

Connor Morgan
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ASUU SUPREME COURT

Kaden Madson,)
Plaintiff,)
v.)
ASUU Elections Board,)
Defendant)

Case No.: 20180200

**Brief of Connor Morgan in his official capacity as Student Body
President as *Amicus Curiae* in support of the Defendant**

Justices of the ASUU Supreme Court:

I hope that this short brief will help shed light on the practical ramifications that ruling in favor of the Plaintiff would have on the ASUU Executive Branch and on all the other candidates. I intend to provide insight in my capacity as the ASUU Chief Executive Officer on the negative practical effects that this ruling will have on the 2019 ASUU Election. I believe that ruling in favor of the Plaintiff would present an undue hardship on the ASUU Executive Branch and on the other filed candidates that would likely lead to a more poorly marketed election and a correspondingly low voter turnout. If the Plaintiff's requested relief is granted, the filing deadline for all executive candidates would have to be delayed from December 7th to January 25th. This nearly two-month long delay from the intended deadline of December 7th would lead to a series of administrative issues, which would harm both the ASUU Executive Branch and, more importantly, all the other candidates who filed for the election by the prescribed deadline of December 7th.

First, funding appropriations to each party could not be made until after January 25th. The ASUU Executive Branch (via the Elections Board) provides equal funding to each party from a pre-appropriated budget. The amount of funding that each party will receive is dependent on the number of parties that file for the election. The ASUU Elections Board will not be able to apportion money to each party until the filing window is closed. Thus, if the filing deadline is extended to January 25th, parties will not know until that date (at the

earliest) how much money they will allowed to spend during the election.

Because parties will not know how much funding they will have access to, they will not be able to effectively prepare to market their campaigns. The amount of funding available to each party has a significant effect on what types of marketing can be purchased. I learned last year during my campaign that the prices of different marketing items vary widely, and I would run markedly different marketing campaigns depending on my budgetary cap. By not giving parties a firm budget until January 25th, parties will have little time to prepare effective marketing campaigns by the time they will have to order their materials, which could substantially harm voter turnout in both presidential and down-ballot races.

Finally, extending the filing deadline to January 25th would negatively harm the ASUU Marketing Board and limit their ability to fully support the marketing in the 2019 election. As currently described in the 2019 Elections Packet, parties are supposed to meet with the ASUU Marketing Director during the week of January 7th in preparation for the January 28th marketing deadline. If the filing deadline is extended to January 25th, the meetings with the ASUU Marketing Director would presumably have to be delayed, and the marketing deadline would then have to be delayed, too. Because campaigning begins only two weeks after the current deadline for marketing materials, delaying the marketing materials deadline would inhibit parties from ordering materials that take a significant amount of time to produce, such as t-shirts, lawn signs, phone wallets, or pens, to name merely a few possible items. Additionally, delaying the filing deadline to January 25th would require the ASUU Marketing Director to meet with all parties immediately after the deadline in order to help them finalize their marketing materials, which imposes a significant challenge on the ASUU Marketing Director, on the Marketing Board, and on the Associate Director of Student Leadership and Involvement.

I appreciate your consideration of the practical ramifications that delaying the filing deadline to January 25th would impose on the ASUU Executive Branch and on candidates who successfully filed by the prescribed December 7th deadline. I hope that I have additionally explained the sheer implausibility of a January 25th filing deadline, illustrating why that date could never have been intended by the ASUU Elections Director to be the correct filing deadline.

Dated this 4th day of December, 2018



Connor Morgan
Student Body President