



THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT SUPREME COURT
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

**Advisory Opinion: Consequences of Not Attending
First-Year Candidate Seminar**

CHIEF JUSTICE BIRENBAUM delivers the opinion. JUSTICE
SLAGLE, JUSTICE DARROW, JUSTICE NGUYEN, and
JUSTICE JEON join.

**SUPREME COURT OF THE STUDENT
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AT AUSTIN**

No. 2018 Fall – 001

Delivered August 21, 2018

The Court is issuing an advisory opinion regarding the consequences of first-year representative candidates not attending the first-year Candidate Seminar.

This Court finds that the Supreme Court itself is given substantial power to decide on cases for first-year elections. Student Government Constitution §6.6 states:

FIRST-YEAR ELECTION OVERSIGHT. The Supreme Court shall oversee the elections of the First-year representatives.

Because first-year elections are distinct from campus-wide elections, first-year elections do not follow Campus-Wide Election Code, meaning there is little official policy directing the consequences of not attending the first-year Candidate Seminar. Therefore, the Court has the presumed authority to disqualify a candidate for not attending the first-year candidate seminar.

When deciding cases, the Court may still use Campus-Wide Election Code as guidance to reference during deliberations. As reference, Campus-Wide Election Code §7.9(b) states:

Attendance at the candidate seminar is required of each candidate running in a race that is part of the Campus-Wide



THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT SUPREME COURT
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

elections process. Failure to attend the Seminar shall not be an acceptable excuse for violating this Code.

Given its authority, the Court establishes the following guidelines for candidates:

Candidates have the option to either 1) attend the first-year Election Seminar or 2) after notifying the Court with a valid excuse (e.g. family emergency, sickness), send an authorized agent as a substitute. In the latter case, the Court must be notified of the substitution by 8:00 p.m. CST on September 18, 2018. The Court will disqualify candidates who do not perform the above options absent extenuating circumstances.

It is so ordered.