Elections commission issues penalties for campaign violations

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Several student body candidates — Cory Alpert, third-year sociology student; Alexandra Badgett, second-year psychology student; and Mary Ramsey, third-year management science student, were charged with a total of three points for three different violations.

The Constitution, the Official Student Paper, has been accused of allowing student candidates to post or distribute the link to the campaign website, which the Elections Commission interpreted as a means of asking for voter support online.

For the hearing, Alpert argued that he had not actively promoted or distributed the link to his website. It was available only to USC students who were already on Alpert’s campaign staff. In reference to the donations, Alpert stated that no student outside the campaign staff had contributed.

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Modeling a short black wig and black pop sensation Sia's new album "This Is Acting," Katie Morse, 19, from the cover of her new album, "This Is Acting," is modeled on Jan. 29, 2016, in the Australian singer's seventh studio album. The record contains 12 new tracks, including Sia's latest singles, "Bird Set Free" and "Cheap Thrills." "This Is Acting," released on Jan. 29, has been described as a conceptual album about love and rejection. It's also Sia's most thorough and introspective project to date and comes after the success of her 2014 album "1000 Forms of Fear," which was later scratched from her album "This Is Acting." The project, which was also originally written for "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 2," includes complex and insightful lyrics, "Cheap Thrills" is the perfect song to sing at a car or at a pregame. The track, which was also originally written for Rihanna, is fun and a rather refreshing take on a traditional heavy ballads. "Cheap Thrills" places Sia out of her comfort zone and succeeds in giving fans another fantastic song to sing in their next karaoke session. The tagline behind the album is both cool and unique, while the execution of the album seems to fall short. This is the idea behind the album: "This Is Acting" demonstrates Sia's greatest strength as a songwriter, as the "And a New Song" is where the lyrics are the most clever and strong. The opening track, "Salted Water," is a highlight of the album. Overall, "This Is Acting" is a mostly well-written album that is sure to please fans and critics alike. The production quality is excellent, and the album is a great addition to Sia's discography.

"This Is Acting doesn’t Showcase Sia’s talents."

Some of us love Disney. We watch all the movies, we go to Disney World despite the horrible crowds and we talk about our favorite characters. But if I told you there was an animation studio that was arguably better than Disney? Enter Studio Ghibli, founded 30 years ago after its success in animating "Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind." The company has since established itself as one of the leading animation studios with a worldwide target audience. Recognizing that Studio Ghibli was essentially the "Disney of Japan," the Walt Disney Corporation purchased the rights to localize its movies in North America, bringing the director to voice the movies. Studio Ghibli films, however, shouldn't be watched for their voice actors nor for the company's association with Disney but for the short fantastic brilliance that goes into each of their films. The studio's writer's manage to perfectly marry the fantastic with the realistic, building strong characters that you can identify with. The narratives seem to take an episodic approach to their stories, which is rather a new concept for a human experience, both absurd and spiritual. Ghibli's films are deeply philosophical and often feature extraordinary protagonists and plagues that head into a sea of fantastic dreams, magic or imagination without linking an eye.

"The poetry of Studio Ghibli"
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As of January of this year, the U.S. Congress has an approval rating of 16 percent. Americans are understandably frustrated with the mess our legislative branch has become. Regardless of party affiliation, roughly 80 percent of us feel that the partisan gridlock that has overtaken Congress is a problem. And, when congressional elections happen in November of this year, most likely, we'll change it to change if the past is any indication. This is because Congress does not have term limits, which means that most of the people collaborating to make recent congresses historically unproductive will be running to keep their seats come fall.

A good way to introduce at least a small degree of sanity into a system that is obviously not working for so very well would be to impose reasonable term limits on congressmen and women — two terms for senators, perhaps, and three or four or fewer for representatives, if I wanted to name a fairly reasonable number.

The current system is clearly not set up to represent our political climate. The theory behind our congressional elections is that they are supposed to be self-regulating — if a legislator is ineffective or unpopular, they will lose the next election. But that is not how it works in practice. Even though most groups recognize that there is approximately a 96 percent incumbency rate after all, the other congressmen are the problem, but my congressmen is fine. All of this means that we are re-electing the same people over and over again without any regulation on how many times we can make the same mistake.

Now, some people will correctly insist that instituting term limits will fill Congress with unproven, inexperienced legislators. This might have been an obvious drawback in past years with more effective Congresses, but these days when I question it would really make much of a difference. A congresswoman or representing the interests of their constituents, even if they were doing it on a part of a learning curve would be a refreshing improvement.

Not to mention that we are re-electing the same people in the Senate every six years and in the House every two years, as always, would remain unchanged. In fact, we would never end with an entire body full of new people.

Additional benefits of term limits abound. It might incentivize our congressmen to actually show in their jobs that their time in power was not endless. When infinite re-election is not an option, they might be more inspired to create an actual legacy of action before their terms run out.

Furthermore, if a politician is truly as well as a senator or representative, it isn’t as though they’ll vanish completely from public service and government when their terms run out. There are other elected offices in this country than those in Congress.

The inefficacy of Congress can’t be entirely blamed on the unending slog of re-election and targeting partisan interests, but instituting a little restriction on re-election, per each term limit would help. 

It forwards are the people it forwards. It forwards are the people it forwards. It forwards are the people it forwards. It forwards are the people it forwards. It forwards are the people it forwards.

One final benefit of term limits would be the end of the endless elections. Not to mention that we would have unending elections, this would mean that everyone is running for Congress half the time in power was not endless. This is because the people who would have to move it forwards are the people it forwards. It forwards. It forwards.

Perhaps the most important of all these benefits is that it would really make much of a difference. Anything that is regulated would end up being a lot more efficient and effective. This would be a great step forward. It looks like we’re in for yet

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The men’s basketball team is on the road this week with two games against Georgia and Texas A&M. The Gamecocks, who are undefeated at home, travel to Georgia to face the Bulldogs on Tuesday night. The Bulldogs only host the Gamecocks once last season in the SEC Tournament but are going into Tuesday’s game with home field advantage. Then, on Saturday, South Carolina plays Texas A&M, who beat the Gamecocks last season. As the first order of business, the Gamecocks will fight to keep their winning streak alive against the Bulldogs. The team has shown strength and improvement at the free-throw line, which is what aided them in their win on Saturday over Alabama. Senior forward Michael Carrera led the Gamecocks with 22 points at the line. Carrera has shown his dominance on the court. Last week he led the team in points with 54 and rebounds with 26. Carrera is just seven points away from reaching 1000 points scored this season. If the Gamecocks can keep the momentum that they had on Saturday and shoot a high percentage, then they should be able to hold the Bulldogs. The Gamecocks, who are 6-2 in conference play, have shown little mercy on the court and plan on continuing to bring the heat into this two-matchup week.

With just a 12-man roster, several deserving players are guaranteed to miss the All-Star roster each year. These are the six biggest snubs this season.

Eastern Conference
Pau Gasol: It’s been an ugly season for the Chicago Bulls. The roster doesn’t collectively fit, Fred Hoiberg is a disaster and the team, that previously had championship aspirations, is hardly hovering over .500 approaching the All-Star break. Gasol has suffered at the hands of Hoiberg’s variety of funky lineups, causing his production to dip slightly from last season, but still the five-time All-Star has been good on defense and has been efficient on offense. The 31-year-old is averaging a double-double with nearly 15 points and 11 rebounds per game.

Joe Crowder: Bulls forward Crowder never had a chance to make the All-Star game. He’s still somewhat of an unknown to the casual NBA fan, despite gaining minor recognition nationwide as the centerpiece to the Houston Rondo trade last season. Crowder’s All-Star case is no doubt a fascinating one. His impact on the game isn’t necessarily easy to see with the naked eye, mainly because his true impact is on the defensive and Crowder finds 15th in steals per game, tied with Western Conference All-Star Kawhi Leonard, and 12th in defensive win shares. The latter reflects Crowder’s true impact on the defense and as a factors in all elements of individual defense to produce an estimate of wins added by a singular player.

David Blatt: Traditionally, the winningest head coach from each conference coaches in the All-Star game. That’s not the case in either conference this season, as San Antonio Spurs head coach Gregg Popovich will coach the West, due to ineligibility from both Steve Kerr and Luke Walton, and Cleveland Cavaliers head coach Tyronn Lue will coach the East. Lue’s Cavaliers do sit atop the Eastern Conference standings, however, former coach David Blatt was the sitting coach Blatt coached the Cavaliers in a 15-11 record and deserves to be rewarded for it.

Western Conference
DeAndre Jordan: Jordan’s All-Star case is a peculiar one because of how limited he is as an offensive and, more precisely, the soup opera that we know to be the Los Angeles Clippers. With alpha dogs like Chris Paul and Blake Griffin playing alongside Jordan, he is often overlooked and underestimated. He’s released for all star because there’s no dunking of the ball on offense. Meanwhile, Jordan’s. Jordan’s leading the league in field goal percentage, topping .500 percent for the second-straight year and averaging 15 rebounds per game for the third-straight year. Jordan ranks in the top 10 in nearly all major statistical measures of efficiency including true shooting percentage, offensive rating, defense win shares and defensive rating. No other near-seven-footer covers as much ground in Jordan on defense and nobody shoots it as efficiency as Jordan. Dirk Nowitzki: Longevity. What else can you say about Nowitzki? The man is in his 18th year in the NBA, 37 years old and still willing an otherworldly Dirk Nowitzki teams to a likely playoff berth.

Nowitzki’s production has yet to drastically fall off. In fact, his stats per 16 minutes this season are nearly identical to the 2010-11 season when Dallas won the NBA title. This Mavericks team should not be getting a legacy bid, then Nowitzki, who’s having the superior season, deserves one too.

Tim Duncan: Speaking of legacies, the 19-year veteran Duncan was left off the All-Star ballot, too. Sure, Duncan’s season averages of about nine points and 7 rebounds per game aren’t exactly All-Star caliber. And maybe his 255 minutes per game factored into the coaches choice to snub Duncan of his fifth All-Star appearance. The Duncan is the heart and soul of the Spurs and the anchor of the league’s last defense that allows less than 110 points per game. Unlike Bryant, Duncan hasn’t given the public any indications of what he’ll call it quits, so who knows. This could be the last chance we have to see Duncan in an All-Star game. He’s simply retire after this season.

More importantly, the fans are the second-best team in the NBA who should be rewarded with a reminder of three All-Stars, similar to the treatment the Atlanta Hawks roster received last season.