



Judgment of the USC Appeals Board in the matter of:

Filmmakers and Performance Club; Hip Hop Heads; Net Impact; United Way Student Association of Western University v. USC Clubs Governance Committee, 2015:3 Club Ratification Appeals Part I.

Judgment Date: April 27, 2015.

Panel: Philip Abraham, Brandt Chu (Panel Chair), and Rufina Ning

Reasons for Judgment: Chu

1. What is at issue on these appeals is whether the Clubs Governance Committee (CGC) came to reasonable decisions when considering each proposed club's application and whether it acted throughout the process in accordance with the USC Clubs Policy "Procedure for Ratification." Whether any of the proposed clubs *deserve* ratification is an all-together different matter outside the scope of these appeals. The role of the Appeals Board is to ensure the presence of fairness in USC decision-making and adherence to stated policies and by-laws. The discretionary power to determine whether a proposed club should or should not become a part of the USC community is ultimately within the purview of elected USC officials. To hold otherwise would be to ignore the democratic mandate of elected members on committees such as the CGC.
2. After reviewing the CGC's decision making-process and the written correspondences between the CGC and each party, the Appeals Board has determined that each decision to deny ratification was reasonable and in accordance with stated policies and by-laws. After giving fair consideration to each application as required by s. 4 of the Clubs Policy "Procedure for Ratification," the CGC provided each party with written reasons explaining why ratification in each case was denied. Each party was further given an opportunity for re-consideration in accordance with s. 6. While the written response to United Way Student Association of Western University's request for reconsideration could have been better composed, the reasons for denial provided in their totality were adequate and ultimately fulfilled the requirements of s. 6(4). Finding that the CGC acted fairly, the four appeals are dismissed.

DISPOSITION SUMMARY:

The four appeals are dismissed