Title: A Resolution in Support of Michaela Eder’s Bid for RSA Presidency in Spring of 2016

Whereas: Whereas Michaela Eder was removed from the ballot for the Traditions West Presidency on the stated grounds of GPA ineligibility; and,

Whereas: The General Council finds Michaela Eder’s arguments presented in the attached documents convincing (see Appendix).

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT:

Section 1: The Housing Center Student Association General Council supports Michaela Eder’s re-addition to the ballot for any RSA Presidencies for which she is otherwise qualified.

Section 2: General Council also recommends that legislation be composed to clarify this position in the HCSA Constitution/By-laws and presented to the General Council by the end of the Spring 2016 semester.

Section 3: Copies of this legislation sent to the following:

Dave Annis, Director of Housing and Food Services
Diane Brittingham, Director of Residence Life
Brian Rock, Assistant Director of Residence Life and HCSA Adviser
Samantha Raines, HCSA Graduate Adviser
Lindsey Smith, HCSA Graduate Adviser
Elissa Ungerma, HCSA President

Author of the Bill: Michaela Eder

Action Taken by the Council: Passed / Failed

Verified by Chair: [Signature] Date: 04.01.16
Appendix
Quoted text from Presenter Michaela Eder:


Concerning my removal from the ballot for Traditions Square West presidency, after perusing documents that govern HCSA, I have determined that my removal has been unconstitutional.

I hope in reading this you will come to the same mindset as I and others have that I have been wrongly removed from this ballot due to the specifications set in HCSA’s bylaws and the Spring 2016 Election Procedures Act. Furthermore, I believe I am the most qualified candidate that will be on the ballot.

Timeline
For clarification, this is a timeline of transpired events.

- Fall 2014 and Spring 2015: I take several classes as a concurrently enrolled senior in high school. With these twelve credit hours, 3 As and 1 B, I make a 3.75 GPA. I also graduate with a 3.65 after a successful four years with high club participation and having passed an AP test which gives me credit for one more college class.
- Fall 2015: I find a second home in HCSA. Multiple personal issues cause me to finish my first semester of college with a 1.85 in 13 hours, 3 Cs and 1 F. I decide to retake the class I have failed.
- Mid-Spring 2016: Midterm grades are released. I have a 3.25, 2 As, 2 Bs, and 1 C. The C is in the class I am retaking. I submit my application for RSA President, unconcerned about the GPA check because my cumulative GPA was above a 2.5. I submit a letter of good standing as well. Two weeks later, I am told that my GPA does not meet the requirements to run.

The Problem with ”Cumulative”
As I understand it, cumulative means that it is the addition of all work done and averaged out. Dictionary.com defines it as formed by or resulting from accumulation or the addition of successive parts or elements. The blurry definition of this word goes even further in OU’s multiple definitions containing “cumulative GPA.” On the website, there are three:

- **COMBINED CUMULATIVE GPA** — grade point average based on all courses attempted, both OU and transfer.
- **OU CUMULATIVE GPA** — grade point average based on all courses attempted at OU.
- **TRANSFER CUMULATIVE GPA** — grade point average based on all transfer courses attempted.
As I understand from these definitions, the GPA that is being checked is specifically OU Cumulative GPA. This is not specifically mentioned in any HCSA documents as I will discuss in detail below.

**Leadership Agreement, HCSA By-laws, and 2016 Election Procedures Act**

These following excerpts are provided along with my personal interpretation to point out discrepancies involved in my removal from Traditions West ballot. My ultimate goal is for General Council to conclude that my removal was unconstitutional.

**Leadership Agreement relevancy**

I would like to preface this with a note on the lack of transparency. In my conversations with current executive board members, they have referenced this document as a possible reason for my exclusion. This was outrageous to me as well as them. I should not be held to a document I have not even had the opportunity to see or even sign.

**Academics Section, bullet point 2**

I understand my cumulative and semester GPA can be no lower than 2.50. This is along the lines of the blurry definitions of cumulative GPA outlined in our constitution and bylaws. In my general understanding of cumulative GPA, my GPA is above a 2.5 and I should not be disallowed to run because of this. As I stated above, I should also not be held to a document I have not signed.

**HCSA By-laws relevancy**

**Article IV, Section 1**

All members of the Executive Board are required to agree to the Housing & Food Student Leadership Agreement. Any failure to adhere to the agreement is considered cause for dismissal.

The Leadership Agreement is specifically for members of the executive board. As I am not a member of the executive board as of Spring 2016 and just a general member attempting to run for Fall 2016 and Spring 2017, I am not able to be dismissed because of my GPA.

**Article VI, Section 2**

No candidate may file for more than one elective office within HCSA, including HCSA President.

Any candidate running for any HCSA elective office must be in good standing with the University in accordance with the guidelines found in the General Catalog in order to be eligible for candidacy. In addition, the HCSA adviser(s) will verify that each candidate's cumulative GPA meets requirements for the elected position to determine eligibility for
candidacy in the election. The previous Fall or Spring Semester GPA will be verified when the elected person's term begins and signs the leadership agreement. The only elective office I have filed for is Traditions Square West RSA President. As I am a freshman, my college is the University College, of which to be in good standing, you need a 1.7 GPA. I have above a 1.7 in any definition of cumulative GPA. As such is defined, I am eligible for candidacy.

Article VI, Section 3
The rules of campaigning are as follows: (...) For the purpose of brevity, I will not list all of the campaigning rules outlined. Because I had only filed my application and my letter of good standing, I had not yet began truly campaigning. I had only begun telling people that I was in the running for Traditions Square West RSA President. Although I have made and submitted for approval a poster to be hung and also made and printed flyers to be handed out, I have made no effort to distribute those. For these reasons, I should not be removed from candidacy.

2016 Election Procedures Act
From S16-012, passed March 7, 2016
The RSA President Election filing form will open on Monday, March 7, 2016 and close on Friday, March 11, 2016 at 11:59 pm. The form must be submitted by March 11 at 11:59 pm to be an eligible candidate.

The letter of good standing must be turned in to the Election Chair by Tuesday, March 22 at 5:00 pm. A candidate will not be considered fully filed until this letter of good standing is submitted.

Each filed individual must have at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA, as verified by HCSA Advisers, in order to be an eligible candidate. Although I have no confirmation of exactly when I submitted the election filing form, I have an email confirming I was fully filed on March 11 and would have my GPA checked. Because being fully filed includes turning in a letter of good standing, my letter was turned in ahead of time as well. I was academically eligible with my GPA above a 2.5 as well when the advisers checked. For these reasons, I believe I am an eligible candidate.

Mandatory meetings will be held for candidates on Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 2:30 pm and 7:00 pm to review election procedures and campaign rules. Makeup meetings can be scheduled with candidates on an as-needed basis. I was in attendance of the meeting on March 23, 2016 at 7:00 pm and was made aware of the election procedures and campaign rules.
After reading this, I hope you will agree that my removal from the ballot was unconstitutional and unwarranted and that I am eligible to be placed on the ballot for Traditions Square West RSA President. I also have hope that you will see these discrepancies and be aware of the possibility of their repetition in the future.

-Michaela Eder

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