Per Curiam

SUPREME COURT OF THE STUDENT BODY

No. 22–001

DENIZ ERDAL, CHAIR OF THE UNDERGRADUATE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE *v.* TALIAJAH VANN, STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

ORIGINAL

[June 25, 2022]

PER CURIAM

Following this Court's Order entered after Undergraduate Finance Chair Deniz Erdal's Notice of Intent to File in this Action (hereinafter "Notice") on June 12, 2022, the Court granted two weeks for Plaintiff to submit his complaint. See Doc. No. 1; cf. III J.C.S.G. §719 (2022). On June 23, Chair Erdal notified the Court that he intended to voluntarily withdraw this case.

Chair Erdal noted that the Notice was submitted to challenge a veto entered by Student Body President Vann on or around the date of the Notice's filing. In today's filing, Chair Erdal explained that Undergraduate Speaker Phillips declined to enforce the veto, citing a lack of timeliness.[1] See I U.C.S.G. §100(A)(4) (stating that the President must notify the Speaker "within seven (7) business days after the bill is certified and placed in the executive offices"); and II U.C.S.G. §204(A) (stating that the President must notify the speaker "within five (5) business days of receiving any legislation for which a veto message will be issued").

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[1] We also observe the legal requirement that the records of this legislation be publicly available. See V U.C.S.G. §510(A) (requiring that information about "amendment[s], revision[s], or repeal[s]" of legislation or the "general course or method determining the fate of the legislation"); V U.C.S.G. § 511(A)(4) (requiring the public availability of "[a]ll legislation considered by the Undergraduate Senate"). We will enter no judgement as no "complaint" has been entered on this subject matter. V U.C.S.G. §514(A).

This Court has always complied with a plaintiff's voluntary request to dismiss and we obey that tradition today. Cf. III J.C.S.G. §732(A); see also *Tweden* v. *BOE*, 2 S.S.C. ____ (2021) (dismissed), *Brady* v. *Leimensoll*, 1 S.S.C. ____ (2012) (dismissed), and *Keune* v. *Gillooly*, 1 S.S.C. 263 (2010) (dismissed).

The Court writes to observe another reason for dismissal: Chair Erdal's stated explanation render the intended subject-matter of the pending case moot. "A moot case is one which seeks to determine an abstract question which does not arise upon existing facts or rights." *Moot*, *Black's Law Dictionary* (4th ed. 1968); see also *Mootness Doctrine*, *Black's Law Dictionary* (8th ed. 2004) (defining the "Mootness Doctrine" as "[t]he principle that American courts will not decide moot cases—that is cases in which there is no longer any actual controversy."). We extend the mootness doctrine to this Court.

The Student Supreme Court has "[o]riginal jurisdiction in cases or controversies concerning executive and legislative power raising questions of law. . ." Student Const. ch. 1, art. IV, §5; see also III J.C.S.G. §610(A). We observe that §610(A) represents our lack of authority as a purely jurisdictional issue. *Id*.

The language of §610(A) paves the term "jurisdiction" over the similarly applicable language of "justiciability." A justiciable action is "[p]roper to be examined in courts of justice." *Justiciable*, *Black's Law Dictionary* (2d ed. 1910); see also *Justiciability*, *Black's Law Dictionary* (8th ed. 2004) (defining "justiciability" as the "quality or state of being appropriate or suitable for adjudication by a court"); cf. *Mootness Doctrine*, *supra*, at 1. Mootness and advisory opinions invoke questions of justiciability since they hinge on propriety rather than the Court's "power to decide" a controversy. *Id*., at 2490 (definition of "jurisdiction").

We hold that while we may not have "jurisdiction" to issue advisory opinions, the jurisdictional requirement of the Student Constitution invokes the mootness question through the "controversies" clause of §5.

Per Curiam

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For the reasons stated above, Chair Erdal's voluntary request to dismiss this case is granted, and we additionally conclude that the stated reason also requires we dismiss this action as moot.

Dismissed.