

PR 16-01

Vice President Langley v. At Large Senator Lelisse Umeta

Opinion of the Court

Roefeldt, J – Merrill, CJ, Trefilova, Sullivan, Gallagher, JJ

Findings of Fact:

In this case the facts are clear and undisputed. According to the amended petition filed by Vice President Langley on February 21, 2017, Senator Umeta was absent from the Senate meetings on January 30, 2017; February 6, 2017; February 13, 2017; and February 20, 2017. In addition to a lack of attendance, Senator Umeta failed to notify Chief Justice Merrill prior to the meeting as is required by the CSC Student Senate Bylaws regarding ATTENDANCE.

Findings of Law:

Under Student Senate Bylaws, ATTENDANCE, § C(1), the requirement for informing the Chief Justice of an impending absence was not fulfilled by Senator Umeta. While employment is a valid reason for missing a meeting per § A(1), the failure to notify the Chief Justice is not. The Court did not find good cause that contact could not be made prior, so we are thereby ruling this absence to be unexcused.

Under Student Senate Bylaws, ATTENDANCE, § A(2), regular or weekly absences not constituting an excused absence, the Court recognizes that Senator Umeta was appointed to Senate, knew there was a scheduling conflict, and explained to President Hurley that it could take a couple of weeks to get her schedule changed. Senator Umeta has stated to the Court that her schedule has been changed and she would be in attendance on Monday, February 27, 2017 and regularly from now on.

This Court, recognizing that regular attendance at the weekly Senate meetings is an integral part of being a Senator at CSC, hereby ORDERS Senator Umeta to attend all regular and special meetings of Senate and to strictly follow all attendance guidelines as spelled out in the Student Senate Bylaws.

IT IS SO ORDERED
FEBRUARY 24, 2017