



# EXECUTIVE BRANCH

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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## Caitlin G. Moore

**To:** The Student Body Senate  
**From:** Caitlin Moore, Attorney General  
**Date:** February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023  
**Subject:** Memorandum: Student Government’s Scope & Jurisdiction

Due to the debate arising around Student Government’s scope and jurisdiction, specifically in relation to former Internal Bill 54-24 [Updates to Title IX: Adding Documents Censures may Reference], I have gathered the following information to serve as an ongoing reference and guide for comparable issues that may surface.

The Office of the Attorney General has arrived at determinations relating to the breadth and boundaries of collegial bodies, such as our Student Government, and to what extent we can sanction and condemn actions in an official manner that fall under state and federal statutes, regulations, or legal mandates. Former Internal Bill 54-24, previously filed measures of accountability, and other similarly situated bills are out of our purview, and even if passed, are not enforceable.<sup>1</sup> We, as students, are not attorneys or police officers and therefore, are not authorized to interpret or enforce local, state, or federal law. If there was an issue arising between two Student Government agents or an allegation(s) against a Student Government agent, there are streams of justice available—including the university’s Student Conduct & Academic Integrity office, the Office of Institutional Equity, the IntegrityLine, Victim Services, Student Care Services, Counseling & Psychological Services, University Police Department, Student Legal Services, and so on.

Beyond that, the aforementioned Internal Bill would jeopardize a person's constitutional due process rights, by attempting to turn this chamber into a de facto court of law.

In reference to former Attorney General Soto’s previous opinion, entitled, “Question on Recent Censure” submitted on April 21, 2022, it’s pertinent to review the topic addressed in the last paragraph of the aforementioned opinion. It states in part, “UCF regulations – or any other federal, state, or local regulations not changing the requirements/mandates of Student Government statutes – do not satisfy the requirement that a censure must cite Student Government regulations.”<sup>2</sup> I concur with former Attorney General Soto’s judgment. These

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<sup>1</sup>See Title IX: The Enforcement and Accountability Statutes,  
<https://studentgovernment.ucf.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2023/01/Title-IX.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup>Soto, J. (2022, April 21). PDF. University of Central Florida Student Government, Office of the Attorney General.  
<https://studentgovernment.ucf.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2022/06/Opinion-on-Censure-1.pdf>



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parameters would apply to any investigative or disciplinary proceedings the Student Body Senate sought to undertake.

To further reiterate the sentiments of my predecessor, “a Student Government Agent cannot be censured if it is not alleged that they violated any Student Body Regulations. The Student Body Senate cannot then consider the censure before the body as it exceeds the limited jurisprudential authorities bestowed by the Student Body Constitution and Student Government statutes.”<sup>3</sup> The former Internal Bill, Bill 54-17, would exceed these boundaries and circumvent the university’s current formal proceedings, and potentially violate students’ rights under the Golden Rule Student Handbook. Student Government is not the appropriate place to handle concerns under local, state, or federal law. Otherwise, we risk violating a person’s rights as a citizen of the state of Florida and the United States of America.

There exist prescribed rules and processes—both internal to our body and university and externally—to address relevant concerns without jeopardizing the integrity of our governing documents by extending beyond what we, as a Student Government, can legally and procedurally do.

Sincerely,

**Caitlin G. Moore**  
Attorney General  
University of Central Florida

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<sup>3</sup>Soto, J. (2022, April 21). PDF. University of Central Florida Student Government, Office of the Attorney General. <https://studentgovernment.ucf.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2022/06/Opinion-on-Censure-1.pdf>