



**HARVARD LAW SCHOOL
STUDENT BODY
SPRING TERM
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO**



RESOLUTION NO. R.-205-013

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SUPPORTED BY: Faith Jackson

A RESOLUTION TO: REQUEST REMOVAL OF THE EMAIL REVIEW POLICY BY THE DEAN OF STUDENT SERVICES AND ALLOW HLS STUDENT GOVERNMENT TO COMMUNICATE WITH STUDENTS WITHOUT CENSORSHIP

THE STUDENT BODY OF HARVARD LAW SCHOOL ENACTS:

WHEREAS, the Dean of Student Services currently approves and rejects language in every Harvard Law School Student Government email that is sent directly to the student body; and

WHEREAS, it is inappropriate for Dean of Student Services to approve and reject language reporting about Student Government's challenges in working with the Dean of Students office; and

WHEREAS, the Dean of Student Services has repeatedly edited and rejected email language on the progress of student advocacy, undermining attempts to inform students about crucial developments in these efforts; and

WHEREAS, on October 5, 2021, the Dean of Student Services threatened to revoke the student government's email access and ability to communicate with the student body when Student Government tried to report on Harvard Law School Administrations' response (or lack thereof) to students' advocacy efforts, and the Dean of Students Service has continued to refer to the at-will nature of Student Government's access to student body emails; and

WHEREAS, HLS students deserve an uncensored and truthful representation of the state of affairs from Student Government, which is elected to represent them; and

WHEREAS, the editing of language by the Dean of Student Services misrepresents the state of affairs and devalues the communication of the Student Government; and

WHEREAS, the Dean of Student Services has argued that because the Dean of Students Office provides Student Government the email list of current students, the Dean of Students Office can control emails sent to students, but it is precedent to provide affinity groups these lists without email review, and Student Government requests this same ability to communicate with its constituents; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Harvard Law School Student Government recognizes the inherent lack of integrity in the Harvard Law School Administration's decision to edit language in Student Government communications, especially when those edits reflect an obvious conflict of interest; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Student Government calls upon the HLS Administration to remove the Dean of Student Services' email review policy, allowing Student Government to fairly and accurately report on their efforts to hold themselves and the administration accountable, and to otherwise communicate with students in a timely manner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Student Governments calls on the Dean of Students Services to explain what purpose this censorship of Student Government serves, and asks for the Dean of Student Services to stop threatening the revocation of Student Government's email access in what appears to be an effort to reduce the visibility of student activism and administrative accountability on campus.

PASSED IN THE STUDENT COUNCIL: March 23, 2022

VOTE TOTALS:

11 YES

1 NO

1 ABSTAIN