



## JUDICIAL COUNCIL

*University of Notre Dame*

**TO:** The Student Senate of The University of Notre Dame du lac

**FROM:** Hunter Brooke, *Student Union Parliamentarian*, Madison Denchfield, *Deputy Student Union Parliamentarian*, and Matthew Amante, *Deputy Student Union Parliamentarian*

**DATE:** February 28, 2024, 5:30 PM

**RE:** SO2324-18a and SO2324-18c, An Order to Clarify and Amend Article XII and XV of the Constitution.

The Committee on the Constitution has concluded its review of SO2324-18, an amendment to the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Body to revise the electoral hearings timeline outlined in Article XII, and is prepared to present its findings and relevant recommendations to the Student Senate.

Over the course of deliberation, the Committee decided to divide SO2324-18 and hear the amendment in three separate parts: first, the Committee considered SO2324-18a, which included the contents of SO2324-18 without its second and eighth amendments regarding Election Committee jurisdiction and petitioning regulations, respectively; second, the Committee considered SO2324-18b, which contained the second amendment within SO2324-18 regarding Election Committee Jurisdiction; and third, the Committee considered SO2324-18c, which contained the eighth amendment within SO2324-18 regarding petitioning regulations. These three amendments were considered independently of each other.

The Committee began by considering SO2324-18a. The Committee reasoned that this legislation was the product of thoughtful work by the Judicial Council, and that the amendments contained within SO2324-18a serve to clarify and strengthen electoral processes. Additionally, the Committee reasoned that many of the amendments outlined in SO2324-18a were non-substantive regarding electoral practice, and serve instead to clarify regulations for the Student Union, Judicial Council, and candidates alike.

**SO2324-18a Committee Recommendation:** after thorough debate, the Committee has unanimously decided to recommend SO2324-18a be approved by the Student Senate.

Following their review of SO2324-18a, the Committee moved to consider SO2324-18b, an amendment expanding the jurisdiction of the Election Committee to include individuals supporting candidates for office. The Committee understood that this amendment served to clarify a clear loophole, but felt that this amendment may potentially cause more turbulence and issues within electoral processes than it may solve. For this reason, the Committee voted to not recommend this amendment, recognising that further investigation



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into the loophole in question may be needed. In accordance with the Committee's determination, the authors of SO2324-18 have declined to pursue this amendment before the Student Senate.

Finally, the Committee moved to consider SO2324-18c, an amendment to endorsement regulations during the petitioning phase. The Committee understood that the current lack of regulation regarding endorsements during the petitioning phase is a gap within Constitutional electoral regulations and must be solved; however, the Committee felt that the list of individuals barred from issuing endorsements by SO2324-18c was too broad, and issued a friendly amendment to match the list of individuals prohibited from issuing endorsements during petitioning with those already prohibited from endorsing during the campaigning phase. This amendment was accepted by the authors of SO2324-18c, and thereafter the Committee reasoned that SO2324-18c would serve to clarify and strengthen petitioning rules, bringing those regulations closer in accordance with those outlined for campaigning.

**SO2324-18c Committee Recommendation:** after thorough debate, the Committee has unanimously decided to recommend SO2324-18a be approved by the Student Senate.

Respectfully submitted,

**Hunter Brooke**

*Student Union Parliamentarian*

*Chair, Committee on the Constitution*

**Madison Denchfield**

*Deputy Student Union Parliamentarian*

**Matthew Amante**

*Deputy Student Union Parliamentarian*

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