ASUCM Judicial Branch Hearing Decision-

*Merced:* On September 22, a petition was filed by Jaron Brandon against the Senate. Mr. Brandon stated,

“During the September 17th ASUCM Senate meeting, Internal Vice President

Zachary Mondo allowed a vote on Bill #04 Funding for the Opportunity In

Action event while quorum did not exist at the table. As defined by the

Constitution, Senate quorum constitutes 50% + 1 of the Senate Constitutional

Membership (Article V, Section 6) which is sixteen (16). There are currently

eleven (11) Senators, and during the vote, Senators Munoz, Lomio, and Rumayor

clearly left the table causing Senate to lose quorum. As such, the vote (six

for, two against) does not constitute passage for Bill #04. Additionally, the

meeting continued after this with approval from Internal Vice President Mondo

and no motion to table or delay the bill was made. Thus, it should no longer

be on the agenda and should be resubmitted as new legislation in order to

assure students from the public are able to effectively voice their opinions,” (Brandon).

The Associate Justices read and reviewed the case when received up until the day of the meeting which took place in the Office of Student Life Conference room on Tuesday, September 23, 2014, at 4:30pm. At this meeting, the seven Justices discussed the case in closed session. The brief and evidence provided were thoroughly reviewed and it was decided that the Court will not hold a hearing for this case. Court is aware that the Constitution was not followed as stated in Article V, section 6;

“A majority of the Senate’s constitutional membership (50% + 1) shall constitute a quorum to do business. The Senate may provide penalties to compel the attendance of absent members,” (7).

As stated in the brief of the case filed, there should be sixteen senators and in order to meet quorum, nine senators must be present at the table in order to continue the meeting. Therefore, quorum was not met. However, Senate follows Robert’s Rules of Order as a guide which states that since quorum was not met, all votes and decisions made at the meeting after Senator Munoz, Lomio, and Rumayor abstained from voting have been voided (including the vote on Bill #04). There will be no need for the legislation to be resubmitted.

Court understands the severity of the Constitution not being followed but the Justices will not have the hearing since Robert’s Rules of Order automatically resolves this conflict.