

Haanim Nur talks to The Carillon about URSU and her resignation

BY THE CARILLON – SEPTEMBER 27, 2012

POSTED IN: FEATURED, NEWS



A 'stupid mistake' involving CFS funds was the factor

Taouba Khelifa
News Editor

On June 13, 2012 – about a month into her position at the University of Regina's Students' Union (URSU) – Haanim Nur stepped down as president for personal reasons. While no one really knew or understood why Nur had resigned, her resignation opened up a vacant seat on the URSU executive for another candidate to run.









On Sept. 25 and 26, students cast their votes to elect a new president for the union. Nur's involvement with the Students' Union began in 2011 when she ran as the VP of Operations and Finances under the "Voice of Students" slate, and was elected. A year later, Nur ran for President in the 2012 elections with the "Students First" slate and was elected with 32.9% of the votes, beating the other two candidates – Nathan Sgrazzutti and Nick Faye.

Despite her win, Nur stepped down from what would have been a promising and exciting opportunity in student politics. But, things were more complicated – and politics got messy.









Around the same time that Nur got involved with URSU, she also became involved with the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) as the provincial chairperson. Past URSU president, Kent Peterson, also joined Nur as the national executive representative for Saskatchewan in the CFS.

The CFS was formed in 1981 to provide students with a united voice in advocating to the government on issues affecting students across the country. They represent over 500,000 students and more than 80 university and college students' unions across Canada.

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URSU rekindled its relationship with CFS in 2011 after a much heated referendum in October of that year, which saw 51.6% of students vote to remain members of the CFS while 48.4% voted to leave. Currently, full-time students at the U of R pay \$4.20 per year to CFS National and \$1.40 per year to CFS Saskatchewan, while part-time students pay \$2.10 and \$0.70 respectively. In 2011 alone, students paid a collective \$98,245.05 to the CFS chapters.

"You hear rumours of other student union people being able to – I shouldn't say the term loosely – but getting away with stealing funds. I know it was a stupid thing to do, and it was the dumbest thing I've ever done." – Haanim Nur

Four months after her resignation, Nur sat down with the Carillon to talk about student politics, CFS, and her decision to resign.

The Carillon: Tell the readers – what happened that led you to resign?

Nur: So, what happened is that I was the Chairperson for the [CFS], and Kent was the National Exec Rep. Just the both of us, we had control of the finances [for the CFS] in terms of that. We had [access] just for the provincial component, not the national fees. You hear rumours of other student union people being able to – I shouldn't say the term loosely – but getting away with stealing funds. I know it was a stupid thing to do, and it was the dumbest thing I've ever done. It's totally beneath me. I shouldn't have done it. I know that – but I did...When you look at it in reality...it should of never happened.

The Carillon: Who all knew about this?

Nur: I spoke to the people from the Federation [about this first], so we spoke about the matter, and figured out a solution. They just said, mistakes can happen, people move on, never do it again. And so, I continued to work with them during my term as president. Nobody from URSU knew at this point. It was just me and them. They [CFS] were like, you know, you continue doing your job as president and just make sure it just doesn't happen again. Ok – sounds good. So I continued on until Paige [Kezima - former VP External Affairs] decided to let the URSU board of directors know. [That's when] the board asked for my resignation.

The Carillon: How do you feel about the time you spent with URSU?

Nur: It was good. It was the best-slash-worst time of [my] life. You learn a lot. I gained all this experience in areas that I was interested in – like lobbying for students' needs, campaign work was really great, welcome week's always fun, I had a great time. I'm glad that I had the opportunity to be a part of that.

The Carillon: Is there anything you want to let students know?

Nur: Mistakes can be made. Stupid mistakes are made as well, but at the same time, people learn from them and move on, and continue their lives. But, it's also important to never make that mistake again.



TAGS: **Haanim Nur, Taouba Khelifa, URSU**

21 Comments



John

Posted September 27, 2012 at 3:46 PM

What's missing from all this is an apology. The fact that she had to be asked to resign, after being caught, says a lot. Otherwise, it's just like "Oh, student government? It was good. You learn a lot. Gain experience. Steal money. I'm glad I had the opportunity to be a part of that."

Let's make student government accountable and press charges.

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- RT @NSgrazz: @the_carillon in anything "that involves two separate student groups against each other" 09:45:44 PM September 21, 2012 from web [ReplyRetweetFavorite](#)

**confused**

Posted September 27, 2012 at 6:41 PM

I read the article and still don't know why she resigned. Did you guys leave out a paragraph or something.

**Matt Steen**

Posted September 27, 2012 at 8:37 PM

Wow... Not surprised URSU lost north of 6 figures last year. I wonder what she bought herself with that dough...

**Jesse Leontowicz**

Posted September 27, 2012 at 8:41 PM

Good for you Haanim on coming out with the reason for resigning, an apology however is sorely needed. I wonder what has happened to the stolen students money? Was it returned? Was Kent Peterson also implicated in stealing funds? I hope a further exploration of this issue comes to light; looking at you Carillon.

**Lauren**

Posted September 27, 2012 at 9:46 PM

A lot of unanswered questions here. Looking forward to see what the Carillon can expose.

**Nick Faye**

Posted September 27, 2012 at 10:02 PM

So Melissa Blackhurt gets charged with a DUI last year, it's published IN BLOCK LETTERS in The Carillon and is a the biggest deal on earth (a serious issue, but something completely outside of URSU responsibilities). This comes along and is just casually mentioned, and is buried in this article as "A stupid mistake". Something that is directly tied to her duties as an URSU Exec. Ohh boy, here we go:

- 1) We were reassured during CFS referendum that the CFS is transparent and financially legitimate, even after many had raised concerns over this very issue. Is it really appropriate for them to say "Mistakes Happen" after learning that their fees were just casually siphoned off?
- 2) Haanim was allowed to run and be elected AGAIN after the issue?
- 3) We don't hear about this until now, months after Haanim resigns?
- 4) Is it possible to deny that last year's URSU Executive were a terribly dysfunctional and incompetent mess?

I am pretty damn angry right now.

**Jesus' fav girl**

Posted September 27, 2012 at 11:46 PM

how do u mistakenly steal money tho, *six figures for that matter* may jesus forgive u girl, because only him can see ur heart. but wait, what did u use that money for, buy a lot of cats or did u buy a bunch of face masks, cuz u my friend will need it when walking around in school. good luck, god bless.

**Cassie**

Posted September 28, 2012 at 12:10 AM

Sooo, she stole money. Student money. Our money. And no one is pressing charges because...?

**Sentinel**

Posted September 28, 2012 at 1:34 AM

She really just added to the theft that the CFS commits yearly against the U of R student body. To me theft is taking someone's property without someone's consent. To me, the 2010 referendum did not meet the criterion of consent since the CFS flew in representatives from around the country on our dollar. Its like taking someone's money then using it to hire lawyers to defend against the charge that you took someone's money. It was a pretty simple argument back during the referendum in 2010: Education is administered by the provincial government so what is the point of having the CFS lobby at the federal level? Seems to me the only function of the CFS is to line its member's pockets and the pockets of their friends. But to them its not theft, its probably considered 'redistribution.'

**Jeff**

- RT @tylerkgray: @the_carillon - To clarify what I stated. It's not that a disagree with BDS. URSU must remain neutral, so I disagreed wi ...
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- Wrap up: Voting next week, Tuesday - Thursday. Only online and until 5 PM on Thursday. #ursu #uofr Follow @the_carillon for election stuff!
07:52:57 PM September 21, 2012 from web
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- Young: When all departments get cut, small ones like Fine Arts hit bone quickly. Also, Palmer's claim of 30% refuted by Young, it was only 3
07:50:05 PM September 21, 2012 from web
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- Palmer: We have no choice. Young: We have more things now than in 2001, so we have more expenses. We're not taking more in. #ursu #uofr
07:48:55 PM September 21, 2012 from web
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- Question: Wouldn't it make sense to address the shortfall at its source? It's unclear why FASA needs this fee. #ursu #uofr
07:47:23 PM September 21, 2012 from web
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- it would go towards production and not other theatre shortfalls. #ursu #uofr
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@the_carillon

Posted September 28, 2012 at 1:45 AM

How much money was stolen? Was it returned? This article is poor, like our Journalism Department.

Jordan

Posted September 28, 2012 at 8:08 AM

This is terrible reporting. Not at all clear what it is she actually did – did she straight up steal money, and if so, how much? As this article stands I don't even see the point of publishing it – it's just her rambling on without directly discussing what she did. Like someone else pointed out, she didn't apologize for it, either.

Rank

Posted September 28, 2012 at 8:50 AM

This person is essentially being praised and held up for being an honest thief. What kind of half witted journalism is this? I want to know how much was stolen, is it paid back/when, why charges were not laid, what students think and more importantly, how long has this been going on? Just because you're a student doesn't mean you can get away with being a child. Grown ADULTS – in a position of leadership – need to be held accountable.

Tyler Willox

Posted September 28, 2012 at 9:28 AM

Once again CFS shows how truly incompetent they are. I was the VP Student affairs the year of the referendum. Our executive understood how much money was wasted in our dues to CFS. It would have been different if we received some of services CFS claimed to provide, but URSU actually received zero services from CFS for years before the referendum. Year after year URSU would donate \$90,000 + We now see that we weren't just padding the pockets of Ontario Student Unions' but actually CFS individuals who are regularly stealing. CFS is an incompetent, corrupt, disfunctional group that should not be trusted with student funds. They will do anything to convince students they are a representative for them so they can continue to receive the excessive fees they charge. Just remember, the students who were at the University of Regina that year were actually students flown in from Toronto to convince you their organization was good for you! They were not students from Regina who understand your needs or issues, it was students from Ontario (the only Student Unions that benefit from CFS).

Jessica Dieter

Posted September 28, 2012 at 9:37 AM

This is disgraceful. I can't stand the casual tone in her response, it is like she just on accident slipped money into her purse and ohhh OOOOPs sorry guys it won't happen again. Disgusting.

Jeff

Posted September 28, 2012 at 9:53 AM

I would like to know who, on behalf of the students that the URSU apparently doesn't represent, is going to be contacting the RCMP to investigate this theft, and if/when charges will be laid against Haanim Nur. This is not acceptable. And the total lack of response by URSU and CFS for that matter illustrates a systemic breakdown of fiscal accountability and responsibility to UofR students, past and present.

Cassie

Posted September 28, 2012 at 10:31 AM

Is there any way that students could approach the new president and ask for a meeting for the information of the case (which isn't fully disclosed in this article) and then ask how an investigation could proceed?

Nancy

Posted September 28, 2012 at 10:36 AM

What Haanim did, she got her punishment, she resigned from something that she truly loved! However, the question is who all knew about this? And why they didn't do anything about it? As far as i know (Kent and Paige) knew but they only revealed this after Haanim got elected as a president and denied to support their dirty game! Come on U of R, open your eyes...Haanim got caught, but in the name of CFS there are other people that are doing the same thing and we are supporting them! SAY NO TO CFS!

Herp Derp

Posted September 28, 2012 at 10:46 AM

This is a criminal act. I'm sure RPS just needs to be made aware of this, and they could press charges.

Whitney

Posted September 28, 2012 at 11:18 AM

What the HECK. Being caught and forced to resign is NOT a just punishment! That money needs to be returned, and charges need to be pressed! We are all adults here and she should therefore be treated as one. Also, it would be nice for the student body to be able to trust that they aren't going into thousands of dollars of debt, so that their money can be stolen. This is a very serious issue.

Jesse Leontowicz

Posted September 28, 2012 at 11:58 AM

Rank, I totally agree. Haanim is 20 or 21, an adult who made an adult decision. When you break the law like this, you face the consequences. This is not high school and this is not monopoly money that was stolen. This really highlights how awful the CFS is run, when someone steals their money they simply say, "well dont do it again! continue with your job though" ??? What kind of corrupt organization is the CFS to just let that shit slide and not make it public to the students THEY SERVE and who continually page the government for TRANSPARENCY. Hypocrisy at its finest.

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