

September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Good Morning,

My name is James Hescok and I am here to voice opposition to the resolution proposed by the Student Government. I am here before you because after expressing my concerns to Dr. Ross I was invited by her to make a brief response for your consideration. However, I admit that I was not aware that there would be a response to my response by Senator Christina Tuell until this just morning, nor that I would need a written statement until just last night, so I apologize in advance if my presentation today lacks any professionalism. (Just don't tell my professor on Personal Selling, Dr. Swimberghe.) I will be brief.

I am here to champion fair and equal access for *all students*, not to debate the substance of the proposal. I hope you will hear from me arguments regarding the *process* leading up to this bill and not about the merits of this resolution. I commend Senator Christian Tuell who favors this resolution for her research and example in advocating for her cause and what can be accomplished when students get involved, but once again, to be clear, I am here with objections to the process.

Now, I lay before you my case: the Student Government Association (SGA) is inaccessible to the student body. It is unaccountable and especially in this issue: sadly, it does not speak with the voice of the student body. SGA's website is out of date. There is no information about which senators represent whom, what are their names, or how to get in contact with a senator should I found out his name. Furthermore, meeting minutes are not available to the student body for review. We don't know what goes on in their meetings. I don't know how my senator votes because SGA does not take roll-call at its meetings. Therefore, I cannot evaluate my senator's performance. And when I try to get information from SGA by contacting them by email, I still cannot get the information I need—although in an email I can provide to you, they acknowledge that many students are trying to contact them to get the information students need. Knowledge is power and if the student body has no knowledge about what goes on in SGA they effectively have no power.

This resolution before you today was unannounced to the senatorial body last Thursday and immediately voted upon *that very same day*. No deliberation. No time for senators to talk to constituents. How can this resolution reflect the voice of the student body when they didn't even know about it? How can this reflect an adequate outcome for all stakeholders when over 8,800 of those stakeholders didn't even know about it?

This may be an excellent idea, but until SGA can meet the burden of proof that adequate opportunity to participate in a change in policy which affects all of us, this resolution should not advance to any further stages of review. A best outcome for all of us is when all stakeholders are involved.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

James Hescok