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ASGJ Interpretation Request Opinion

Approved for public release

ASSOCIATED STUDENT GOVERNMENT JUDICIARY

INTERPRETATION REQUEST MAJORITY AND MINORITY OPINIONS

CITED FOR INTERPRETATION: ASG Constitution; Article III, Section 3 (C) (c)

DATE OF HEARING: 10/14/2026 DATE OF RELEASE: 10/24/2026

MAJORITY REPORT AUTHOR: Associate Justice Anders Hare

MAJORITY REPORT:

By unanimous vote (11 to 0), ASGJ affirmed no and held that Senate proxies are not constitutionally obligated to vote according to the instructions of the Senator they represent.

ASGJ had to decide whether it was unconstitutional for Senate proxies to vote dissimilarly to the voting instructions of the Senator they represent. In public comment, ASG members provided official statements mounting a constitutional challenge, stating that a Senate proxy voting independently of their voting instructions violated the integrity of the position and breached Senate ethics. To answer this, ASGJ turned to Article III, Section 3 (C) (c) of the ASG Constitution to form its decision. ASGJ found that the language of this section defining proxy statutes with the “full duties and powers of a Senator” was unambiguous in its meaning. Although the provision is brief, ASGJ decided that voting in any Senate matter, including bills, is categorically encompassed in the definition of “full duties.” From this, ASGJ determined that Senate proxies are authorized to exercise any of their allotted Senate powers for the duration of the meeting, including the right to vote at their discretion. Additionally, ASGJ did not find a constitutional basis for requiring Senate proxies to vote according to instructions provided by the Senator they represent. ASGJ holds that Senate proxies are not constitutionally obligated to vote according to the instructions of the Senators they represent.

MINORITY REPORT AUTHOR: N/A

MINORITY REPORT:

Chief Justice Signature: 