

October 17, 2022

# **Boston University Student Government Judicial Commission**

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## **Judicial Review Concerning the Use of the Student Government Logo and the Definition of Endorsements**



**Justices:**

Ilana Keusch

Ben Klein

Ruhika Ponda

Minji Kwak

Emily Wright



## **Judicial Review Concerning Student Government Logo and the Definition of Endorsements**

On September 25, 2022, Executive Vice President Navya Kotturu submitted a request for Judicial Review regarding the usage of the Student Government logo and the definition of endorsements, specifically pertaining to Executive Branch initiatives.

Vice President Kotturu's request specifically inquires: 1) Does including the Student Government name and logo attached to an initiative or partnership fall under the purview of an endorsement? 2) If so, do members of the Executive Branch need approval from the Senate before using the Student Government name and logo?

### **Ruling**

After reviewing the current governing documents, including the Boston University Student Government Constitution as well as the By-Laws for all three branches, the Justices have determined that there is no binding language pertaining to endorsements in this context. Endorsement is only mentioned in the Executive Branch By-Laws in Section VI, Articles 3-6 regarding campaign and election endorsements.

It has become common practice for the Senate to vote on endorsements in the form of Resolutions, however, this practice is not codified in any of BUSG's governing documents. There is currently no formal process outlined regarding BUSG endorsements. "Endorsement" is not mentioned or defined in the Constitution or the By-Laws outside the parameters of student elections, therefore, the Justices cannot determine whether the use of the Student Government logo would qualify as such, nor can we provide a formal definition of an endorsement outside of the elections context.

The Justices find, by a 5-0 decision, that the Executive Branch does not need approval from the Senate before using the Student Government logo or partnering with another organization for an event or initiative.