

Political sparring erupts in violence

Ex KSA representative physically removed from a meeting and thrown in to the Surrey Fishbowl

By Jason Rako

Kwantlen Chronicle

Rigel Vincent, a former member of the KSA council, has accused the current council of “playing politics” after he was forcibly removed from a May 27 meeting.

According to Vincent and former KSA chairperson Laura Anderson, Vincent was ejected from the meeting by Pavan Bassi. Minutes earlier, the KSA had approved a motion banning Rigel and Kristina Kearly from KSA meetings and offices.

The Chronicle was unable to speak to Bassi or other members of the current KSA before deadline for this issue.

Vincent attended the meeting with a proxy vote given him by Kyle Sanker, the Surrey Representative after Sanker could not attend the meeting due to confusions regarding dates and times. A proxy allows an individual to vote on behalf of an official representative.

“Not many people were notified when the meeting dates were,” says Arka Movsessian, director of the Newton campus.

Early in the meeting, according to Vincent, the KSA board wanted to remove policy analyst Ron Correll from the meeting.

“What they did was this...first we were sitting in a meeting and they decided that Ron Karaul should be removed as policy analyst at no fault for his professional actions,” alleges Vincent. “The worse that could be said for him that he was trying to serve the former executive which wasn’t clear. There was no reason that he wouldn’t serve the new executive.” According to Vincent, his removal would make passing the motion easier.

“They decided that if I had a proxy vote and I could be removed from the meeting,” alleges Vincent, “that would allow them to remove Ron.”

According to Vincent, the ban placed on him was based on safety issues.

“They said ‘now you should leave’,” alleges Vincent. “I said ‘sorry, I’m not going to leave. I have a responsibility to be here and a proxy vote.’”

The speaker of the council, Mohammad Kahlas, made the decision that Vincent had a right to be there and couldn’t leave.

The KSA board then made the decision to hold the meeting in a KSA office, where Vincent wouldn’t be allowed to enter due to the ban. According to Laura Anderson at that point she, Steven Lee and Vincent, protested

the decision.

“Like three or four of us got on the speakers and said ‘We can see what you are trying to do but you can’t because the bylaws are very specific and you can’t stop Rigel from participating in the meeting.’”

However the motion was passed and the meeting was moved.

Vincent alleges that Bassi stood in his path as he attempted to pass through the doors into the office where the meeting was taking place.

“Pavan came up into my personal space and said ‘you need to leave’ and I said ‘well, I’m not going to leave and we can just stand here together’.”

According to Anderson, this was a violation of Vincent’s council rights.

“Rigel had a proxy vote from another member of council,” says Anderson, “and it says very specifically in the bylaws of the society that if you’re holding proxy vote, you have all the rights and responsibilities and privileges of a voting member of the society.”

According to Vincent, Bassi physically threw him out into the KSA Fishbowl of the Surrey campus. Anderson then called the campus’ switchboard and stated that Vincent had just been assaulted by a member of the

KSA staff.

In addition to being barred from the meeting, Vincent was banned from all KSA premises.

“The motion said to ban them from all KSA offices and premises which technically would mean that they are not permitted to go into the Student Association lounges which means they are not able to take advantage of almost any KSA services ever.”

Some of the services that Vincent would not have access to would be bus tickets, participation in KSA events, and involvement at meetings.

“By banning them (Vincent and Kearly) from all those premises, they were taking away their membership rights,” says Anderson. “They could sue the society for it.”

As to why Vincent and Kearly are banned, there was a reason given according to Anderson and Vincent.

“The reason given for banning myself and my girlfriend (Kearly) was safety but since that time and up till this point, no safety issues have been discussed,” alleges Vincent. “Nothing has been revealed to us why we are banned from the offices and no further actions has been taken on the issue to resolve it.”