

March 19th, 2007
In re: Gargoyle Appeal to Treasury
Constitutional Council Majority Opinion
Associate Justice Mendelson

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On February 18th, 2007, it came to the attention of Student Union officials that the Gargoyle, an “executive committee,” wanted to appeal for money through the Treasury appeals process. These Student Union officials questioned whether or not an “executive committee” can appeal for additional funding through the Treasury appeals process.

Although there is no specific Constitutional definition of an “executive committee,” these bodies do not qualify as student groups. Article IV, Section 3, Part c, Clause 3 of the Student Union Constitution, gives the Student Group Activities Committee oversight over student groups; we looked to the definition of student groups, as defined by Article VI, Section 3 of the Statutes of the Student Union. According to this section, only student groups that are Category I, II, and III are subject to the Treasury’s budgeting and appeals process. From this definition, we will therefore call these student groups, those that are subject to Treasury oversight, “Student Union student groups.” Thus, we hold that the Gargoyle cannot appeal for money through Treasury because it is not a student group, as defined by the above section of the Statutes.

This decision also applies to all “executive committees,” School and Class Councils. First, this applies to all “executive committees” because of the reasoning mentioned above in reference to the Gargoyle. This decision, for Treasury not to hear certain appeals, also applies to School and Class Councils because these entities are not student groups and are part of the Executive Branch of government in the Student Union Constitution. Thus, their monetary issues are not subject to oversight by the Treasury.

Therefore, the only means for a non Student Union student group to appeal for more money is to request funds from the Treasurer of the Student Union. The Statutes Article I, Section 3, Part e, gives the Treasurer the power to “set procedure for allocation, funding and disbursement of Student Union funds.” We read this to mean that the Treasurer can decide how he wants to fund non Student Union student groups.

There was no dissent in this case.