



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**

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No. 2018 Fall – 001

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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



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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.