

Samantha Bliet, Richmond Campus Council Officer Candidate  
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Friday, April 29, 2005

Paul Browning, Ombudsperson  
Kwantlen Student Association  
12666 – 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Surrey

Phone: (604) 599-2303

Dear Mr. Browning,

Please accept this as an official appeal of my disqualification by the CRO, Ron Correll, in the 2005 General Election.

In February, I did end up joining the Progressive Party Slate, however it was mainly due to the fact that Jeff Nelson and other members of the Progressive Party had hounded me into running. I felt pressured into running with them as if I had no other choice for this election, which I did end up having – as CSI approached me to run, but I had already said to Jeff that I would run with his slate, and felt obligated to honour my commitment to him, no matter how shaky it may have been at the time. And I accept that.

However, when it came to campaigning, I had no input into the campaign process. Shirts were created, but at no point was I contacted about getting one and when I was, I was informed that I would have to pay Jeff \$20 in order to get a shirt and to campaign. As my only job is an Officer with the KSA, I don't have a lot of money to spend and I simply did not have \$20 to give Jeff for a shirt so I never got a shirt and I never incurred that expense.

Finally, on the actual days of the election, I felt very sick and was not on campus to campaign. I was on campus on the last day of the election in Richmond, and asked Steve Lee if he could help campaign for me and promote me as I really enjoy my job in the KSA and want to continue working for students. Steve however, being on a rival slate wasn't able to help me much.

I expressed these concerns to the CRO, Ron Correll following the balloting and he was unable to offer me any kind of remedy. I've been told since that I probably could have asked to be removed from the Progressive Slate or even possibly withdraw as a candidate but these options were not expressed or made clear to me by the CRO.

I then learned that I had been successful in my bid for Officer, when the unofficial results were released in mid-April. Now, I've learned that the Progressive Party overspent in the election, and all campus specific candidates were kicked out of the election. It says in Ron's report:

- All reports were signed by Jeff Nelson on behalf of candidates running for the Progressive Party. All Progressive Party Candidates signed forms designating Jeff Nelson as their campaign manager. Jeff Nelson is also noted as the slate contact on the Progressive Party slate registration form.

I never saw the reports that Jeff submitted, and feel he should have made an attempt to share that information with me. If I had known, or had seen the information on what was spent, I may have been able to question the spending and ensure that the party did not overspend.

I feel that if Progressives submitted any expense report on my behalf, that it is invalid, as I did not campaign. I did not have a t-shirt and I did not have any ads, posters or other materials to hand out. Members of the Progressive Party on other campuses had their own campus council ads to hang on the bulletin boards, but I didn't.

If items have been claimed on my behalf, then that clearly creates an unequal balance, in that the amounts spent by other Progressive candidates was actually more than declared, as it is clear that I had no expenses in this campaign. As such, if the remaining members did spend even more than they should have, this could have had a material affect on the election, giving my party access to more resources to give out to students to try and get votes. Also, if other campus council candidates felt pressured to run with the Progressive Slate like I did, and also did not contribute to the campaign in any meaningful way, then maybe there are even more situations like this that would only serve to compound the effect I've described.

I hope the Ombudsperson can look into this and make a decision on this issue. I only wanted to get elected to continue the work I've been doing on the environmental campaign that I started and hold dear to my heart.

Sincerely,

Samantha Blik

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Witness Number 1

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Witness Number 2