



Student Government Association

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **DENVER**

APPEALS RESOLUTION

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Authorship: Laura Zabaleta, Chief Justice

Notification of Appeal: September 13th, 2023

Mirakle Wright, Associate Justice

Notification to Appellant & Appellee: September 14th, 2023

On September 13, 2023, the appellant, a Student Organization at the University of Colorado Denver, filed a complaint against the appellee, the Finance and Funding Committee, of the Student Government Association of the University of Colorado Denver. The appeal summarized an instance in which the appellee denied a request for Professional Development funding to cover registration fees for a conference in Glorieta, New Mexico, which the appellant believed was wrongfully denied.

IT IS THE OPINION OF THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE that the request was inaccurately denied. The appellee failed to provide adequate clarification concerning the exclusions applicable to the professional development category. Following a thorough review, we have determined that the appellee did not include any explicit language within their documentation that all exclusions across all categories are applicable to all sections of funding requests.

We determine that the appellee accurately assessed the request and categorized it in alignment with the funding type sought by the appellant. The funding guidelines pertaining to "Professional Development" opportunities stipulate that "Individual members of Affiliated, Registered Student Organizations may seek funding for professional development opportunities (such as conferences, webinars, etc.) related to your organization and the campus community's mission." We concur and affirm that this definition comprehensively covers the organization's request to fund conference registration fees, and all decisions were firmly based within this category.

We have thoroughly reviewed the justification presented by the Finance and Funding Committee for the denial, specifically citing the presence of a morning devotional as an instance of religious ceremonies. While we acknowledge the existence of religious ceremonies, including a baptism, the appellee failed to communicate explicitly in the guidelines that all exclusions apply across all categories. The appellee asserts that the exclusions under professional development funding do not constitute an exhaustive list, and all exclusions across all categories pertain to all sections of funding requests. Nevertheless, this crucial rule is never mentioned in the current funding guidelines provided to all student organizations applying for funding. Without this important information the appellant was not able to conclude that their request could not be funded under

professional development or any other category. It is imperative to emphasize that if the exclusions enumerated within one category are intended to extend to all other categories, such a provision must be articulated within the funding guidelines.

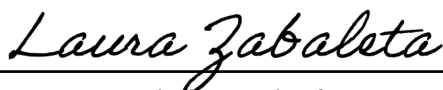
We appreciate the effort of the Finance and Funding Committee in trying to comply with university and state policies concerning the potential inability of funding for religious ceremonies or services. However, the lack of clarity in the Funding Guidelines led to an inaccurate denial of the appellant's request for funding.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Finance and Funding Committee will update its funding guidelines to provide greater clarity regarding the equal application of all exclusions to all funding categories.


FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that this recommendation will mitigate any potential confusion or misunderstandings that may arise in the future. The Judicial Committee aims to provide guidance that guarantees the Committee's full compliance with regulations and the efficient fulfillment of the organization's needs and requirements.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we strongly advise that the Finance and Funding Committee approve the request and disburse the funds to the Appellant by no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, September 28th, 2023.

Ratified by the Judicial Committee: [September 27th, 2023]



Laura Zabaleta, *Chief Justice*



Mirakle Wright, *Associate Justice*