



*Spring Term 2014*  
**JUDICIAL COURT OF TEXAS A&M**

*Russo et al. v. Joseph*  
No. | 66-10

*Oral Arguments: April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014*  
*Decided: April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

*Syllabus*

The plaintiffs filed an appeal alleging that the defendant acted unconstitutionally in delegating his power to veto legislation.

*Opinion*

*(Delivered by Justices: Whitley, Cooper, Halbert, Smith, Schneider, Estrada)*

The issue before the Court is whether or not former Student Body President Reid Joseph erred in the vetoing of Senate Bills 66-74 and 66-78. The court holds that he in fact did. The evidence submitted to the court, particularly Exhibit E, is sufficient evidence enough to indicate that then-Student Body President Reid Joseph was not the agent that vetoed the bill. This piece of evidence shows that SBP Joseph has indicated that he “would have vetoed” the bills, which directly implies that he did not. The fact that there is a veto stamp on the bills leads to the only conclusion that the bills were vetoed by a hand other than the Student Body President’s.

This runs directly contrary to Article II, Section III, Subsection D, Part 2 of the SGA Constitution. The plain reading of that provision—the one that would be made by a reasonable, well-informed student at Texas A&M—is that the Student Body President’s lofty power of vetoing bills passed by the Student Senate is reserved to him or her alone as the SGA’s democratically elected chief officer.

Exhibit E also indicates that SBP Joseph was under the impression that his term had ended by the time he received the bill. The Constitution sets forth clearly the term of

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the Student Body President, which it defines in Article II, Section 2, Subsection B, which says:

“the term of the Student Body President shall be in accordance with the length of the term of his or her corresponding session of the Student Senate.”

The Constitution itself further defines the session of the Student Senate. It says in Article II, Section II, Subsection D:

“The term of each session of the Student Senate shall begin and end during a final called general assembly meeting during the last fourteen (14) days of the Spring academic semester.”

This means that SBP Joseph’s term ended, for the purpose of the issues before the court today, on Wednesday, April 23 at the conclusion of the outgoing Senate’s portion of joint session.

This court finds, then, that the vetoes on Senate Bills 66-74 and 66-78 were unconstitutional and strikes them down as invalid.



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*Signatures*

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*Certified by: Julian Whitley – Chief Justice*

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Brenton Cooper – Vice Chief Justice

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Parker Reed – Associate Justice – Not Present

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Cameron Halbert – Associate Justice

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Shannon Smith – Associate Justice

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Sergio Estrada – Associate Justice

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Alice Schneider – Associate Justice

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Stephen Kiec – Associate Justice – Not Present

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Vacant – Associate Justice