



Opinions

Our council is a joke

Why is council still protecting Steven Rosenshein?

By Giuseppe Valiante

This is a tale of two political parties: Go! And Unity. The current executives of the union are Unity members and the majority of student councillors are affiliated with them. Sometimes councillors don't vote along party lines, but when it comes to the most important issue facing council—the blatant electoral fraud of two councillors—justice and rationality come second to political ambitions.

If you showed up to the November council meeting last Wednesday night on the Loyola campus, you would have been made aware to the large percentage of corrupt cowards who make up this particular student governing body.

The following might shed some light to the breadth of absurdity of our student union:

Last March, the student union Judicial Board (a body that is supposed to be the check on council's authority) found two students, Steven Rosenshein and David Kogut, guilty of committing electoral fraud in the CSU general elections. The decision was allegedly overturned by the outgoing council in a special meeting.

However, the minutes of this special meeting have never been provided (Noah Stewart, spokesperson for the CSU, claims they've been stolen) and two of last years' councillors have signed affidavits stating they were never informed of this meeting to overturn the decision.

If there are no minutes, the meeting never happened. If not all councillors were informed of the "meeting" then it was not a legal meeting.

A responsible council would have already kicked Rosenshein and Kogut out. Yet these simple tenets of accountability and transparency seem to be lost among the majority who make up this corrupted governing body.

Finally, Matthew Forget brought a motion last Wednesday to maintain the JB decision and remove Rosenshein and Kogut. At first, the council-appointed chair, Sarah Rodier, refused to add it to the agenda, claiming it was "out of order," but was overruled by a majority on council and was forced to add the motion to the agenda, and at the front.

The councillors were duped into allowing presentations to come before the vote on the Judicial Board decision. During the talks, members of the Unity executive were texting constantly on their cell phones—perhaps none more than Rosenshein.

And like clockwork, councillor after councillor affiliated with Unity in the last election filed in and took their place in council right before the vote on Rosenshein and Kogut: Samantha Banks, Cameron McKinnon and Brian Chungwing, among others.

And then Unity councillor Colin Goldfinch decided he—and the rest of council—were going to usurp the JB's authority. He called for the motion to be tabled for next meeting so that the JB can present a detailed report to council on the case and then they can make a decision. In theory that sounds very rational, but consider this: would parliament ever tell the Supreme Court to present their findings to the House of Commons so the house can make the final decision? Granted, Supreme Court's decision of council are final and the JB's can be reversed by a four-fifths vote from council under "manifestly unreasonable," but council should not be playing judge.

Perhaps Goldfinch made a tactical move: maybe after a detailed presentation from the JB some councillors would be shaken out of their puppet strings and vote to remove Rosenshein and Kogut from council and ban them from ever taking part in CSU politics for three years as the union bylaws state.

But the absurdity goes beyond the cronies who call themselves elected representatives.

The council-appointed chair of this circus, Sarah Rodier, took The Link by surprise when she admitted in the paper one day prior to the November council meeting that she did, in fact, see a copy of the minutes of the special meeting where the JB decision was overturned—but "didn't recall" when she saw them or who showed them to her. Astonishingly, in front of the entire council and observers, she recanted, saying that she "didn't recall" ever saying she saw a copy of the minutes. Is

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this enough information to call Rodier a liar? You decide.

Adding to the gong-show, Rodier didn't see it as a conflict of interest to allow Rosenshein to vote on the motion directly involving him. Kogut was not present—he can be removed from council just by the number of meetings he's missed.

Partisan politics and an incompetent and biased chair are destroying the credibility of our student government.

But most importantly, The Link hopes the Judicial Board will be able to make a proper presentation (that they should never have agreed to in the first place) at the December council meeting.

The Judicial Board's office—along with all the files and documents—were moved this summer without the knowledge of the JB members. Let's hope the evidence they based their initial decision on are still there when it comes time to make the presentation and they haven't gone the same way as the minutes for the meeting where their decision was overturned.

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