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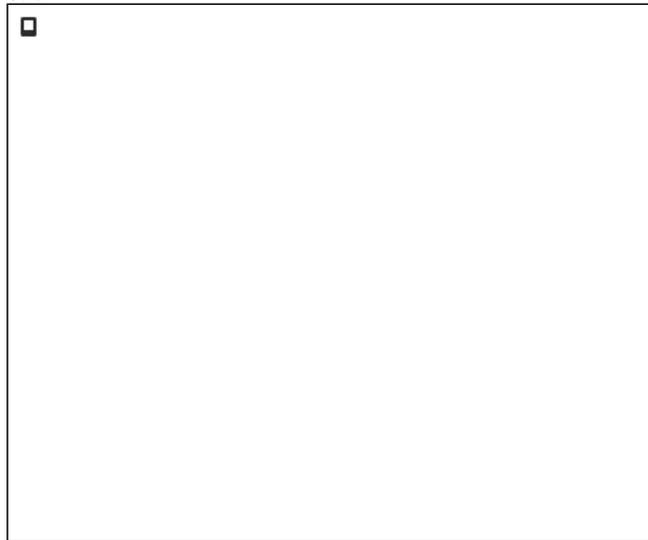
Judicial Board put on trial over last year's ruling

Arts students still representing independents on student council

By Rita Cant



JMSB
councillor
Brian
Chungwing
tagging a
photo on
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during
CSU
council
meeting.
Photo
Matthew
Gore



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After seven months of inaction, representatives on the Concordia Student Union council debated a motion last Wednesday at their monthly meeting to kick out two councillors for electoral fraud.

The chair of council, Sarah Rodier, initially refused to allow the motion to make the agenda, citing it was “out of order.” But after the agenda was rejected by councillors without the motion; it was finally added and the meeting resumed.

The motion, submitted by Arts and Science representative Matthew Forget, called for the CSU Judicial Board’s May ruling to be put into effect. The JB banned students Steven Rosenshein and David Kogut from serving the CSU after ruling they fraudulently represented themselves as students who were independent of a faculty in order to win their two seats at the CSU general elections last March.

“Do you honestly think the students you represent are happy?” Ethan Cox asked Rosenshein at the meeting. Cox ran against him—and three other independent candidates—in the March CSU general elections and lost.

“It can come to an end right now,” offered Forget. October’s council meeting saw chairperson Sarah Rodier call security and threaten to call the cops to remove Cox and other angry, independent students. “If we don’t [vote on the motion] this is what Concordia politics will be like all year,” said Forget.

Kogut was absent at the meeting and his poor attendance record will likely have him kicked off council. Rosenshein opposed the addition of the motion to the meeting’s agenda.

Burden of proof

Rosenshein has been under fire for a number of months, since Cox submitted a request for the Judicial Board to look into the legitimacy of his and Kogut's nominations.

Shortly after Judicial Board ruled against the winners of the independent seats, last year's council allegedly convened in response to the ruling, reversing its decision. The minutes of the meeting have yet to be produced, however, and council is divided on whether the meeting even happened.

"Unfortunately they're lost," President Angelica Novoa told Arts and Science councillor Julien Morency-Laflamme, who insists the JB decision stands until minutes are produced.

"Angelica, I'm really sorry," Morency-Laflamme replied, "I want to believe you guys. But there's no proof [the meeting] exists."

Last week, Rodier informed The Link that she'd read the minutes of the meeting in which the JB decision was overturned. She could not, however, recall who had furnished her with the minutes or when she read them.

When reminded at Wednesday's council meeting, Rodier openly denied her previous statements to The Link. "I didn't say anything," Rodier told council. "I told you I was familiar with the situation."

JB on Trial

Council called on the Judicial Board to defend its seven-month-old ruling.

"What is the evidence brought to the Judicial Board that Steven [Rosenshein] committed electoral fraud?" Brian Chungwing, JMSB councillor asked. "Just to say someone has [committed fraud] that's a big allegation."

Tristan Teixeira, who sat on the Judicial Board last year, was present at the CSU meeting. "We weighed the evidence that was brought to us," he told Chungwing and the rest of council. "If council wants us to produce a full, detailed report," he said he would comply, but added "I think the spirit of this [motion] is more for the support of the Judicial Board."

Several councillors and students objected to the suggestion the Judicial Board could itself be judged by council.

"It's not a decision being brought to you," observer Beisan Zubi told council. "The motion is to uphold a ruling," she said, of a body that is vested with the final authority to settle conflicts.

"You are deciding if it is your position to uphold the [union] checks and balances."

Colin Goldfinch, Arts and Science rep, asked council to table the motion until Teixeira's Judicial Board presents its findings at next month's council meeting. Teixeira agreed to "dig around" for the evidence.

"I would really appreciate it if council would reaffirm my branch," the Judicial Board member added.

Council—including Rosen-shein, in spite of intonations of a conflict of interest—voted to put off the motion till next meeting.

"What about the independent students?" independent student Chadi Marouf asked before leaving the conference room.

Check out Mathieu Murphy-Perron's "la-la-la motion" on youtube.com.

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