

ASCSU Supreme Court Case No. 5503
Opinion of the Court

**SUPREME COURT FOR THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF COLORADO STATE
UNIVERSITY**

March 4, 2026

CLARIFICATION ON EX-OFFICIO STATUS AND THE RIGHTS OF SENATORS EMERITI

DEPUTY CHIEF JUSTICE KATELYN BRENNAN delivered the opinion of the Court.

SENATOR FOR ADULT LEARNER AND VETERAN SERVICES, NOAH EDDINGTON, requested an opinion to clarify the role and rights of Senators Emeriti.

The following questions were submitted for clarification:

1. How long is one granted Ex-Officio status when appointed as a representative per the 54th Senate Bylaws Article IV, Section 3, Subsection B, Sub-subsection c?
2. Does a Senator Emeritus have Ex-Officio status?
3. Without Ex-Officio status, would a Senator Emeritus have rights to make motions?
4. Are speaking rights distinct from the right to motion?

The ASCSU Supreme Court has determined the following:

1. In a vote of 7-0-0, the Court has determined that, under the 54th Senate Bylaws Article IV, Section 3, Subsection B, Sub-subsection (c), one is granted Ex-Officio status for the duration of their tenure in the position enumerated in the section. Under that section, individuals in the following positions are granted Ex-Officio status: “The President or a chosen representative of the College Councils, the Multi-Faith and Belief Student Council, the Inclusive Excellence Council, and any student organization granted a seat in the Senate.” No duration is specified; however, this implies that as soon as an individual in these positions relinquishes their tenure, they no longer hold Ex-Officio status.
2. In a vote of 5-0-2, the Court has determined that a Senator Emeritus does not automatically have Ex-Officio status. Article IV, Section 3, Subsection B enumerates all of the positions granted Ex-Officio status, and Senator Emeritus is not included under that Subsection.
3. In a vote of 7-0-0, the Court has determined that without Ex-Officio status, a Senator Emeritus does not have motioning rights. Article IV, Section 4, Subsection (a) states that

Senators Emeriti “can come back with speaking rights at any time.” Senators Emeriti are not given motioning rights under the section that enumerates their rights.

4. In a vote of 7-0-0, the Court has determined that speaking rights are distinct from the right to motion. Article IV, Section 4, Subsection (a) states that Senators Emeriti “can come back with speaking rights at any time.” However, Article IV, Section 3, Subsection A states that those with Ex-Officio status “shall be granted rights of debate and motioning but shall hold no voting rights.” The difference between the two sections indicates that there was an intentional exclusion of “rights of motioning” from the rights of Senators Emeriti.