



Office of Student Affairs

March 22, 2016

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students:

Following is a statement regarding the details of the disqualification of SGA Presidential Candidate One, for the office of SGA President 2016-17.

On January 27, 2016 Candidate One attended an informational meeting for all students interested in running for a student government association office. In this meeting, all participants were given clear and specific direction and information on the process and qualifications to be eligible for each office. In addition, all documents and materials given to the students at this meeting (including verification document) that clearly outlines the GPA requirements for each office (*3.0 GPA for SGA President; 2.75 GPA for all other elected offices*). Candidate One signed an Election Agreement on February 5, 2016 indicating that Candidate One understood the rules for candidacy and the election process and that the candidate would follow the rules and regulations.

On February 5, 2016, Candidate One went to the Office of the Registrar to seek academic verification (GPA, residency, hours to completion) for SGA. The Office of the Registrar informed Candidate One that the candidate's grades did not meet the GPA requirements to be a candidate for the office of President.

On February 5, 2016, Candidate One submitted the application and SGA Verification form to the Office of Student Affairs indicating that he was running for the office of President, and in doing so certifying that all requirements were met to be eligible to serve in the capacity of SGA President.

The SGA election was held on March 7, 2016. There were two candidates for the office of President and the votes received by each candidate were as follows:

- Candidate One – 192
- Candidate Two – 174

Candidate One received the highest votes; however, the election was contested because Candidate One did not have the required GPA (3.0) to run or serve in the capacity of SGA President. The Office of Student Affairs confirmed with the Office of Academic Records that Candidate One did not meet the GPA eligibility requirements for the Office of President. It is clear that Candidate One misled both the Office of Academic Records and the Office of Student Affairs. Because of the apparent willful misrepresentation of the position that Candidate One was seeking in order to obtain clearance from Academic Records and the Office of Student Affairs. Candidate One was ineligible to run or serve as SGA President. Therefore, on March 9, 2016 Candidate Two was declared as the duly elected SGA President for 2016-17.

Larry Batie
Dean of Chapel and Vice President for Student Engagement