

May 1st, 2026

The USUSA Executive Leadership Board wants to begin by saying this clearly: we have heard you.

Over this election cycle, concerns have been raised regarding whether Concurrent Enrollment students are members of USUSA, as defined under the USUSA Constitution, and their eligibility to vote in student elections. These concerns have led to requests for a hearing meant to interpret the constitution and apply said interpretation to the previous student election.

We want to thank every student who has emailed us, spoken up, or signed a petition. We appreciate your engagement, which demonstrates that we have a student body that is invested, informed, and willing to make their voices heard. We thank you for the many hours you have invested. Your voices have made it clear that this issue matters, and we are taking it seriously.

The Hearing Board is established by Article VI of the USUSA Constitution, and within Section 1 of that article, it states, "Hearing Board bylaws shall be under the purview of the Executive Leadership Board." Because neither the constitution nor the bylaws address the question at hand, the responsibility then falls to the Executive Leadership Board to determine the appropriate course of action.

This past week, we have been working to understand the various perspectives of the students and how we can ensure all of these views are given a voice. After meeting with students, faculty, and administration, and gathering as much information as possible, the Executive Leadership Board has determined that the most appropriate path is not to move forward with a hearing.

This decision was not made lightly, and ultimately came down to the following reasons:

- **Consistent Electoral Eligibility:** While there has been confusion about the inclusion of concurrent enrollment students under the constitution, in February, voting took place under the same system we have used since 2021, and the same university Banner system classifications used since 2020. While we agree that USUSA membership needs to be clarified, that does not provide a basis for retroactively changing how votes were counted and the certification of the election.
- **No Established Processes:** The Hearing Board Bylaws outline processes only for the following:
 - o Elections Bylaw Violation Procedures: Section 6
 - o Officer Misconduct Procedures: Section 7

Neither our constitution nor our governing bylaws grant authority either to re-tally votes, or to retroactively apply a new constitutional interpretation.

- **Use of Constitutional Interpretation:** While the concerns raised highlight ambiguity in the USUSA Constitution, interpretations should guide future application and not be used as a way to alter past outcomes where rules were unclear. We must be thoughtful about the precedent this would set and ensure our governing processes remain stable and fair for all students now and in the future.

However, we want to be equally clear that the concern raised has validity. The definition of membership lacks clarity. USUSA officers, together with the student body, must take up legislation to define USUSA membership. We want to do what is best for all Utah State University students, and we believe that means directly addressing this issue. We are committed to updating the language and definition of USUSA membership, and we will do so in a way that is collaborative and inclusive of all voices. This will include:

- Engaging with students from all campuses and centers, including open forums over summer and fall semester, to gather a full range of perspectives on USUSA membership. Researching all student classifications to ensure the definition of membership is intentional and fair.
- Developing a clear, consistent, and representative definition of membership
- Approving the new definition by a vote of the entire student body, per the constitution by the end of October.
- Decisions about who is a member of USUSA impact the entire student body. Because of this, any changes must involve input from students in Logan and across the USU Statewide system before being put to a final vote by the student body.

Thank you for your engagement, advocacy, and participation in the processes that make our student association stronger.

Sincerely,

The USUSA Executive Leadership Board

Max Alder | President

J.J. Watts | Executive Vice President

Colin Hastings | Student Advocate Vice President