

25 February 2006

Laura Avalos
Petitioner
Referendum Question 1 (2006) Proposal Committee

Dear Ms. Avalos:

I am writing to regretfully inform you that the Political Studies Student Association (PSSA) has decided to call the Referendum Question 1 (2006) Proposal Committee to a hearing before the Student Arbitration Committee (SAC) of the Student Federation of the University of Ottawa (SFUO).

This decision was made in response to a series of illegitimate actions undertaken by your committee in preparation for the Referendum Question 1 campaign, which not only violated several articles of the Constitution of the PSSA, but also demonstrated a blatant abuse of your non-partisan position as an employee of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

When in the course student affairs it become necessary for a student association to bring forth another group to arbitration, a decent respect to the opinions of the student population requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to this arbitration. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world. The facts that we feel justify this matter being called before the SAC are as follows:

- The Petitioner has violated Article 9.3 of the PSSA Constitution requiring referendum questions to be verified and approved by the PSSA Executive before an election. The Petitioner has unjustifiably launched a referendum campaign without verification or approval by the PSSA Executive. The Petitioner submitted her request for a referendum one day before the university's reading week, allowing the Executive no chance to diligently review the question.
- The Petitioner has violated Article 7.3.1 of the PSSA Constitution by usurping the role of the Elections Convenor and by unilaterally determining the date, time and place of an election for an unapproved referendum question. The Petitioner has also unilaterally restricted the voting population of the PSSA, by disenfranchising half of the membership (Political Science and Public Administration students) at her own will, with no negotiation with the Elections Convenor.
- The Petitioner has violated Article 7.3.1 of the PSSA Constitution by announcing and publicizing, by way of e-mail and a website, false dates for an election that has yet to be approved.
- The Petitioner has violated the spirit of Article 7.10 of the PSSA Constitution which prohibits the use of PSSA resources in an electoral campaign. Instead, the Petitioner has abused her non-partisan role as an employee of the Faculty of Social

Sciences by using the Faculty Student Distribution List to release an unabashedly partisan e-mail to several thousand students of the faculty.

- The Petitioner has also violated the spirit of Article 7.10 of the PSSA Constitution, by transforming the Office of the Faculty of Social Sciences into the unofficial headquarters of her campaign, soliciting support through a petition available at the front counter of the Office.
- The Petitioner has violated Article 7.9 of the PSSA Constitution by publishing false accusations that are injurious to the personal character of the PSSA in the form of an unapproved campaign poster entitled “No Taxation without Proper Representation”. The Petitioner tacitly suggests that the PSSA, including students registered in the International Development and Globalization (IDG) and International Studies and Modern Languages (ISML) programmes are a band of liars, cheaters and thieves.

In response to these actions, we the Executive of the Political Studies Student Association, officially elected representatives of students registered in the programmes of International Development and Globalization (IDG), International Studies and Modern Languages (ISML), Political Science and Public Administration, assert that our original intention to allow this referendum to be run has been soiled by the unconstitutional actions of the Referendum Question 1 (2006) Proposal Committee, so as to put into question the legitimacy and fairness of a potential vote.

The Executive of the Political Studies Student Association has thus decided to pursue its constitutional right to bring the Referendum Question 1 (2006) Proposal Committee before the Student Arbitration Committee. A date and time for adjudication will be sent to you as soon as it becomes available.

Regretfully yours,

Gregory Ko
Vice-President of Academic Affairs
Political Studies Student Association
University of Ottawa
550 Cumberland, Tabaret Hall, Room 321
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6N5

On behalf of the PSSA Executive:
Pam Hrick (President)
Matthew Spencer (Communications)
Josée Bisson (Communications)
David Moscrop (External)
Jordan Axani (Finance)
Kim Hyslop (Social)
Véronique Gilbert (Official
Languages)

cc. André Brazeau, President, SFUO
Julien de Bellefeuille, Vice President of Academic Affairs, SFUO
Pam Hrick, President, PSSA
Matthew Joseph, President, DIMEIL Committee
Betsabe Chaires
Alaric Moubouyi

Carolina Mendoza