

# UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI STUDENT GOVERNMENT SUPREME COURT

## ADVISORY OPINION TO RECOMMEND THAT ASIAN AMERICAN STUDENT'S ASSOCIATION BE GRANTED A SENATE SEAT

Speaker Adeleke,

On Monday, September 23, 2019, Julia Meguro of the Asian American Students Association (AASA) came before the University of Miami Student Government Supreme Court to present their opinion as to whether they should retain their Senate seat.

*HELD:* Pursuant to Article II, Section 2-4 of the Constitution of the University of Miami Student Government, the Supreme Court unanimously recommended that AASA be granted Senate membership.

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE SELVARAJ delivered the opinion of the Court.

**ADVISORY OPINION TO RECOMMEND THAT ASIAN AMERICAN STUDENT'S ASSOCIATION BE GRANTED A SENATE SEAT**  
**ASSOCIATE JUSTICE VIGNESH delivered the following opinion.**

Article II, Section 2-4 of the University of Miami Student Government Constitution entails any undergraduate student organization a senate seat if the organization “demonstrates substantive need”. Furthermore, two condition must be met: (1) the organization “is a duly registered University Student Organization”, and (2) “receives funding from a mandatory fee source in the University.” The Supreme Court has determined that AASA meets both requirements.

AASA's representative presented evidence that AASA is the largest organization (155 members) on campus that serves the Asian community on our campus. AASA's primary focus is to unify Asian students of all ethnicities and backgrounds. AASA's President presented the Court with programs that they have in store to promote cohesion of Asian students on campus. Each year, AASA hosts a New Year's event that garners over 700 participants. Further, the representative was able to offer concrete examples of the impact that AASA has on campus annually, and their plans to expand such impact. The representative also presented evidence as to how they could collaborate with Senate to give valuable input for each initiative that will benefit both Asians and Americans on campus. Through the testimony that was presented to the court, it became evident that AASA represents a unique and sizable constituency that deserves representation in the Student Government Senate. In line with precedent set by UBS and FEC Senate membership, the Court strongly believes that diversity is important to Student Government leadership, thus, would look favorably upon AASA's senate representation.

After careful consideration, the Supreme Court believes that AASA is a student organization that merits favorable recommendation to grant Senate membership.