



Court Order 2223-006

Order in the Matter of: Transmit Documents for Impeachment of
Senator Brent

Description of Court Order

Petition Number:

2223-008

Petition Filed: Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Order Handed Down: Monday, April 10, 2023

Court Action:

The Court has voted to transmit Articles of Impeachment for Senator Brent to the Speaker of the Senate which will be presented by the Court at the next Senate meeting on April 12, 2023 for the proper impeachment of Senator Brent.

Reasoning:

In the matter of Petitions 2223-008, this Court reviewed the evidence presented and voted to begin an investigation into the matter with Court Order 2223-005. The Court reached out to Senator Brent, Speaker Markland, and Senator Stubbs on March 29, 2022 to gather pertinent evidence. The Court then called a hearing for Senator Brent's attendance on April 3, 2023 and held that hearing on April 7, 2023. Due to lack of substantive testimony and evidence to justify the absences, the Court unanimously passed each of the Articles of Impeachment in Appendix A in accordance with the relevant governing documents in Appendix D through Appendix G.

Justices:

All Justices concur.

It is so ordered.

APPENDIX A: Articles of Impeachment for Senator Brent

Article 1. Senator Brent has an unexcused absence from the Senate Meeting on January 11, 2022 which is a violation of Article III Section 2 of the Legislative Branch Rules and Procedures which states “Absence from one regularly scheduled Senate meeting without a proxy present or a valid excuse shall be grounds for impeachment and removal.”

Article 2. Senator Brent has an unexcused absence from the Senate Meeting on February 15, 2023 which is a violation of Article III Section 2 of the Legislative Branch Rules and Procedures which states “Absence from one regularly scheduled Senate meeting without a proxy present or a valid excuse shall be grounds for impeachment and removal.”

Article 3. Senator Brent has an unexcused absence from the Senate Meeting on March 22, 2023 which is a violation of Article III Section 2 of the Legislative Branch Rules and Procedures which states “Absence from one regularly scheduled Senate meeting without a proxy present or a valid excuse shall be grounds for impeachment and removal.”

APPENDIX B: Evidence

Exhibit 1. Senate Attendance Spreadsheet

Senator	1/11/2022	1/18/2023	2/1/2023	2/8/2023	2/15/2023	2/22/2023	3/2/2023	3/15/2023	3/22/2023	3/29/2023	4/5/2023
Brent	A	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	P

Exhibit 2. Teams Conversation between Senator Brent and Speaker Markland on 1/12

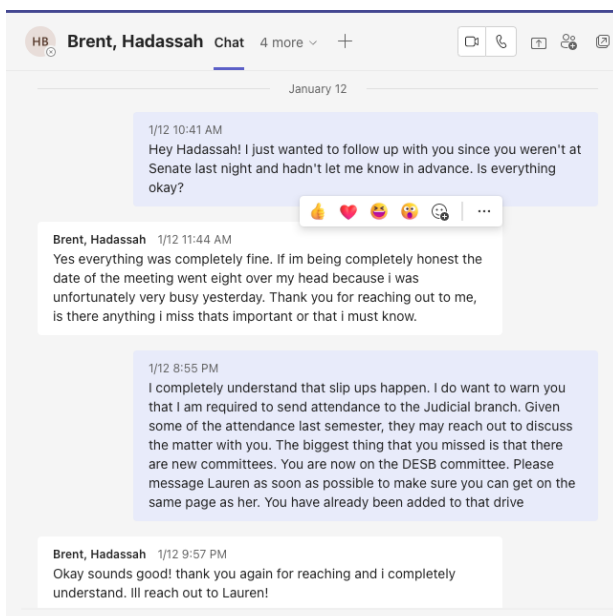


Exhibit 3. Email Conversation between Senator Brent and Speaker Markland on 2/15

Re: SGA

MR Markland, Reagan
To: Brent, Hadassah
Wed 2/15/2023 4:08 PM

Hey Hadassah,

Please make sure that you are emailing my SGA Senate Speaker email or sending me a teams message. For your reference, the expectation for an absence is that you send a proxy and let me know at least 48 hours in advance, especially something like this where I would imagine you have known for some time. If you are unable to find a proxy this will be an unexcused absence.

Thank you,

Reagan Markland
Butler University | Class of 2023
Marketing and Entrepreneurship & Innovation Majors
Political Science Minor
Student Government Association | Speaker of the Senate
Alpha Chi Omega | Preference Night Chair

From: Brent, Hadassah <hrbrent@butler.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 1:52 PM
To: Markland, Reagan <rmarklan@butler.edu>
Subject: SGA

Hey regan! I wanted to let you know that I won't be able to make it to senate today. My sorority is doing a big little reveal and I won't be available at that time. Please let me know if I need to know anything from the meeting!
Best regards,
Hadassah

Exhibit 4. Teams Message to Senator Brent from Speaker Markland on 3/22

Wednesday

Wednesday 8:27 PM

Hey! Just wanted to check in since you aren't at senate right now? Is everything okay?



APPENDIX C: Petition 2223-008

Form: SGA Anonymous Complaint Form

Submitter: Reagan Markland (Speaker of the Senate)

Subject: Senator Brent Attendance

Received: 3/22/2023

Shared Information:

Per the Constitution and Bylaw Amendments, I sent my attendance records to the Judicial Branch for review. Brent did not complete a variety of required tasks over the course of the Summer and Fall. These issues can be viewed in detail in a petition this Fall to the Court. You may recall that this resulted in conduct meetings and verbal improvement recommendations. Since then, Hadassah has continued to fail to fulfill the minimum requirements of a Senator. On January 12, Hadassah did not attend Senate. When messaged, she admitted that she dropped the ball and forgot She did not have any legitimate excuse. Additionally, she has missed Senate for events at her sorority. This was an unexcused absence and she did not provide a proxy. She also missed Senate for religion. While this is obviously an excused absence, she let me know the day of and did not provide a proxy. This evening's absence was the final straw. Senators were required to attend the debate and senate followed immediately thereafter. While she was obviously in attendance for the debate, she did not stay for Senate. I sent her a teams message checking in and received no response. At 8:47, she walked through the back of the Reilly Room and nearly exited before deciding to join. She missed most of the votes and it was not only an attendance violation, but incredibly rude. She did not provide any explanation to me. According to Article III. Section 2 of the Legislative Branch Rules and Procedures (Duties of Senators: Absence Policies), Absence from one regularly scheduled Senate meeting without a proxy present or a valid excuse shall be grounds for impeachment and removal. For purposes of the absence policy, regularly scheduled committee meetings shall count as Senate meetings. I urge that the Judicial Branch administer appropriate consequences for Senator Brent



APPENDIX D: Excerpt from Student Government Association Constitution Article V: Legislative Branch

Section 7: Impeachment and Removal

Members of the Student Senate may be impeached for gross neglect of duty by a two-thirds majority vote of the full Student Government Association Supreme Court and vacate office upon the conviction of impeachment by an affirmative two-thirds vote of the full Student Senate. A member of the Student Senate is ineligible to hold a future leadership position if impeached and convicted.

APPENDIX E: Excerpt from Student Government Association General Bylaws Article XIV: Meetings and Attendance

Section 1: Meetings

Meetings of members of the Student Government Association, whether as the whole organization or any subset thereof, are to be assumed to be mandatory unless explicitly stated otherwise. Failure to appear at a mandatory meeting can be grounds for disciplinary action, with reasonable exceptions.

Section 3: Attendance

The Court shall review attendance records and, if members of the organization are not meeting the attendance requirements of their position, the Court may take disciplinary action including, but not limited to, the enforcement of a Performance Improvement Plan.



APPENDIX F: Excerpt from Student Government Association General Bylaws Article XVI: Disciplinary Actions

Section 1: Universal Impeachable Offenses

3. Failure to perform the duties listed in these bylaws or the Student Government Association Constitution.
6. Failure to meet the attendance standards or other set expectations by the respective board leader.

APPENDIX G: Excerpt from Student Government Association Legislative Branch Rules and Procedures Article III: Duties of Senators

Section 1: General Senator Duties

1. Senators shall attend all Senate meetings and meetings of their assigned standing committee, or name a proxy in their place.

Section 2: Absence Policies

Absence from one regularly scheduled Senate meeting without a proxy present or a valid excuse shall be grounds for impeachment and removal. For purposes of the absence policy, regularly scheduled committee meetings shall count as Senate meetings. All members of the Senate shall have the opportunity to appeal an absence to the Judicial Branch, which shall have the final decision on the matter as to whether the absence was excusable.

