



The "5 For Yell" Yell Leader candidates await election results in Academic Plaza Friday evening.

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Vanessa Peña — THE BATTALION

## Election results spark controversy

### SBP-elect faces alleged violations

Moped campaign video the subject of J-Court appeal

By Mark Doré

A campaign video released by Student Body President-elect Joseph Benigno contained major violations of election regulations, an SGA Judicial Court appeal alleges.

The appeal, filed on behalf of Michael Murtha, who finished second to Benigno in last week's election by a 52-48 split, references a video entitled "Go(Pro) With Joe," in which Benigno rides a moped around College Station and interacts with campaign staff.

Among the 15 alleged violations are six that violate state law — "major violations," as designated by election rules — including a failure to stop at a stop sign, operating a motorcycle without a helmet under the age of 21, driving a motorcycle on a sidewalk and driving on the left side of the roadway in a no-passing zone.

BENIGNO ON PG. 2

### Appeal asks for Yell Leader vote recount

By Trey Reeves

Vote tallies in the Senior Yell Leader elections have been called into question following a close race that ended in the election of all but one 5 For Yell candidate.

According to the reported results, Steven Lanz was the top overall vote-getter, garnering 3,860 votes to become the first Yell Leader who is not a member of the Corps of Cadets since 2012.

Four cadets — juniors Will Alders and Chris Wilder and seniors Kyle Cook and Zach

Lawrence — were also elected. Incumbent cadet Ben Ritchie, however, was not.

A Judicial Court case filed by finance junior Gregory Lanier states that the reported numbers of 11,217 ballots cast and 11,369 votes counted are too similar,

YELL LEADER ON PG. 2

### Class of 2018 president fights disqualification

O'Rourke files appeal regarding null-expenditure

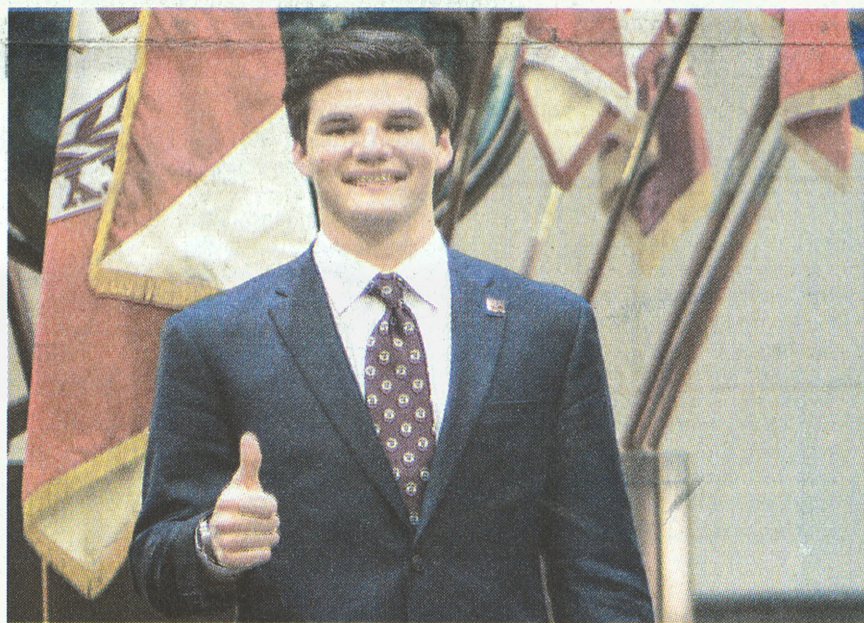
By Trey Reeves

A hotly contested election season did not end when the polls closed Friday afternoon.

Sam O'Rourke, the incumbent president of the Class of 2018, was disqualified from the race after not filing an expense report. O'Rourke has filed an appeal with the Student Government Association's Judicial Court in regards to his disqualification following a resounding victory over challenger Beni Kashala.

O'Rourke, who won 78 percent of the vote, said his campaign did not spend any money, but he was disqualified for not turning in an expense report. O'Rourke said this changes the required documentation from an expense report to a null-expenditure statement, of which the penalties an omission are far less explicitly outlined.

O'ROURKE ON PG. 4



Shelby Knowles — THE BATTALION

ELECTIONS

SPRING 2015 WINNERS

**Student Body President**  
Joseph Benigno

**Senior Yell Leaders**  
Steven Lanz  
Kyle Cook  
Zachary Lawrence

**Junior Yell Leaders**  
Will Alders  
Chris Wilder

**Class of 2016 President**  
Matt Hidalgo

**Class of 2016 Class Agent Team**  
Anthony J. Valdez,  
Aubre Dean, Mary  
Crimmins, Randall  
Oliver, Connor Yancy

**Class of 2017 President**  
Claire Wimberly

**Class of 2018 President**  
Beni Kashala

**RHA President**  
Jenna McCarty

**RHA Executive Vice President**  
Bryan McBride

CAMPUS

## Elected students lose positions due to absent expense reports

Disqualified candidates blame poor communication

By Lindsey Gawlik

The Spring 2015 election saw the disqualification of 18 candidates, 10 of whom had amassed enough votes to win their positions.

Many of the disqualified candidates lost their campaigns because they failed to file an expense report. Several argue their disqualifications are unwarranted because they did not spend any money on their campaigns, and say it wasn't made clear that an expenditure report was required in such a situation.

Emma Douglas, Student Government Association election commissioner and business honors sophomore, said there are a few ways a candidate can be disqualified from elections, namely by not showing up to the mandatory candidate meeting or by not turning in an accurate expense report.

Douglas said these disqualification standards are listed in the rules for candidates.

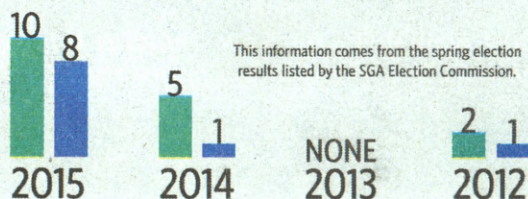
"We're just wanting to make sure the elections are run in the most fair way possible," Douglas said. "I'm more than open to any questions or suggestions as to how we can make that happen. I'm fine with these appeal cases."

Paul Dutton, a computer engineering junior who ran for an off-campus residence senate seat, was disqualified for not turning in an expense report. Dutton said the requirement to turn in a null report when a candidate does not spend any money is useless but doesn't plan to appeal the disqualification.

FULL STORY AT THEBATT.COM

6,930 first round votes were cast for disqualified candidates in the 2015 election.

The GREEN bar represents the number of candidates in various spring SGA elections who would have won their respective races if they weren't disqualified. The BLUE bar represents the number of candidates who were disqualified but would have lost anyway.



This information comes from the spring election results listed by the SGA Election Commission.

Aimee Breaux — THE BATTALION

TECHNOLOGY

## Award ceremony honors tech strides in film making

Academy recognizes 'scientists' in industry

By Srinivas Harshal

While most of the Oscar season's focus fell on Sunday's events, a lesser-known ceremony two weeks ago awarded those who pushed filmmaking technology beyond its frontiers.

The Academy's Scientific and Technical Awards were given out Feb. 7 to highlight the individuals who develop the technology that much of cinema relies upon.

Tim McLaughlin, head of the department of visualization at Texas A&M, previously worked at Lucasfilm and Industrial Light & Magic. McLaughlin said the Oscars remind watchers of the interplay between technology such as VFX, or visual effects, and cinema.

"There's a reason they're called the Academy for motion picture art and 'sciences,'" McLaughlin said. "On the one hand you have the movie 'Birdman' that looks like it was shot in one single take, made possible by VFX, and then you have the

Avengers movies. So there's a spectrum of movies that lie between the ones that use VFX to aid storytelling and the ones whose stories are pretty much based on VFX entirely."

From collaborative efforts between scientists and filmmakers that led to the discovery of the most accurate black hole model to date in "Interstellar," to ground-breaking technological advancements in film-projection such as IMAX, Hollywood has never been shy to reach out to tech wizards.

"There are hundreds of scientists and engineers at major movie studios today [who] base their work on the research carried out of universities such as ours, and come up with the most economical software or gadget that meets their requirement," McLaughlin said.

Throughout cinema history, movies have often sparked the interest of scientists and engineers to copy the technologies showcased on screen. The hoverboards and self-tying shoelaces from the "Back to the Future" series continue to inspire inventors. A Kickstarter project raised

AWARDS ON PG. 3