



Official Opinion of the ASUW Judicial Council



Majority Opinion handed down on March 12, 2019 by Justice Pauling and Chief Justice Richardson:

Justices Stromberg, Fried, Bergman, and Bellamy concurring:

Justice Vinluan did not take part in this decision.

Funding appeal by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes

I.

On February 23, 2019 the Judicial Council received a funding appeal from Marianna Pizzato, President of the University of Wyoming Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) chapter. The Council scheduled a hearing for Friday, March 1, 2019. During that hearing, the Council heard testimony from Ms. Pizzato, ASUW Advisor Aaron Lozano, Chair of the RSO Funding Board Venkat Santosh Madhyanam, and Director of RSO Relations Ian White.

During the hearing, the Council discovered that the FCA had applied for an amount of money that would not fall under the Senate's mandatory five-week deadline of application. The application for this funding was for an out-of-town event that FCA had planned to attend. A member of FCA was told by Mr. White that the group could increase the amount requested without Mr. White's knowledge that increasing the amount would put the FCA within the five-week deadline and that the planned event would fall within that time frame, effectively making the FCA application for funds null and void.

Upon missing the five-week deadline for application, the FCA lobbied their ASUW Senator to sponsor an appeal. The Senator was unable to sponsor the appeal for the funds before the six-hour time limit for doing so had elapsed prior to the next ASUW Senate Meeting.

II.

The FCA appealed to the Judicial Council, arguing that the group should be given a chance to be heard by the ASUW Senate, regardless of the fact that the event they planned to attend has already come and passed. They also noted that they wanted to set the precedent that RSOs at the University of Wyoming have an avenue of last resort for appeal. It is thus up to the Judicial Council to decide whether or not this appeal has merit.

III.

In answering the question of whether or not the appeal by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes has merit, the Judicial Council rules that the appeal does have merit, and remands the appeal back to the ASUW Senate in accordance with Section 5.02 Subsection 8 of the ASUW Finance Policy. The Judicial Council reasons that failing to hear the appeal was a failure on the part of ASUW Senate to uphold the ASUW Mission Statement. "The purpose of the Student Government of the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming is to serve our fellow students in the best manner possible through accurate representation, professional interaction with campus programs and organizations, and responsible, effective leadership."

It is so ordered.