

By KEITH TAYLOR

Battalion Staff

J. Wayne Morrison will be able to continue his campaign for student body president today. Just after midnight today the student government judicial board overturned an earlier ruling by the election commissioner.

The judicial board met Monday night to decide on a petition filed by Morrison protesting his suspension from campaigning on Monday and Tuesday.

Bill Jentsch, the election commissioner, barred Morrison from campaigning after he learned Morrison had obtained a master copy of the election ballot Friday from the desk of the student government secretary without permission.

Jentsch contended that although there is no specific rule in the election rules dealing with the situation, Morrison's action is illegal under the Texas Open Records Act.

The open records law says that open records cannot be obtained from personal files without the permission of the custodian of the files.

The custodian of the files in this case is the secretary for the student government.

Morrison said Monday night that he —

as a vice president of student government — regularly retrieves items from the secretary's desk. He was asked to get the ballot for publication in The Quadrangle, the Corps of Cadets' newsletter, he said.

In the petition, Morrison protested his suspension on grounds that the election commissioner does not have the power to prevent a candidate from campaigning. He said only the judicial board has this power.

The judicial board ruled that Morrison did not violate election rules per se, because such a rule is not written there. The board also ruled that Jentsch had acted in good faith and had made a difficult and conscientious decision in suspending Morrison. It concluded that Morrison had received enough punishment by missing campaigning time and allowed him to campaign today.

Morrison did not campaign Monday morning because of the suspension, but started campaigning again that afternoon after he filed the petition with the judicial board. He was not able to campaign Monday night because of the five-hour judicial board meeting.

Morrison, presently vice president of finance, said that he had taken the master copy of the ballot from the student gov-

ernment secretary's desk. Morrison took the copy and gave it to a student government aide to be copied so it could be reprinted in *The Quadrangle*, the Corp of Cadets' newsletter. He said he did it as a favor Steve Fulton, editor of the *Quadrangle*.

Fulton said he had sent a freshman to the student government office to obtain a copy of the ballot. The freshman was denied the ballot and went to Morrison. Morrison copied the ballot and gave it to the freshman.

Morrison said he did have a list of candidates in his room, but he felt it would be easier to copy the ballot in the desk. He said he did not think at the time he was violating election rules.

"I admit my judgement was not up to par. I made a mistake."

The master ballot that Morrison copied had the computer-coded numbers next to the names of the candidates. A person with this ballot and the answer sheets would have the means to cast false votes in the election.

Jentsch said he did not question the honor or integrity of Morrison.

Mark Watts, chairman of the judicial board, agreed.

"There was no dishonesty in this case."