

Texas State University
Student Government
Supreme Court

Advisory Opinion

University Funding & Endorsements

No. 26-03

Syllabus

Request Received – March 13th, 2026. Opinion Issued – March 23rd, 2026

The Supreme Court has received a request to advise on the code pertaining to donations from organizations or individuals, and regulations regarding financial disclosure.

The request presented to the court were:

1. Can a registered student organization’s social media endorsement be considered a university resource under the Student Government Election Code if that Organization receives university funding?

For these questions, the court holds that:

1. Candidates may not receive endorsements from university funded organizations.

A detailed explanation and reasoning of how the court came to this ruling can be found below.

Chief Justice Downey delivered the majority opinion for a unanimous court in which justices Ramon, Hernandez, Smith, and Pickle, joined.

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Chief Justice Downey delivered the majority opinion of the court.

The court received a question via email to advise on whether a candidate can take a social media endorsement from an organization that receives funding from the university given the fact that the use of university funds directly or indirectly is prohibited.

A

For this question, the court first would like to establish what constitutes a university-funded organization and what does not. The court will use Article IV Section D of the SGEC as a guideline for this definition:

“Student Government, as a student organization, shall not endorse or support any campaign for office, but may promote voting days and election events in a non-biased manner, and the President may allocate funds for the non-biased promotion of said events.”

The code does not give any direct mention to what constitutes a university funded organization and what does not. The court believes that it is important we establish what constitutes a university funded organization and what does not, ensuring that candidates have a clear guideline to where they can receive endorsements and support from.

The court views a university funded organization as any registered student organization that receives a yearly or continuous income or funding from the university that is not allocated for a specific use. Some examples that the court views as university funded organizations are Student Government and Residence Hall Association, all of which are registered student organizations that have a budget from the university.

Comparing these examples to most other registered student organizations, such as the Texas State Law Society or the Texas State Wellness Society that do not receive continuous or a yearly set budget from the university but rather make their money from dues paid to the organization from members.

However, it is important to note that any organization can apply for specific grants, scholarships, and reimbursements for specific events or projects it seeks assistance with. Because of this, the court agrees that any organization that receives financial assistance from the university in the form of a scholarship, grant, or reimbursement does not constitute university funded organizations. This is because each of those methods of financial aid has a clear use to them. To be more specific, if a registered student organization seeks financial assistance from the university, they must apply for it and state what the intended use of the funds will be to the university. Additionally, in most cases funds are not given to the organization until after the event or project they are seeking to fund has concluded in which case the university distributes it in the form of a reimbursement check.

B

To answer the petitioner's question regarding social media endorsements from a registered student organization the court will also refer to Article VIII Section A of the SGEC:

“No campaign may use any funds, directly or indirectly, from the university on campaigning. This clause excludes paychecks distributed by the University to an individual worker”

The court will also use Article VII Section B of the SGEC:

“No candidate may utilize any facilities, equipment, or services that receive university funding and are not available to the general student body for use during campaigning.”

Using the definition of a university funded organization that the court has set out in the previous section along with these two clauses, any social media endorsement from a university funded organization is strictly prohibited.

The court views a university funded organization on social media as a service that receives university funding indirectly and is not available to the general student body for use. To be specific, the student government Instagram provides students with information pertaining to the activities of the organization (making it a service), but it is not available to every student for use to post through.

It is so ordered...