



# EXECUTIVE BRANCH

## ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINION

*Jorge Altuna*

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**To:** Owen Sherman, Conference, Registration, and Travel Committee Chair

**CC:** Luci Blanco, Student Body President  
Jarib Benitez, Student Body Vice President  
Kirsten Courts, Speaker of the Senate  
Jason Hameed, Senate President Pro Tempore  
Bella Pazera, Chief Justice  
Collin Hoffner, Internal Assistant Chief Justice  
Victoria Marie Villadarez, External Assistant Chief Justice  
Anna Reed, External Legislative Assistant  
Grace Rudie, Internal Legislative Assistant  
Ryan Kaufman, Deputy Pro Tempore of Legislative Affairs  
James Kapinos, Deputy Pro Tempore of Senate Relations  
Niklas Luecht, Financial Allocations for Organizations Committee Chair  
Samuel Rose, Operations Review & Sanctions Committee Chair  
Zachary Gaudio, Legislative, Judicial, and Rules Committee Chair  
Juan Varela, Government Affairs and Policy Committee Chair  
Nghi Chau, Elections and Appointments Committee Chair  
Mila Teodorescu, Student Body Advocacy Committee Chair  
Jordan Lipner, Caucus Leadership Committee Chair  
Amarah Presley, Supervisor of Elections  
Andrew Collazo Borges, Assistant Supervisor of Elections

**From:** Jorge Altuna, Attorney General and Judicial Advisor

**Subject:** Opinion on CRT Funding

**Date:** October 8th, 2025

**Time:** 11:35 AM EST

### I. Foreword

I, Jorge Altuna, the Student Government Attorney General, in accordance with the Student Body Constitution, Statutes, and Senate Rules, hereby issue the following opinion:

Upon review of the current statutes, and for the reasons detailed below, it is the opinion of this office that theme park admission is not an eligible registration cost under Title VIII, and that an unstructured site visit or tour cannot be considered a conference for the purposes of Student Government funding. Accordingly, Fiscal Bill 57-22, which authorizes such funding, is inconsistent with the Student Body Statutes. It is recommended that the Student Body President veto this bill on statutory grounds, and that the Conference, Registration, and Travel Committee, or CRT, and Student Body Senate clarify Title VIII to prevent future ambiguity.



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## II. Question Presented

The question arises from an inquiry from CRT Chair and Student Body Senator, Owen Sherman. The question posed asks whether theme park admission, specifically the funds allocated for Disneyland tickets in Fiscal Bill 57-22, qualifies as an eligible registration expense under Title VIII of the UCF Student Body Statutes. Additionally, the question also asks whether a site visit or shadowing trip with no formal conference sessions should be considered a conference for the purposes of determining Student Government funding eligibility.

## III. Background and Statutory Framework

First, Title VIII of the Student Body Statutes provides specific definitions for terms related to student travel funding. §810.1 defines a “Conference” as *“an in-person gathering of professionals and/or scholars at which the student presents research findings, attends workshops, or enhances personal or professional development skills.”* In the same section, “Registration” is defined as *“the primary cost to be officially in attendance of the organized conference the student is anticipating on attending.”* Additionally, “Eligible Costs” are defined as *“the total cost of lodging, registration, and travel inclusive of applicable fees and taxes”*. These definitions establish that only expenses directly tied to attending a structured, organized conference are considered eligible for funding. Costs that do not fall within lodging, travel, or official conference registration are not considered fundable.

Furthermore, Title VIII also creates several funding classifications for student travel in §812.2. Particularly, “Observational Research” in §812.2(B) is intended for *“nontraditional research-related trips for the purpose of conducting some type of research or study (i.e., literature, surveys, interviews, observations, experiments) as dictated by the industry standard and... intended for some type of academic publication or academic report in the future.”*

To be eligible under this classification, the statutes require that the student/RSO *“provide justification of the trip’s relation to the student/RSO’s academic program or professional development”*. In other words, Observational Research funding is intended for academically driven trips, where students actively conduct research with an eventual academic output, such as a study or report, and where the trip’s activities closely align with a UCF academic course or professional training.



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The Future Theme Park Leaders Association proposed a trip called the 2025 California Executive Management Shadow Week, for which funding was requested via Fiscal Bill 57-22. According to the legislation, the stated purpose of this trip is to *“allow students who are actively pursuing a career within the theme park industry the opportunity to shadow and network with executive management in various departments of multiple theme parks on the West Coast, while conducting research to expand knowledge within the theme park industry.”*

FTPLA’s funding request, as passed by the Senate in Bill 57-22, demonstrates no indication of any formal conference hosted by an external organization on this trip; rather, FTPLA arranges the itinerary itself. Based on discussions during Senate proceedings and the trip description, it is apparent that the registration expense refers to theme park admission tickets for Disneyland, for the students’ observational visits, in the absence of any traditional conference registration fee.

Moreover, site tours are not considered conferences. This is not the first instance of an RSO seeking funding for a trip centered on tours or site visits absent a formal conference. In a recent funding request, the Pegasus Pilots RSO requested funding for an airport tour site visit, purportedly under the guise of a networking/seminar. The request was ultimately denied by the CRT Committee. This demonstrates that although the RSO has received funding and approval for several years, past precedent should be viewed as a reference point rather than an obligation or binding rule. Additionally, Title VIII not only defines what can be funded, but also lists certain items that CRT shall not fund. Among the prohibited uses of A&SF travel funds are unrestricted social events.

While the statutes do not explicitly mention theme park tickets, classifying a day at a theme park could fall under the category of an unrestricted social event rather than a structured educational activity. Moreover, §815.4 cautions that any items that cannot be funded *“shall not be included in the total cost of the Allocation or Bill.”* This means that if an expense falls outside the bounds of registration, travel, or lodging for a conference, it should not be included in the cost breakdown of a funding bill. By including theme park admissions as a registration cost in Bill 57-22, the legislation arguably attempted to challenge the intent of the Finance Code.



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### IV. Analysis

Evidently, theme park admission is not an eligible registration cost under Title VIII. The Disneyland tickets in question do not represent any fee for an organized conference; they are simply general admission tickets to entertainment venues. Under §810.1, Registration refers to the cost of officially attending a conference, typically a fee paid to a conference organizer for admission to seminars, workshops, panels, and other events. A theme park is not an academic or professional conference.

Although I personally believe that the experience would be beneficial and educational, it raises questions about the legitimacy of our statutes and places student A&SF funds in a manner contrary to the direction codified in our governing documents. Paying for park entry is not registration, as contemplated by the statutes. It is, in effect, a leisure expense. Therefore, labeling Disneyland tickets as a registration cost in the funding bill is a misapplication of Title VIII's terms. Such an expense falls outside the statutory definition of eligible costs and should not be subsidized with student A&SF funds.

A site visit or tour does not meet the statutory definition of a Conference. The FTPLA Shadow Week trip, while described as a conference in the bill's whereas clauses, lacks the defining characteristics of a true conference under Student Body Statutes. There is no host organization hosting an event, no formal schedule of workshops or presentations for attendees, and no requirement that students present research or formally participate as delegates. By Title VIII's definition, a conference involves structured professional or academic engagement such as presenting findings, attending organized workshops, and enhancing skills in a certified, formal, recognized, professional setting.

An itinerary of **self-organized** tours and shadowing appointments, even if informative, is qualitatively different from the conferences Title VIII was designed to support. Therefore, an unstructured shadowing trip is not a conference. Consistent with the Pegasus Pilots precedent, such a trip does not abide by the qualifications established in Title VIII. If this type of site visit were to be funded, it would stretch the meaning of 'conference' and set a dangerous precedent of not adhering to the statutes, where virtually any group excursion could be rebranded as a conference to seek funding.



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Ultimately, Fiscal Bill 57-22 is in conflict with the Student Body Statutes, and by funding Disneyland admission under the guise of registration, the bill contradicts the explicit language and the implied spirit of Title VIII. It attempts to allocate A&SF funds for a purpose not contemplated by Title VIII. Therefore, this Office concludes and recommends that President Blanco should exercise her veto authority vested in the UCF Student Body Constitution, Art. III, Sec. 3.04C, to prevent the expenditure of funds in a manner not authorized by statute. Title VIII requires clarification to prevent future ambiguities and protect student funds. It is the recommendation of this Office that the Student Senate and the CRT Committee undertake changes to Title VIII to explicitly codify what constitutes a conference or registration in the context of RSO travel.

### V. Conclusion

For the reasons stated above, the Attorney General's Office recommends that the Student Body President veto Fiscal Bill 57-22. The requested funding for theme park admissions is not supported by Title VIII, and funding it would undermine the integrity of our Finance Code. Furthermore, I urgently recommend that the Conference, Registration, and Travel Committee and the Student Senate promptly review and amend Title VIII to close loopholes and clearly delineate the eligibility of site visits and recreational activities.

Issued with due consideration and in service to the Constitution,

**Jorge Altuna**  
Attorney General & Judicial Advisor  
University of Central Florida Student Government

**Please note:** I am not a licensed attorney. This opinion is provided in my capacity as the Student Government Attorney General for advisory and educational purposes only. It does not constitute formal legal advice, nor does it create an attorney-client relationship. For any legal determinations or university policy enforcement, Student Government agents should consult the UCF Office of General Counsel or Student Legal Services.

### VI. References

University of Central Florida. (2025). UCF Student Body Constitution. University of Central Florida Student Government. Retrieved from <https://studentgovernment.ucf.edu>

University of Central Florida. (2025). UCF Student Body Statutes. University of Central Florida Student Government. Retrieved from <https://studentgovernment.ucf.edu>