

The Petitioner alleges that the Respondent published campaign material containing the University's pickaxe logo—an official institutional mark—during the campaign period. The material was posted publicly on Instagram and was allegedly used to promote the Respondent's candidacy.

The Respondent did not dispute that the image contained the pickaxe logo. Instead, they argued that the use was inadvertent or not intended to imply University endorsement.

III. Jurisdiction

The Supreme Court possesses jurisdiction over all alleged violations of the Election Code pursuant to Article III and Article IV. The Petition was timely filed, properly submitted, and concerns conduct occurring during the election period. The Court therefore exercises full jurisdiction over this matter.

IV. Issue Presented & Applicable Law

The issue before this Court is whether the use of the University's pickaxe logo in campaign materials constitutes a violation of the Election Code, regardless of intent.

The governing provision is found in Article VII, Section 11(c) - Campaign Restrictions, which states:

"Any use of the University mascot, logo (pick), any University department seal, and department names may not be used in any campaign material."

V. Analysis

A. The Election Code Prohibits All Use of University Logos in Campaign Materials

Article VII, Section 11(c) is explicit: candidates and alliances may not use the University mascot or logo in campaign materials. The prohibition is absolute. The presence of the logo itself constitutes the violation.

The Respondent's campaign material contained the University's official pickaxe logo. This fact is undisputed. The violation is therefore established.

B. Intent Is Not a Defense Under the Election Code

The Respondent argued that the use was inadvertent or not intended to imply endorsement. The Court rejects this argument. The Election Code does not condition violations on intent. The rule exists to prevent confusion, preserve institutional neutrality, and ensure equal access to campaign resources.

Allowing exceptions based on subjective intent would undermine the clarity and enforceability of the Code.

C. The Violation Creates an Improper Appearance of Institutional Endorsement

Even if unintended, the use of the University's pickaxe logo risks creating the appearance that the University endorses a particular candidate or alliance. The Election Code's prohibition exists precisely to avoid this implication.

D. Violation Is Substantive and Warrants Sanction

The use of official University marks is one of the most serious campaign restrictions in the Code. It protects the integrity of the election process and ensures that no candidate appears to have institutional backing.

The violation is therefore substantive and warrants a meaningful sanction.

VI. Holding

For the reasons stated above, the Court finds:

1. The New Era Executive Alliance violated Article VII, Section 11(c) of the Election Code by using the University's pickaxe logo in campaign materials.
 2. The Petitioner's requested relief is GRANTED.
 3. A sanction of a ten (10) vote deduction is imposed on the Respondent. This sanction is proportionate and appropriate given the nature of the violation.
-

VII. Conclusion

The Election Code's prohibition on the use of University logos is clear, categorical, and essential to maintaining the neutrality and fairness of the election process. The Respondent's campaign material violated this rule. The Court therefore rules in favor of the Petitioner and imposes a deduction of ten (10) votes on the Respondent.

SO ORDERED.

SGA General Election - Violation Complaint Form

Jesse Corralejo - Fri, Apr 24, 2026 4:59 PM

Dean of Students Office

Approved

Date: Sun, Apr 26, 2026 12:25 AM

By: Angel Ortega Martinez

Untitled

Name of Individual Filing Case:

Jesse Corralejo

Student ID Number:

[REDACTED]

Preferred Phone Number:

[REDACTED]

UTEP Email Address:

Jcorralejo@miners.utep.edu

Name of Candidate or Executive Alliance Filed Against:

New Era

Date & Time of Alleged Violation:

Apr 22, 2026

Location of Alleged Violation:

instagram

Details of Alleged Violation:

Logo (pick)

Please upload any evidence below:



DOWNLOAD FILE

By clicking "**YES**" below:

I certify that all statements on this form are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Yes

Discussion

A Angel Ortega Martinez

Write a message



Add an Attachment

CANCEL

POST

Your Review

A

Angel Ortega Martinez



Reviewers



Voting Reviewers

- A

Andrew Vernon

Association - Form
- A

Angel Ortega Martinez

Association - Form
- B

Brendan Dunlop

Association - Form
- D

Danapaola Rincon

Association - Form
- E

Evelyn Perez Martinez

Association - Form

Non-Voting Reviewers

- A

Adan Rosales

Association - Form
- C

Carlos Chavez

Association - Form
- D

Diego Triana

Association - Form
- 

Vanessa Gonzalez

Association - Form



alfacusse 3h
hajalett



Vote vote vote!!

NEW ERA TOGETHER

RECORD-BREAKING VOICES

YOUR VOTE
SHAPES
TOMORROW

ONE TEAM.
ONE VISION.
YOUR VOICE.
OUR FUTURE.



PRESIDENT
ALEXA



VPI
ALEJANDRO



VPE
HAJALETT



INNOVATE
Fresh ideas.
Real impact.



INCLUDE
Every voice
matters.



INSPIRE
Leaders today,
changemakers
tomorrow.

YOUR EXECUTIVE TEAM!

MAKE YOUR VOICE
COUNT!



VOTING
ENDING SOON!



VOTE NOW:

<https://www.shib2.utep.edu/idp/profile/SAML2/Redirect/SSO?execution=e1s1>



TOGETHER,
WE CAN BUILD A
STRONGER COMMUNITY.



VOTE. SUPPORT. LEAD.
BE THE CHANGE.



YOUR VOTE.
OUR FUTURE.

Send message...



Memorandum of Disposition

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

No. 2026-EL-007

GRECIA ORTEGA, *PETITIONER*

v.

NEW ERA TOGETHER EXECUTIVE ALLIANCE, RESPONDENT

ON PETITION FOR HEARING

June 1, 2026

The Court notes for the record that *Case No. 2026-EL-007* was withdrawn in its entirety by mutual agreement of both the Petitioner and the Respondent. Upon receipt of the parties' joint communication, the Court closed the matter without convening a hearing, issuing a final order, or undertaking deliberations. Because the case was terminated by voluntary action of the parties rather than by judicial disposition, the Court's jurisdiction over this matter is fully extinguished. No motion to reopen, reconsider, or revive this case shall be entertained, as no justiciable controversy remains before the Court and no further relief may be granted under these circumstances.

SO ORDERED.

SGA General Election - Violation Complaint Form

Grecia Ortega - Fri, Apr 24, 2026 4:59 PM

Dean of Students Office

Approved

Date: Sun, Apr 26, 2026 12:27 AM

By: Angel Ortega Martinez

Untitled

Name of Individual Filing Case:

Grecia Ortega

Student ID Number:

[REDACTED]

Preferred Phone Number:

[REDACTED]

UTEP Email Address:

giortega@miners.utep.edu

Name of Candidate or Executive Alliance Filed Against:

New era

Date & Time of Alleged Violation:

April 21, 2026 12:04 pm

Location of Alleged Violation:

union

Details of Alleged Violation:

held student phone

Please upload any evidence below:



DOWNLOAD FILE

By clicking "**YES**" below:

I certify that all statements on this form are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Yes

Discussion

A Angel Ortega Martinez

Write a message



Add an Attachment

CANCEL

POST

Your Review

A Angel Ortega Martinez



Reviewers



Voting Reviewers

- A

Andrew Vernon

Association - Form
- A

Angel Ortega Martinez

Association - Form
- B

Brendan Dunlop

Association - Form
- D

Danapaola Rincon

Association - Form
- E

Evelyn Perez Martinez

Association - Form

Non-Voting Reviewers

- A

Adan Rosales

Association - Form
- C

Carlos Chavez

Association - Form
- D

Diego Triana

Association - Form
- 

Vanessa Gonzalez

Association - Form



208



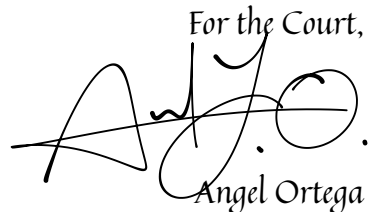
June 5, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Gibbens, SGA Advisor
FROM: Angel Ortega, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
RE: Court in Recess for Summer Semester

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Supreme Court of the Student Government Association, this memorandum serves as formal notice that the Court concluded its Spring session and adjourned all judicial business on June 1, 2026, at 7:11 p.m. Accordingly, the Court has been deemed "In Recess," and all matters properly before it shall not be scheduled, heard, or adjudicated during this period. Judicial business will resume when the Court reconvenes in its next session in August of this year. This memorandum is issued to promote transparency and to establish a clear record of the Court's administrative actions as we continue implementing these memoranda practices.

For the Court,

Angel Ortega
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

cc: Chief Justice Pro Temp. Dunlop

Justice Perez Martínez

Justice Rincón

President Scarola

Senior Coordinator Chavez

June 30, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION RECORD

Administrative Session called to order at 5:46 PM by Chief Justice Ortega. Administrative Session convened at UTEP SGA Conference Room.

Justices Present: Chief Justice Ortega, Chief Justice Pro Temp. Dunlop, Justice Perez Martínez.

Justices Absent: Justice Rincon.

Other Officers Present:

First Order of Business: Supreme Court Book of Judicial Decisions

Chief Justice Ortega presented the most up to date version of the Book of Judicial Decisions to the rest of the Court. Although formal adoption of this document is not required, the Justices agreed to publish the Book of Judicial Decisions. A physical copy shall be kept outside of the Judicial Office available for the members of the SGA and an electronic copy shall be published on the SGA website. Student ID numbers, phone numbers, and addresses have been redacted to protect student rights and privacy. Justices agreed to revisit the Supreme Court Petition forms to remove numbers and addresses

as a requirement of Party identification. The Chief Justice will forward an electronic copy of these decisions to Senior Coordinator Chavez for posting.

Second Order of Business: Code of Ethics & Committee

After formal proposals were made to amend the Code of Ethics & Committee on April 13, 2026, the Court agreed to adopt the 2026 version of the Ethics Code & Committee by a unanimous vote of the Justices present; Justice Rincon was not present to vote. Let the record reflect that this adopted version of the Code of Ethics & Committee was presented before the 2025-26 Document Review Committee and Senate for feedback.

Third Order of Business: Supreme Court Procedures

Formal proposals were made to revise and modify the most current version of the Supreme Court Procedures including:

- Duties and responsibilities of the Attorney General
- Emergency and Full Hearing Procedures
- Deliberation and Voting Practices
- Filing Requirements and Process
- Jurisdiction over University faculty and staff
- Temporary Injunctions rules
- Other technical issues. formatting, and grammar errors

A vote will be recorded at the next scheduled Administrative Session in accordance with the Amendments clause of these procedures

Final Order of Business: Adjournment

Administrative Session adjourned at 7:19 PM by Chief Justice Ortega.

Respectfully submitted,

Angel Ortega
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

cc: Supreme Court Files

July 13, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Gibbens, SGA Advisor

FROM: Angel Ortega, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

RE: Resumption of Judicial Business & Summer Supreme Court

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Supreme Court of the Student Government Association, this memorandum serves as formal notice that the Court will officially resume its judicial business today, July 13, 2026, at 5:15 PM (MST), for a regularly-called Administrative Session.

The Court convened a special session on June 30, 2026, to review its internal procedures. During that session, the justices determined that an early resumption of business was necessary to ensure continuity of judicial oversight and adequate preparation for the Fall 2026 term. Accordingly, the Court shall be deemed **in session** at 5:15 PM today, and all matters properly before it may now be scheduled, heard, and adjudicated in accordance with the Supreme Court Procedures.

Letters of Intent for the three (3) returning justices have been submitted to Senior Coordinator Chavez for the Summer Semester. Additionally, the Attorney General vacancy is currently in the process of being filled through the ongoing application cycle.

SUMMER 2026 SUPREME COURT:

Angel Ortega

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

Brendan Dunlop

Chief Justice Pro Temp. of the Supreme Court

Evelyn Perez Martinez

Associate Justice of the Supreme Court

For the Court,

Angel Ortega

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

cc: Chief Justice Pro Temp. Dunlop

Justice Perez Martinez

Justice Rincon

President Scarola

Senate Majority Leader Saenz

Senior Coordinator Chavez

July 13, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE SESSION RECORD

Administrative Session called to order at 5:27 PM by Chief Justice Ortega. Administrative Session convened at the UTEP SGA Conference Room.

Justices Present: Chief Justice Ortega, Chief Justice Pro Temp. Dunlop, Justice Perez Martinez.

Justices Absent:

Other Officers Present:

First Order of Business: Supreme Court Procedures

In accordance with the Amendments provisions of the Student Government Association governing documents, the Supreme Court, following a formal proposal of revisions and modifications to these documents at the Court's previous Administrative session, the Court moved to adopt the 07-13-26 version of the Supreme Court Procedures, effective immediately by a unanimous vote.

Final Order of Business: Adjournment

Administrative Session adjourned at 5:51 PM by Chief Justice Ortega.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Ortega', with a large, stylized 'A' and a circular flourish at the end.

Angel Ortega

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

cc: Supreme Court Files

Opinion of the Court

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

No. 2026-EL-008

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION, *PETITIONER*

v.

NEW ERA TOGETHER EXECUTIVE ALLIANCE, RESPONDENT

ON PETITION FOR HEARING

July 15, 2026

CHIEF JUSTICE ORTEGA delivered the Opinion of the Court, in which JUSTICE DUNLOP and JUSTICE RINCON joined.

I. Procedural Posture

The Petitioner submitted a Petition for Hearing under emergency circumstances alleging conduct that, if established, would constitute a violation of the Election Code and the Pre-Determined Sanctions List issued by this Court prior to the commencement of campaigning and voting.

Emergency Review was granted due to the timing of the Petition in relation to the election cycle and the need to ensure the orderly administration of the election's concluding processes.

The Petition was accompanied by materials claiming to document the alleged conduct. The Court did not undertake investigative steps or make factual determinations, as such functions fall outside the judiciary's role under the Election Code. The question before the Court at this stage was whether

the conduct described in the Petition, taken as alleged, would constitute a violation under the governing documents. Because the Petition presented no factual disputes requiring testimonial development and because the Court's procedures authorizes this Court to take immediate judicial action under emergency circumstances, the Court determined that a Preliminary Hearing was unnecessary and proceeded directly to deliberation.

The petition submitted by the Petitioner is appended to this Opinion as Appendix A.

II. Background

The Petition alleged that the Respondent used a digital mechanism embedded within campaign-related materials that intercepted, logged, and tracked student voting activity. The evidence submitted included documentation of the material used during this Executive Alliance's campaigning during the election period.

The Petitioner asserted that this conduct constituted tampering with ballots, systems, or voters under Article VII Section 17 of the Spring 2026 Predetermined Sanctions List issued by the Supreme Court and violated University privacy standards governing the handling of student information.

III. Jurisdiction

The Supreme Court of the Student Government Association exercises jurisdiction over disputes arising under the Election Code, including conduct affecting the administration and integrity of the election. Because the Petition concerns actions that directly implicate the voting process, the Court properly exercises jurisdiction.

However, the Court does not at this time exercise authority to determine whether the Respondents violated any University policy. Questions of compliance with institutional rules fall within the

jurisdiction of the appropriate University department, which alone is empowered to determine responsibility and impose consequences should a violation be found.

IV. Scope of Review

In this matter, the Court's review is directed toward determining whether the conduct described in the record falls within the definitions of violations set forth in the Election Code and the Pre-Determined Sanctions List issued prior to the commencement of campaigning and voting. The Court does not adjudicate criminal guilt, assess intent in a criminal sense, or conduct investigative proceedings. Those responsibilities rest with University administrative bodies, including the Office of Community Standards, which may undertake any further inquiry they deem appropriate.

The Court's determination in this case was rendered on the basis of the materials submitted and under the time-sensitive conditions inherent to the administration of an active election cycle. Given the urgency of ensuring the integrity and orderly progression of the election, the Court acted within the procedural framework available at the time to resolve the matter promptly. No broader conclusions are drawn, and no findings are made beyond the scope of the Election Code and the sanctions framework applicable to this election cycle.

V. Disposition on Preliminary Hearing and Respondent Notification

Ordinarily, respondents are notified of a petition filed against them and afforded an opportunity to respond before the Court proceeds to deliberation. This practice promotes fairness, transparency, and confidence in the judicial process, and the Court recognizes its importance.

In this case, however, the Petition arrived after the close of campaigning and voting, at a moment when the election process had already advanced into its administrative and certification stages. The allegations concerned conduct for which the Election Code and the Pre-Determined Sanctions List prescribe a mandatory sanction when the underlying facts are established. No issues were presented

that required development through a Preliminary Hearing or a respondent submission. The Supreme Court of the Student Government Association is not an investigative body and does not engage in fact-finding, evidence-gathering, or the examination of contested factual disputes. Those functions fall within the jurisdiction of University administrative offices.

Accordingly, because the matter before the Court did not present factual disputes requiring evidentiary development, and because the Court is not empowered to seek or compel additional evidence, no further proceedings were necessary to resolve the issue within the procedural framework of the election cycle. Under these circumstances, the Court determined that the Election Code's emergency provisions permitted immediate adjudication and the Court proceeded directly to deliberation.

The absence of respondent notice in this instance reflects the unique procedural posture of the case and the completeness of the evidentiary record, not a departure from the Court's general commitment to respondent participation. This approach is confined to the circumstances of this case. It does not establish a general practice of proceeding without notice, nor does it diminish the importance of respondent participation in ordinary proceedings. The Court emphasizes that its decision to act immediately was grounded in the Election Code's emergency framework and the mandatory nature of the sanctions applicable to the conduct alleged.

VI. Analysis

A. Distinction Between Code Violations and Criminal Guilt

In this context, it is important to clarify that the Court's role is strictly to determine whether an individual's conduct constitutes a violation of the Election Code. This process is fundamentally distinct from a determination of criminal guilt. While a criminal proceeding would involve assessing intent, assigning blame, and possibly imposing criminal penalties, our mandate is more procedural and administrative.

Here, the Court merely evaluates whether the actions in question align with the definitions of a code violation as set forth in the governing documents. To find that a code has been violated is not to find someone criminally guilty—it is simply to confirm that the conduct falls under a predefined category of violations. This distinction ensures that the Court's role is clear and that no broader conclusions are implied beyond the scope of the Election Code. In other words, a finding of a code violation indicates that the individual did not adhere to the procedural requirements set forth by the Election Code, but it does not equate to a criminal conviction or imply criminal intent.

B. Application of the Governing Documents to the Alleged Conduct

The Election Code and the Spring 2026 Pre-Determined Sanctions List identify “tampering with ballots, systems, or voters” as a violation requiring disqualification when the conduct, as alleged, falls within the definition adopted by the Court prior to the commencement of campaigning and voting. The Petition describes conduct involving the use of a digital mechanism embedded within campaign-related materials that intercepted, logged, or tracked student voting activity.

For purposes of determining whether the Petition states a cognizable violation, the Court evaluates the allegations as presented, without engaging in fact-finding or weighing evidentiary disputes. The question before the Court is therefore limited to whether the conduct, if it occurred as alleged, constitutes tampering under the governing documents.

The Court concludes that the conduct described in the Petition falls squarely within the definition of tampering with ballots, systems, or voters. Under the guidelines set by this Court, such conduct is incompatible with the orderly administration of student elections and is expressly designated as a violation requiring disqualification.

This determination reflects the Court's regulatory function: assessing whether the conduct alleged, taken at face value and without resolving factual disputes, matches the categories of violations established by the Election Code and the Pre-Determined Sanctions List. It does not constitute a finding of criminal wrongdoing, nor does it imply any conclusion regarding intent, motive, or culpability beyond the scope of the election rules.

VII. Holding

The conduct described in the Petition, if it occurred as alleged, falls within the definition of tampering with ballots, systems, or voters under Article VII Section 17 of the Spring 2026 Pre-Determined Sanctions List. Under the framework adopted for this election cycle, this category of violation carries a presumptive sanction of disqualification.

While the Supreme Court retains discretion to modify sanctions in appropriate circumstances, the Court concludes that this case does not warrant deviation from the sanction associated with the violation category.

Accordingly, the Court holds that the Respondent is subject to disqualification from candidacy in the 2026 Student Government Association General Election. This determination is limited to the Court's authority under the Election Code and does not constitute a finding of criminal liability or a determination under any University policy.

VIII. Conclusion

The Court's review in this matter was limited to determining whether the conduct described in the Petition, taken as alleged, constitutes a violation of the Election Code and the Pre-Determined Sanctions List. The Court does not investigate, resolve factual disputes, or assess criminal liability.

Given the emergency posture of the Petition, the absence of factual disputes requiring development, and the mandatory nature of the sanction applicable to the conduct alleged, the Court acted within its authority to resolve the matter promptly in order to preserve the integrity and orderly administration of the election.

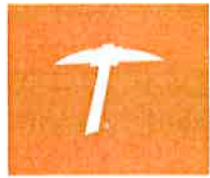
The Court's determination is procedural and regulatory in nature. It reflects the application of the Election Code to the allegations presented and does not extend beyond the scope of the Court's jurisdiction.

IX. Order

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Respondent, *New Era Together* Executive Alliance, is disqualified from candidacy in the 2026 Student Government Association General Election pursuant to the mandatory sanctions prescribed for violations of Article VII Section 17 of the Spring 2026 Pre-Determined Sanctions List.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this matter is referred to the Office of Community Standards for any review or action it deems appropriate within its jurisdiction.

SO ORDERED.



UTEP
STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION

SUPREME COURT
Petition for Hearing

Cause No. 2026-EL-008

In the Matter of SGA vs. NEW ERA TOGETHER

Petitioner Information

Full Name: <u>Adan Rosales</u>	Student ID #:
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Title/Organization (if student, indicate STUDENT): <u>Student</u>

Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:

Phone:	STUDENT Email: <u>ajrosgal@miners.utep.edu</u>
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Respondent Information

Full Name:	Student ID # (if known):
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Title/Organization (if student, indicate STUDENT):
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Address (if known):		
City:	State:	Zip Code:

Phone (if known):	STUDENT Email:
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Case Type: election challenge

(Nature of the case, including but not limited to constitutional disputes, procedural violations, misconduct allegations, election challenges, legislative reviews, etc.)

Emergency Circumstances: SGA General Election Vote Verification

☒ Yes, this petition requires expedited review due to emergency circumstances.

☐ No, this petition follows standard review procedures.

Explanation of Emergency Circumstances (if applicable):
(Provide a detailed justification for why this petition requires expedited consideration)

This petition requires expedited consideration due to the nature of the SGA General Election and the need for a timely vote verification. This urgent violation would impact the ongoing election because accused in this case are candidates for executive positions and this case would need to be resolved before the vote verification is made public.

Cases qualify for emergency review if they involve: Immediate harm or irreversible consequences that may result if the Court does not act swiftly, urgent violations impacting an ongoing election, governance process, or leadership transition, and/or situations requiring immediate intervention to prevent procedural injustice or misconduct.

Statement:

(Provide a concise explanation of the issue, including relevant rules or policies allegedly violated)

The accused have altered the QR code provided by Senior Coordinator Chavez to candidates of the 2026 SGA General Election. The QR code used in the attached evidence first directs users to an IP logger, then redirects to the MineTracker form to submit their ballot. Through the use of the IP logger, the accused were able to track the number of ballots submitted through the use of their QR code, thus interfering with the general integrity of the election through tampering with ballots, systems, or voters. Further, Article VI, Section 4 of the Election Code states that "voting shall be by secret electronic ballot" and such interference violated the integrity of any students submitting a "secret [...] ballot".

Per Article II, Section II of the Constitution, SGA is required to adhere to all campus policies as set forth in the Handbook of Operating Procedures.
The use of an IP logger is in clear violation of the University Handbook, as evidenced by the impending OCS investigation.

AR

Relief Requested:

(Specify the resolution or corrective action sought from the Court)

We seek to have the candidates sanctioned in accordance with the predetermined sanctions approved by the Court. Specifically, the subsection titled "Tampering with Ballots, Systems, or Voters" under the Major Violations section of the sanctions list (Section VII.17). In this, the Election Code is cited that the Court has such authority to disqualify candidates and refer them to the Office of Community Standards.

Supporting Evidence:

☒ Yes (ATTACH EVIDENCE)

☐ No

All supporting evidence must be included with the Petition, unless the Court grants an exception.

Signed:



Date: 04/27/2026

Rights for all parties:

1. You have the right to a Preliminary Hearing.
2. You have the right to represent yourself during trial.
3. You have the right to a UTEP SGA Public Defender.

*UTEP SGA Public Defenders collaborate with applicable parties when preparing for trial by offering advice and counsel. Public Defenders are appointed by the Supreme Court at no charge. You may reach our office's main phone line at 915-747-5584 or by appointment at the Student Government Association Office, 304 East Union, during office hours, if you have any questions

Court Use Only

Received by:

ANGEL ORTEGA

Date Filed:

04/27/26

8:48PM MST

Issuing Justice: 	Date Signed: 4/27/20
Chief Justice:	Date Signed:

8:48 PM

JUDICIAL ACTION ORDER

EMERGENCY REVIEW GRANTED

Signed: 	Date: 04/27/20
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ANGEL ORTEGA

8:48 PM(MST)

**NEW ERA
TOGETHER**

Record-Breaking Voices

VOTE



**VOTE
VOTE**

Opinion of the Court

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

No. 2026-EL-008

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION, *PETITIONER*

v.

NEW ERA TOGETHER EXECUTIVE ALLIANCE, RESPONDENT

ON PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION

July 15, 2026

CHIEF JUSTICE ORTEGA delivered the Opinion of the Court, in which JUSTICE DUNLOP and JUSTICE RINCON joined.

I. Procedural Posture

Following the issuance of the Court's Judgment on April 28, 2026, the Respondent submitted an Emergency Motion to Reconsider, accompanied by additional materials including a Preliminary Hearing Brief, a witness statement, and a statement on jurisdiction and applicable policies. In the interest of ensuring a complete and transparent record, the Court permitted both parties to submit supplemental materials for consideration in connection with the Motion for Reconsideration. This accommodation was made to allow the parties to fully articulate their positions and to ensure that the Court's review on reconsideration was informed by the full scope of arguments the parties wished to present.

The Court emphasizes that the acceptance of supplemental materials in this posture does not alter the procedural framework governing emergency review under the Election Code. Rather, it reflects the Court's commitment to providing a fair opportunity for the parties to be heard within the constraints of the reconsideration process. The Court's review remains limited to determining whether the original Opinion contained material error warranting modification or reversal. No new factual disputes may be introduced at this stage, and the Court does not engage in fact-finding or evidentiary development.

With the record now supplemented by the parties' submissions, the Court proceeds to evaluate the Motion for Reconsideration under the standards applicable to appellate review.

The petition submitted by the Petitioner is appended to this Opinion as Appendix A.

II. Standard of Review

A Motion for Reconsideration is not a retrial of the case, nor does it permit the Court to reopen factual disputes or conduct evidentiary development. Ordinarily, reconsideration is confined to determining whether the original Opinion contained a material error in the application of the Election Code or the Spring 2026 Pre-Determined Sanctions List.

In this matter, however, the Court exercised its discretion to permit both parties to submit supplemental materials—including factual assertions and exhibits that would not typically be considered at this stage. This accommodation was granted out of a commitment to transparency and in recognition that, under ordinary circumstances, respondents are afforded an opportunity to respond before the Court proceeds to deliberation. Allowing the parties to present the materials they believed necessary ensured that the reconsideration process provided a meaningful opportunity to be heard, even though such submissions extend beyond the traditional confines of appellate review.

The acceptance of these materials does not expand the scope of reconsideration into a fact-finding process, nor does it authorize the Court to resolve new factual disputes. The supplemental submissions are considered only to the extent they clarify the legal arguments raised on reconsideration.

Accordingly, the Court evaluates the Motion for Reconsideration under the following limited grounds:

1. Whether the Court misapplied the Election Code or the Pre-Determined Sanctions List;
2. Whether the Court overlooked a controlling provision of the governing documents;
3. Whether the procedural posture required a different disposition under the Election Code's emergency framework.

With this standard in place, the Court turns to the arguments presented by the Respondent.

III. Jurisdiction

The Supreme Court of the Student Government Association exercises jurisdiction over disputes arising under the SGA Constitution and the Election Code, including matters involving campaign conduct, election integrity, and the application of the Spring 2026 Pre-Determined Sanctions List. The Petition in this case alleged conduct that directly implicated the voting process and therefore fell squarely within the Court's jurisdiction.

The Respondent argues that the Court exceeded its authority by considering alleged violations of university information-technology or privacy policies, citing the Statement on Jurisdiction and Applicable Policies (Exhibit C). That document asserts:

"These policies... are not administered through the SGA election process."

The Court agrees with this general principle and reiterates what was stated in the original Opinion: the Court does not adjudicate violations of university policy, nor does it impose sanctions under the Handbook of Operating Procedures, UTS 165, or any institutional privacy standard. Those matters fall within the jurisdiction of the Office of Community Standards and other university administrative bodies.

The Respondent also points to the Notice of Judgment (Exhibit D), which referenced "an alleged violation of University policy" as part of the emergency context. That language described the

circumstances prompting expedited review, not the legal basis for the Court's ruling. The Court's judgment rested solely on the Election Code and the Pre-Determined Sanctions List, both of which fall within the Court's exclusive authority.

Accordingly, the Respondent's jurisdictional challenge does not identify any defect in the Court's authority to adjudicate the Petition or to impose the sanction prescribed for violations of Article VII Section 17. The Court properly exercised jurisdiction in both the original proceeding and in this reconsideration.

IV. Analysis

A. Jurisdiction and the Scope of the Court's Authority

The Respondent argues that the Court exceeded its authority by considering matters related to university privacy or information-technology policy. The Court reiterates that its judgment did not impose any sanction on the basis of a privacy breach or a violation of university policy. As stated in the original Opinion, and reaffirmed here, questions of compliance with the Handbook of Operating Procedures or UTS 165 fall exclusively within the jurisdiction of the Office of Community Standards and other university administrative bodies. For that reason, the Court referred those matters to OCS rather than adjudicating them.

The Court's ruling rested solely on the Spring 2026 Pre-Determined Sanctions List, which was issued by the Court prior to the commencement of campaigning and voting and which carries binding authority over all candidates and campaign organizations. The Sanctions List expressly identifies tampering with ballots, systems, or voters as a violation requiring disqualification. Because the alleged conduct fell within that category, the Court acted squarely within its jurisdiction.

The Respondent's own submissions acknowledge the existence and applicability of the Sanctions List. Exhibit C argues that the conduct was "legal," but does not dispute that the QR code used was not the original code provided by the Election Commission. The Respondent admits that the QR code was replaced with a third-party tracking link. Whether the Respondent believed this to be permissible is

immaterial; the governing documents define tampering broadly, and the Court is obligated to apply those definitions as adopted before the election cycle began.

Accordingly, the Court properly exercised jurisdiction over the tampering allegation and did not exceed its authority by referring—but not adjudicating—any potential university policy concerns.

B. The Limited Role of the Election Code in This Matter

The Court notes that the original Petition referenced Article VI Section 4 of the Election Code, which provides that “voting shall be by secret electronic ballot.” While this provision underscores the importance of ballot secrecy, it does not, standing alone, resolve the question presented in this case. The Election Code is largely silent on the use of QR codes, third-party tracking links, or digital mechanisms embedded within campaign materials. As a result, the Election Code does not provide a comprehensive framework for evaluating the conduct at issue.

The Court also acknowledges that Article II Section 2 of the SGA Constitution requires the Student Government Association to adhere to campus policies set forth in the Handbook of Operating Procedures. However, not all individuals involved in campaign activities are necessarily current members of SGA, and the Constitution does not expressly extend this obligation to every campaign worker or volunteer. While the constitutional provision reflects the expectation that SGA entities operate in alignment with university standards, it does not supply a clear or direct rule governing the conduct alleged here.

For these reasons, the Court does not rely on the Election Code as the primary basis for its determination. Instead, the controlling authority in this matter is the Spring 2026 Pre-Determined Sanctions List, which was issued by the Court prior to the commencement of campaigning and voting and which applies uniformly to all candidates and campaign organizations. The Sanctions List expressly identifies “tampering with ballots, systems, or voters” as a violation requiring disqualification.

The record reflects that the QR code used during the campaign was not the original code provided by the Election Commission. The Respondent substituted a third-party tracking link capable of logging device information, location, and access patterns. Regardless of the Respondent's stated intent, the

use of an unauthorized digital mechanism in place of the official election-related link constitutes tampering with voter systems under the Sanctions List. This conclusion is reinforced by the Respondent's own submissions, which acknowledge the use of the modified link and attempt to justify it as permissible. The Court disagrees with that characterization.

Thus, while the Election Code provides context, it is the Pre-Determined Sanctions List—not the Election Code—that supplies the operative rule of decision in this case.

C. Privacy Breach Allegations

The Respondent argues that no privacy breach occurred and that the IP logger collected only non-PII data. The Court takes no position on this claim. As stated in both the original Opinion and this reconsideration:

- The Court does not adjudicate violations of university privacy policy.
- The Court did not disqualify the Respondent on the basis of a privacy breach.
- All privacy-related matters were referred to the Office of Community Standards.

The Court's ruling rests solely on the tampering violation under the Pre-Determined Sanctions List. Whether the conduct also constitutes a privacy breach is a matter for OCS, not this Court.

D. Procedural Fairness and the Court's Post-Judgment Accommodations

The Respondent's strongest argument concerns procedural fairness. The Respondent asserts that the Court acted without notice, that the emergency posture deprived them of an opportunity to respond, and that the process should have included a preliminary hearing.

The Court acknowledges that the Respondent did not have an opportunity to respond prior to the issuance of the original Judgment. This was a consequence of the emergency posture, the timing of the Petition, and the mandatory nature of the sanction associated with the alleged conduct. The Court's emergency authority permits immediate adjudication when delay risks compromising the integrity of the election.

However—and this is critical—the Court subsequently provided the Respondent with every procedural protection available after the fact, including several measures that exceed the requirements of the Election Code:

1. The Court allowed both parties to submit evidence and factual materials, even though reconsideration is not ordinarily evidentiary.
2. The Court allowed the Respondent to present arguments denying the underlying conduct, even though such factual disputes are normally outside the scope of reconsideration.
3. The Court permitted the Director of the Office of Community Standards to observe deliberations, ensuring transparency and institutional oversight.
4. The Court accepted supplemental submissions, briefs, and exhibits, including materials that would not typically be considered at this stage.
5. The Court treated the reconsideration process as an opportunity to provide the Respondent with the notice and opportunity to be heard that the emergency posture did not allow.

These accommodations were granted not because the original process was improper, but because the Court determined that, in the interest of fairness and transparency, the Respondent should have the fullest possible opportunity to present their position once the emergency circumstances had passed.

The Court's willingness to reopen the record, accept evidence, and allow institutional oversight reflects a commitment to procedural fairness that goes beyond what the Election Code requires.

V. Holding

Upon full consideration of the Motion for Reconsideration, the supplemental materials submitted by both parties, and the governing documents applicable to this election cycle, the Court concludes that reconsideration is warranted. The Court therefore **GRANTS** the Motion for Reconsideration for the limited purpose of reviewing the legal and procedural issues raised.

Having conducted that review, the Court finds that:

1. The substitution of the official election-related QR code with an unauthorized third-party tracking link constitutes tampering with voter systems under the Spring 2026 Pre-Determined Sanctions List. This conclusion is supported by the Respondent's own submissions and does not depend on any finding of intent or any determination under university policy.
2. The Election Code, while providing contextual principles, is not the controlling authority in this matter. The Sanctions List, issued prior to the commencement of campaigning and binding on all candidates, supplies the operative rule of decision.
3. The Court did not impose any sanction on the basis of a privacy breach or a violation of university policy. All such matters were properly referred to the Office of Community Standards.
4. The procedural accommodations provided during reconsideration—including the acceptance of evidence, the opportunity to present factual and legal arguments, and the presence of the Director of the Office of Community Standards during deliberations—ensured that the Respondent received a full and fair opportunity to be heard. These measures exceed the requirements of the Election Code and do not alter the correctness of the original judgment.

Accordingly, upon reconsideration, the Court **AFFIRMS** its prior determination that the Respondent is subject to the mandatory sanction of disqualification and referral to the Office of Community Standards under Article VII Section 17 of the Spring 2026 Pre-Determined Sanctions List.

VI. Order

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Motion for Reconsideration is GRANTED, solely for the purpose of allowing full review of the legal and procedural issues raised and for consideration of the supplemental materials submitted by both parties.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, upon reconsideration, the Court AFFIRMS its prior Judgment issued in Cause No. 2026-EL-008. The Respondent's conduct, as established in the record and

evaluated under the Spring 2026 Pre-Determined Sanctions List, constitutes tampering with voter systems and carries the mandatory sanction of disqualification.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Respondent remains disqualified from candidacy in the 2026 Student Government Association General Election pursuant to Article VII Section 17 of the Spring 2026 Pre-Determined Sanctions List.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all matters relating to potential violations of university policy remain referred to the Office of Community Standards, which retains exclusive jurisdiction to determine responsibility under the Handbook of Operating Procedures and related institutional policies.

SO ORDERED.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO™
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

SUPREME COURT APPEAL FORM

SECTION A: PARTIES

Individual Filing Appeal: Alejandro Facusse	Student ID: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]	Email: afacuseroble@miners.utep
Representative Name: New Era Together	Phone: [REDACTED]
RIGHTS OF THE STUDENT	1) You have the right to a court hearing. 2) You have the right to defend yourself. 3) You have the right to a Student Government Association Public Defender. 4) You are responsible for contacting the SGA Public Defender at least three (3) days prior to your hearing date. 5) Failure to contact the SGA Public Defender at least three (3) days prior to your hearing date will forfeit your right to an SGA Public Defender. 6) This is a free service. 7) The SGA Public Defenders can be reached at 747-7488 during regular office hours or by appointment located at the SGA Office, room 304, Union Building East.

My signature indicates that I have received, read, and understood my rights as a student appellant:

04/28/2026

Individual Filing Appeal Signature

Date

SECTION B: NATURE OF THE CASE

This case is:	☐	an appeal from the Election Commission.
	☐	a dispute between individual students or student organizations.
	☒	a dispute of a Student Government Association rule, procedure, or action.
	☐	a dispute or complaint involving the University of Texas at El Paso administration.

SECTION C: ACTIONS REQUESTED

This case is:	☐	a preliminary hearing.
	☒	a preliminary hearing under emergency circumstances.
	☒	an injunction.
	☒	Other: Student is requesting an immediate reconsideration of their election results as stated in Chapter No. 2026-02, 2026-03, 2026-04, 2026-05, 2026-06, 2026-07, 2026-08, 2026-09, 2026-10, 2026-11, 2026-12, 2026-13, 2026-14, 2026-15, 2026-16, 2026-17, 2026-18, 2026-19, 2026-20, 2026-21, 2026-22, 2026-23, 2026-24, 2026-25, 2026-26, 2026-27, 2026-28, 2026-29, 2026-30, 2026-31, 2026-32, 2026-33, 2026-34, 2026-35, 2026-36, 2026-37, 2026-38, 2026-39, 2026-40, 2026-41, 2026-42, 2026-43, 2026-44, 2026-45, 2026-46, 2026-47, 2026-48, 2026-49, 2026-50, 2026-51, 2026-52, 2026-53, 2026-54, 2026-55, 2026-56, 2026-57, 2026-58, 2026-59, 2026-60, 2026-61, 2026-62, 2026-63, 2026-64, 2026-65, 2026-66, 2026-67, 2026-68, 2026-69, 2026-70, 2026-71, 2026-72, 2026-73, 2026-74, 2026-75, 2026-76, 2026-77, 2026-78, 2026-79, 2026-80, 2026-81, 2026-82, 2026-83, 2026-84, 2026-85, 2026-86, 2026-87, 2026-88, 2026-89, 2026-90, 2026-91, 2026-92, 2026-93, 2026-94, 2026-95, 2026-96, 2026-97, 2026-98, 2026-99, 2026-100.
Note: Requests for "a preliminary hearing under emergency circumstances" and/or "an injunction" requires an instructional cover page which includes additional information.		

Privacy Statement: With few exceptions, you are entitled on your request to be informed about the information UTEP collects about you as stated under Sections 552.021 and 552.023 of the Texas Government Code. You are entitled to receive and review the information. Under Section 559.004 of the Texas Government Code, you are entitled to have UTEP correct information about you that is held by us and that is incorrect.	FOR OFFICIAL USE			
	Received By:	Carlos Chavez		
	Date	4/28/26	Time	2:58 PM

Revised: 2024-

16

Date: 4-28-26 4:58 PM (MST)

04/28/26 5:04 PM (MST)

EMERGENCY MOTION TO RECONSIDER

AND REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY REINSTATEMENT

Cause No. 2026-EL-008

Submitted Pursuant to Article XI Section 12 of the UTEP SGA Election Code

Submitted by:
Alejandro Facusse
New Era Together Executive Alliance

Date: April 28, 2026

JUDGMENT NOTICE

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SUPREME COURT

No. 2026-EL-008

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION, *PETITIONER* vs.
NEW ERA TOGETHER EXECUTIVE ALLIANCE, *RESPONDENT*

ON PETITION FOR HEARING

Date of Judgement: April 27, 2026

Issued: April 28, 2026

I. SUMMARY OF JUDGMENT

The Supreme Court of the UTEP Student Government Association, having granted Emergency Review on April 27, 2026 and having docketed the matter for immediate deliberation, issues the following judgment:

The Relief Requested is hereby GRANTED.

The Respondent is **DISQUALIFIED** from candidacy in the 2026 SGA General Election.

The matter is **REFERRED** to the Office of Community Standards for further action.

This Judgment Notice constitutes the Court's official disposition of the petition.

The Court's full written opinions—including the Majority Opinion and any separate writings—will be issued and appended to the docket once finalized

II. PROCEDURAL POSTURE

The Petition for Hearing was received on April 27, 2026 at 8:48 PM (MST).

Emergency Review was granted the same day due to the proximity of the 2026 General Election and the urgent need to protect the integrity of the vote verification process.

The Court determined that no Preliminary Hearing was necessary, as:

- the facts were undisputed,
- the evidence submitted was complete and self-authenticating,
- the violation alleged involved tampering with ballots, systems, or voters,
- the Respondent had not yet been notified but the urgency of the election timeline required immediate judicial action to prevent further harm, and
- no additional testimony or evidentiary development was required to resolve the petition.

The matter proceeded directly to deliberation on April 27, 2026.

III. HOLDING

After review of the petition, the evidence submitted, and the applicable provisions of the Election Code and University policy, the Court holds:

The Respondent's actions constitute (1) tampering with ballots, systems, or voters under the Pre-Determined Sanctions List published and shared by the Court prior to the commencement of campaigning and voting (Article VII Section 17), and (2) a breach of privacy under University policy through the use of an IP-logging mechanism that intercepted and tracked student voting activity. The Respondent is hereby disqualified from candidacy and referred to the Office of Community Standards.

This holding is operative immediately upon issuance of this Judgment.

IV. OPINIONS TO FOLLOW

The Court will release:

- Majority Opinion

These opinions will articulate the Court's reasoning, the standards applied, and guidance for future election-related violations involving digital interference, privacy breaches, or ballot integrity.

The absence of a written opinion does not delay or diminish the legal effect of this Judgment.

V. NOTICE TO THE PARTIES

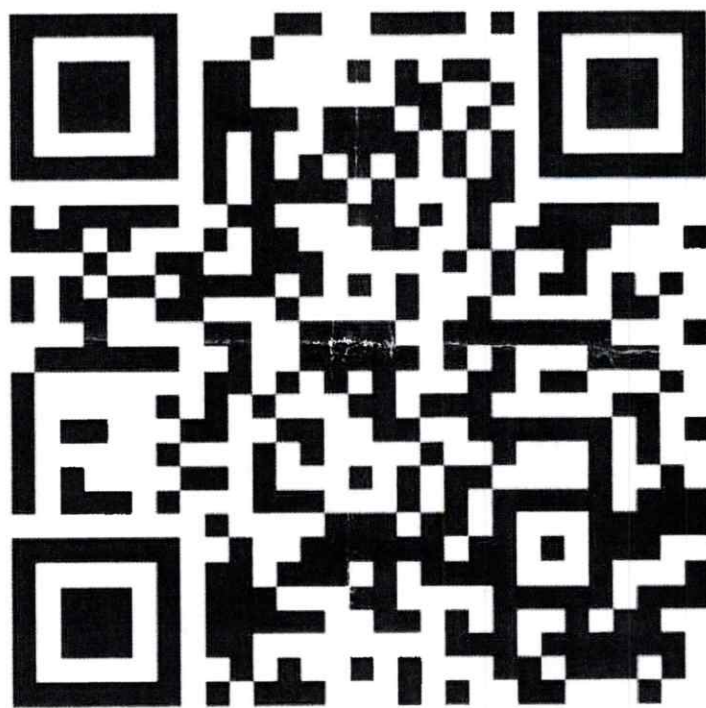
The parties are hereby notified that:

- This Judgment Notice serves as the Court's official action in Cause No. 2026-EL-008.
- Written opinions will be transmitted to the parties upon completion.

**NEW ERA
TOGETHER**

Record-Breaking Voices

VOTE



**VOTE
VOTE**