

Britany Burris
Attorney General | Chairwoman of the Election Commission
Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature
OPINION 001 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 48TH LEGISLATURE

4/1/2016

QUESTION PRESENTED:

- *In the opinion of the Attorney General, and as Chairwoman of the Election Commission, were the standing rules of the Election Commission violated?*

OPINION RENDERED:

No. The Election Commission (EC) voted that the use of stickers would be the determining factor of granting voting privileges. The EC also agreed that the distribution of the stickers would be mandated by myself, the Speaker of the House, and the President Pro Tem of the Senate. That was the final decision of the election commission. At all times of voting, which took place from 2:00pm – 8:00pm on March 31st 2016, I was present for all the voting that was tabulated. If I was not present, then the Assistant Attorney General was present; and regardless, at least two members of the election commission were present at all times to ensure that the standing rules were followed. No issues were raised with the rules being followed until after the election results made public. That is troubling due to the appearance of impropriety.

Membership in this organization is defined in the statutes under **TITLE SIX-SECTION 101**: *“Every delegate in the House of Representatives and Senate shall pay a twenty-six dollar and twenty-five cent (\$26.25) fee for participation per regular conference. Every Alternate in the House of Representatives and Senate shall be assessed a twenty-four dollar and fifteen cent (\$24.15) fee for participation per regular conference. The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Deputy President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Speaker Pro Tempore of the House, Secretary of State, and Justices of the Supreme Court shall each pay a fee equal to that of a Delegate in the House of Representatives or Senate per each regular conference. Court Attorneys solely participating in court competition shall pay a seventeen dollar and eighty-five cent (\$17.85) fee for participation in each regular conference. OIL Journalism Program competitors participating only in the Journalism Program shall pay a twenty-six dollar and twenty-five cent (\$26.25) fee for participation in each regular conference. Those delegates who are participating in the OIL Journalism Program in addition to the legislative and/or moot court simulations shall pay their regular delegate fee and an additional two dollar (\$2) fee in order to participate in the OIL Journalism Program.”*

Membership is also defined in the statutes under **TITLE SEVEN-SECTION 200C | SECTION 203**: A “delegate” shall be defined 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

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during the semester in which OIL session falls. | All delegations are required to have a form of written approval from their respective institution in order to attend session. Written approval shall consist of either a purchase order or check from the institution or the written consent of an administrator from the institution.

Everyone that voted met these requirements. Before they could vote, they had to be on the listed membership roster as provided by the Secretary of State. No EC member brought any complaints about this. My official opinion stands as the decision of the EC. As Chairwoman of the EC, I hereby certify the results of the Governor and Lt. Governor election as follows:

Governor: Chase Maxwell

Lt. Governor: Preston Shatwell

Signed,

Attorney General Britany Burris

