



**General Counsel Opinion
GC 2017-002
October 5, 2017**

Questions Presented

SGA General Counsel has been requested to provide an opinion on the following question:

Was Congressional Bill NO. 980907 improperly labeled; thus, violating the Undergraduate Student Congress Bylaws?

Answer & Analysis

The Student Government Association Undergraduate Student Congress Bylaws Section 7.1(2) states that:

Each piece of legislation shall receive a number four digits longer than the number of the legislative session, as follows:

- a) The first digits shall be the number of the legislative session.
- b) The next two (2) digits shall reflect the subject of the legislation:
 - i) (01) = Internal Acts: All acts dealing with strictly internal matters of the SGA, excluding elections and appointments.
 - ii) (02) = Academic Resolutions: All legislation dealing with purely academic issues, including relations with the Faculty Senate.
 - iii) (03) = Internal Non-Academic Resolutions: All resolutions concerning the SGA or university that address issues not academic in nature.
 - iv) (04) = External Resolutions: All resolutions directed at entities not inside the university, including but not limited to all legislation concerning tuition, state appropriations, and the Oklahoma Student Government Association.
 - v) (05) = Appropriations: All legislation concerning the allocation of SGA funds or in which SGA makes financial agreements.
 - vi) (06) = Congress Appointments: All acts appointing members to the Undergraduate Student Congress.
 - vii) (07) = Outside Appointments: All acts appointing members to any entity other than the Undergraduate Student Congress.
 - viii) (08) = Elections: All legislation concerning elections and the Election Procedures Act, except for appointments to electoral positions.
 - ix) (09) = Miscellaneous
- c) The final two digits shall reflect the order in which the legislation was numbered within its subject category.

Congressional Bill NO. 980907 has been labeled as “09 Miscellaneous.” Petitioner believed that this bill was improperly labeled and should have been labeled as an appointment and not as miscellaneous; thus, violating the procedures of the Undergraduate Student Bylaws. We disagree with petitioner because the purpose of Bill NO. 980907 was not to appoint any person to a position but rather to nominate persons for consideration of membership to the University of Presidential Search Committee. The people mentioned in Bill NO. 980907 are not being appointed to a position, they are merely getting nominated for consideration to a committee. Being appointed would mean that these persons would be guaranteed those positions; however, the positions to be a part of the committee is not a guarantee here because they are just being nominated for consideration. Bill NO. 980907 also does not fall into any of the other categories. Therefore, Bill NO. 980907 was not improperly label; thus, does not violate the Undergraduate Student Bylaws.

Further, even if the Bill was improperly labeled, it wouldn’t be voided. Common practice of improperly labeled bills are not voided but instead just labeled as scrivener’s error which is defined as “an error resulting from a minor mistake or inadvertence, especially, in writing or copying something on the record, and not from judicial reasoning or determination.”¹

This is the opinion of the General Counsel.

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SGA General Counsel

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SGA Associate General Counsel

¹ SGA Code Annotated Title III Ch. 4 Sec. 18(g). Definition of Scrivener’s Error.