

## IR 15-01

### *In re Syerra Wycoff-Bagshaw, Petitioner for Vice Presidency*

#### Opinion of the Court

SCHMIT, J—joined by CLARK, CJ, STOKEY, TREFILOVA, LEISHMAN, JJ  
**Facts:**

Senator Syerra Wycoff-Bagshaw, a student at Chadron State College begging the 2014 Fall Semester, obtained a petition to be appointed to Senator-at-Large during finals week of the 2014 Fall Semester. President Spies told Senator Wycoff-Bagshaw that she must have the completed petition turned in two hours prior to the first regular Senate meeting of the 2015 Spring Semester in order to be appointed during that meeting. Senator Wycoff-Bagshaw failed to meet the deadline and returned the completed petition to President Dillon Spies between the first and second Senate meeting of the 2015 Spring Semester. During the second meeting of the 2015 Spring Semester Senator Wycoff-Bagshaw was properly appointed, confirmed, and sworn into the office of Senator-at-Large. Witnesses testified to Senator Wycoff-Bagshaw actively meeting obligations of a Student Senator. Senator Wycoff-Bagshaw petitioned this court on March 24, 2015 to be placed on the ballot for the spring 2015 Vice Presidential Elections. Upon discovering the Senator had not been appointed prior to the beginning of the 2015 Spring Semester the Chief Justice petitioned the court to review Senator Wycoff-Bagshaw’s eligibility to run for Student Association Vice President.

#### **Opinion of the Court:**

Pursuant to the Student Association Senate Bylaw regarding “Executive Officers” § D, “...Candidates for the office of Student Association Vice President must serve at least one-half term as a Senator before running for Vice President.” The issue that this court must address is whether or not the Senator has met the requirement established in the Student Association Senate Bylaw regarding “Executive Officers” § D?

This court defines a half-term of an appointed senator as beginning during the first regular Student Senate meeting of the Academic Semester. It is understood by this court that the first regular Student Senate meeting of the Academic Semester begins one-half term for an appointed Senator. That scheduling runs most easily with the academic year and the availability of students to attend and conduct business as a Senate.

Due to the fact that the Senator was a student during the fall semester, this court sees that there was a reasonable opportunity to petition for appointment before the beginning of the half-term. The court gives full effect to the term “at least” within the bylaw requiring a Senator to serve a minimum of one-half term to be elected as Student Association Vice President when they have had a reasonable opportunity to do so.

For the aforementioned reasons this court finds that Senator Wycoff-Bagshaw had reasonable opportunity to petition the Student Association President for appointment as Senator-at-Large prior to the beginning of the half-term and failed to do so. This court, therefore, finds that Syerra Wycoff-Bagshaw’s petition for candidacy for the office of Student Association Vice-President is denied. It is so ordered.