



Unanimous Opinion By Council Chair Sonpatki

## **JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY**

Dylan Perfect, Member of ASOSU

INQUIRY TO THE ASOSU JUDICIAL COUNCIL  
(No. 22.024.i)

[September 28th, 2022]

Dylan Perfect requested that the Judicial Council review Sections 2(B)2 and 3(B)2 within Title II of the ASOSU Statutes which detail requirements for members of the ASOSU House of Representatives and ASOSU Senate, respectively, to remain in office. Perfect is currently a member of two ASOSU committees: the Transition Committee on Student Governance and the [Disability Cultural Lounge and International Lounge] Steering Committee. He asked whether the minimum committee requirements outlined in Title II § 2(B)2 and 3(B)2 may be fulfilled by membership in any currently convening ASOSU committee, including special and select committees, or if representatives and senators must instead be first seated on a standing committee.

After thorough and thoughtful deliberation, the Judicial Council determines that membership of any currently convening ASOSU committee can satisfy the requirements established within Title II of the ASOSU Statutes as long as the committee has been authorized by the Congress member's respective House. Therefore, representatives and senators do not need to be seated on a standing committee in order to join a special or select committee as long as the committee of interest has been authorized by the House of Representatives or the Senate, respectively.

Title II § 2(B)2 and 3(B)2 define which committee classifications are currently excluded from the maximum membership guidelines ("Conference Committees and Independent Committee's shall not count towards a Representative's two committees" while "Conference Committees,

Independent Committees, Special Committees, and the Special Rules Committee shall be exempt from this maximum [for senators]). However, no similar criteria exist defining which committee classifications are excluded from the minimum membership requirements, and this was determined by the Council to be an important distinction. The only clause which currently qualifies the type of committee that can fulfill the minimum membership requirement for representatives is § 2(B)2 which states that “Representatives shall be seated on a minimum of one committee and up to two Committees *in the House of Representatives*.” Similarly, the only clause which qualifies the type of committee that can fulfill the minimum membership requirement for senators is § 3(B)2 which states that “Senators shall be seated on a minimum of one but up to two Committees *in the Senate*.”

In his original inquiry, Perfect raised attention to the language of subpoints 2(B)2(i) and 3(B)2(ii): “Should a [representative or senator] not want to serve on any existing ASOSU Committee, they may instead choose any existing university committee ... with open student seats.” He asked whether this additional clause recognizes that “any existing ASOSU Committee” can fulfill the minimum committee requirement of senators or representatives, to which the Judicial Council has decided that it does not. Subpoints i, ii, iii, and iv were interpreted as being meant to specify statements from the previous clauses rather than to set precedence over those clauses. As such, the Judicial Council concurred that “any existing ASOSU Committee” must be interpreted as “any existing ASOSU Committee that has been authorized by the House of the member looking to join that committee” as these were the stipulations set forth by the statements above in § 2(B)2 and 3(B)2. For the same reason, the Judicial Council concurred that expanding the available choices for a senator or representative’s minimum committee requirement to include “any university committee” does not include any committee within ASOSU because the requirements for membership in ASOSU committees had already been detailed in the preceding clauses within Title II § 2(B) and 3(B).

Therefore, the Judicial Council maintains that the minimum committee membership requirement for members of the ASOSU Congress may be fulfilled by membership in any ASOSU committee with the stipulation that this committee must first have been authorized by the designated House to which that Congress member belongs.