



Student Government  
**University of North Texas**

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1155 Union Circle #305069 • Denton, TX 76203-5017  
(940)565-3848 • <http://sga.unt.edu>

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**Supreme Court of the Student  
Government Association**

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IN THE MATTER OF DEFINING “SIMPLE MAJORITY”  
& “ABSOLUTE MAJORITY”

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ON PETITION FOR A RULING ON THE MEANINGS  
OF “SIMPLE MAJORITY” AND “ABSOLUTE  
MAJORITY”

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Case No. 3.  
Heard March 21, 2016. Decided March 22, 2016

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Before CHIEF JUSTICE ANDERSON, AND JUSTICES ANDREWS,  
SUAREZ, BENSTOWE, AND WESTBROOK.

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CHIEF JUSTICE ANDERSON delivered the opinion for a unanimous Court.

This matter comes now before the Court for purposes of establishing definitions for the phrases “simple majority” and “absolute majority,” as they appear in the Student Government Association (SGA) Constitution and By-Laws. Each place these phrases appear, they are qualified by the phrase “two-thirds” (2/3)—“simple two-thirds (2/3) majority vote” and “absolute two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.”

We hold that a “simple two-thirds (2/3) majority” requires the votes, of those present, in favor of a proposal to be at least twice the number of votes against said proposal. Absences and abstentions have no effect on the outcome of the vote.

We hold that an “absolute two-thirds (2/3) majority vote” requires the approval of two-thirds of all voting members. Absences and abstentions affect the outcome of the vote, and are functionally equivalent to votes against the proposal.

Absent the two-thirds qualification, a “simple” majority only requires the affirmative votes to be greater than the negative votes; absences and abstentions have no effect. Likewise, absent the two-thirds qualification, an “absolute” majority requires the vote of all voting members; a resolution passes if the affirmative votes are greater than the negative votes; but absences and abstentions affect the outcome, and function as votes against the proposal.

*It is so ordered.*