In Re: Personal Senate Projects

CHIEF JUSTICE TAYLOR, JOINED BY ASSOCIATE JUSTICE HYNES Concurring in Part and Concurring in the Judgment.

The term “personal Senate project” appears nowhere in the Constitution nor Statutes; its definition is therefore ambiguous. I think the definition used in the majority opinion is an entirely reasonable one, but I do not, however, believe that it is the only reasonable definition.

I believe that the following definition is reasonable and needs to be addressed by the Council. For the purposes of the concurring decision, I define a “personal Senate project” as any project for which one Senator does the large majority of the work. Defined in this way, there is a way for a personal Senate project to become an official Student Union project.

As stated in the majority, each Senate committee may “[p]ursue projects pertaining to” its distinct subject matter (Statutes Article II, Section 1). It does not, however, state how many people are required to participate in any given project the committee undertakes. Therefore, it is perfectly constitutional for just one Senator to pursue a project once it is approved by a committee. Thus, if passed by a committee, a personal Senate project as defined above is constitutional.

To reiterate, I believe the definition used in the majority opinion is fine and that the reasoning and judgment are correct for that definition. I do, however, believe that this definition is reasonable enough to require being addressed and that it shows that what could reasonably be considered a personal Senate project is constitutional.