



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
OKLAHOMA INTERCOLLEGiate LEGISLATURE

OPINION 2016-12F

-April 5, 2016

Honorable Delegates and Members,

There has been another official legally binding opinion requested. The request is quite interesting, as it deals with membership. The question submitted is “Is someone still classified as a member of the organization after session, for the remainder of that semester, if they graduate at the conclusion of that semester, or are they classified as alumni at the conclusion of adjourning Sine Die?”

This question causes me to break down what is a member. Title Seven of the OIL Statutes give two different types of membership within the Organization. The first being “Member-At-Large” and the second being “Delegate”. Allow me to clarify these specified terms.

First, let us look at the term “Member-At-Large”. Under Title Seven, Chapter One, Section 100 of the OIL Statutes, a “Member-At-Large” is defined as follows: “Member-at-large status shall be granted to all members on the O.I.L. Steering Committee as defined in Title 2, Section 200 of the O.I.L. Statutes, the Press Secretary as defined in Title 5, Section 610 of the OIL Statutes, the Chief of Staff as defined in Title 5, Section 640 of the OIL Statutes, and to all Justices of the O.I.L. Supreme Court. Members-at-large must be students enrolled in a member institution. Members-at-large may allow their enrollment status to lapse for a period of no more than one (1) semester.”

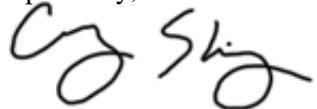
Allow me to briefly break down those different statutes that are specified. The first being Title 2, Section 200, which states “The Steering Committee shall consist of nine (9) members: the Governor, who shall be its Chairman, the Lieutenant Governor, the President Pro Tempore, the Deputy President Pro Tempore, the Speaker of the House, the Speaker Pro Tempore, the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, and the Chief Justice.” Which means that the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, President Pro Tempore, Deputy President Pro Tempore, Speaker of the House, Speaker Pro Tempore, Attorney General, Secretary of State, and the Chief Justice shall be defined as “Members-At-Large”.

Title 5, Section 610 simply establishes the position of Press Secretary, so Title Seven, Chapter One is what extends the term of “Member-At-Large” to that position. This interpretation also extends to the office of Chief of Staff and to all members of the Court. So, the term of “Member-At-Large” only extends to a maximum of nineteen (19) members of the organization.

Now let' breakdown how the term "Delegate" is defined. Title Seven, Chapter Two, Section 200, Sub-Section C defines a "Delegate" as "anyone currently enrolled in six (6) hours of undergraduate or three (3) hours of post-graduate classes at the member institution they represent at OIL during the semester in which OIL session falls".

So, it is my opinion that any person who is considered a "Member-At-Large" would cease membership in the organization upon the completion of their term of office, and/or upon the completion of their one "role-over" semester, as set forth under Title Seven, Chapter One, Section 100. But, since Title Seven, Chapter Two, Section 200, Sub-Section C states a "Delegate" shall represent their respective institution during the *Semester* in which OIL session falls, my opinion is that they (a delegate) shall remain a member of the organization until the completion of that semester.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CJ Shirey".

Corey Shirey

Attorney General