



EXECUTIVE BRANCH

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Caitlin G. Moore

To: Tyler Borges, Conference, Registration, and Travel Committee Chair

CC: Dylan Hall, Senate President

Nick Foster, Senate President Pro Tempore

Brianna Urea, Legislative, Judicial, and Rules Committee Chair

Daniella Lopez, Student Body President

Brodie Taylor, Student Government Coordinator

From: Caitlin Moore, Attorney General

Date: September 14th, 2022

Subject: Opinion on Verification of Financial Training

I, Attorney General Moore, in accordance with the Constitution, Statutes, and Senate Rules of the Student Body of the University of Central Florida, hereby issue the following opinion to the Chair of the Conference, Registration, and Travel Committee, Tyler Borges, and all other interested parties.

Here, the question is whether the Senate President Pro Tempore may compel verification of Student Body Senator's financial training under Title III: The Legislative Branch, Chapter 304: The Officers of the Student Body Senate (304.6.9). The Senate President Pro Tempore *may do so*.

This question arose after Chair Borges was issued a non-compliance by Pro Tempore Foster for not submitting verification of financial training by the deadline. Senator Borges objected to the issuance of this non-compliance, noting that he had "completed financial training within the timeline within Title III, and therefore...not out of compliance... There is no requirement that a Senator send [sic] the Pro Tempore confirmation, and the A&SF Business Office can confirm completion of...training." Furthermore, Chair Borges requested the non-compliance be invalidated by the Office of the Attorney General, "as it was done with the procedural error of not confirming training completion through emailing the A&SF Business Office."

I.

After inspection of Title III: The Legislative Branch, which stipulates the duties and procedures of the Student Body Senate, it is the opinion of the Office of the Attorney General that the Pro Tempore may request a receipt or confirmation of the financial training. Specifically, Title III, Chapter 304.6.9 states that the Senate President Pro Tempore shall, "[v]erify that all Student Senators are financially trained within ten (10) academic days of them being sworn in as a Student Senator."



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II.

Statutes are silent on what “verify” means but given modern comprehension of this word, it is entirely reasonable to construe this provision to include measures such as verification through a screenshot of the completed training course. The method Pro Tempore Foster chose to “verify” Senators’ compliance with this statutory duty balanced the Pro Tempore Office’s interest in ensuring Senators are financially trained and UCF Student Government’s interest in preserving statutes and following the correct procedural steps.

Black’s Law Dictionary defines “verify” in relevant part as, “to show to be true.”¹

III.

Title IX: The Enforcement and Accountability Statutes, stipulates the purpose of a non-compliance, who has the authority to issue one, and how they are to be delivered. Pro Tempore Foster issued a non-compliance for a valid reason, with proper authority to do so, and the delivery and notification of the non-compliance was administered properly. These reasons foreclose the question of whether or not the non-compliance in question had standing to be issued in the first place.

IV.

For the foregoing reasons, it is the opinion of the Office of the Attorney General that the Senate President Pro Tempore may compel verification of financial training through reasonable measures as deemed appropriate by the Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore, barring any interference or conflict with other UCF Student Government governing documents.

It is so ordered,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Caitlin G. Moore'.

Caitlin G. Moore
Attorney General
University of Central Florida

¹See Title II: Student Government Statutory Definitions and Parliamentary Authority, Chapter 201: Statutory Definitions (201.1, 201.2); Black Law's Dictionary, 2nd Ed. (n.d.). *Verify definition & meaning*. The Law Dictionary. Retrieved September 14, 2022, from <https://thelawdictionary.org/verify/>