

Black Student Union
Katherine M. Koehne, President
University of Wisconsin – Green Bay
April 28th, 2008 First submission
September 1, 2008 Second submission

Ryan F. Mach
Student Court Chief Justice
University of Wisconsin – Green Bay

Complaint and Request for Action

Today, April 25, the Black Student Union (BSU) is formally filing a complaint against the Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee regarding the lack of due process and viewpoint neutrality when assigning budgets to student organizations on D-Day. The BSU is requesting that the Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee be required to have formal guidelines to follow when making decisions as to not have an issue with due process and viewpoint neutrality in the future.

In the beginning of the school year (2007-2008) the Black Student Union had taken on a new executive board and was excited about the up and coming year. A detailed and comprehensive budget was completed and given to the Fee Allocation Committee. For the first time in years, the BSU was organized and excited about helping to educate the UWGB community on issues that affect us and to share a bit of our culture. In order to do that, however, we needed funds.

After D-Day, we began to hear disturbing news from members of the Fee Allocation Committee that our budget did not receive due process. In fact, the BSU budget was not looked at line by line (as the Committee had agreed to do in the beginning; please see the attached minutes from D-Day). Because of this all of the contractual items were lumped together, and the BSU received a total of \$2,000.00 out of \$5,830.00. The issue is not the amount we were awarded. The issue is that the process by which the Fee Allocation

Committee allocated funds to the BSU was not comprehensive; and, in addition, the Committee did not follow the few specifications that were outlined by the members themselves. If the process was not followed with the BSU budget, it opens the possibility that we were treated unfairly or inequitably along with other student organizations as well.

The Black Student Union decided to file an appeal using the appeals process that was found on the UWGB Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee website. Upon doing so, we received several conflicting e-mails concerning the appeal (please view attachments). On April 8th, the advisors in the American Intercultural Center met with the advisor of the Fee Allocation Committee to clarify what was happening and what could be done on the advisors' parts. No resolve came out of that meeting. At first it was stated that there was no appeals process, although the website clearly stated there was one in place. Then it was said that the Fee Allocation Committee and the process was subjective, and that the persons on the committee used their feelings and have no guidelines to follow because they are a "self governed body."

Members of the Black Student Union and other organizations that felt they were not given due process attended the April 10th Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee meeting. The Black Student Union originally requested to speak at this meeting. This request was never acknowledged, (please see attached e-mail). At the meeting, members of the Committee discussed the appeals and the grounds. It was determined that the only grounds for an appeal were due process or viewpoint neutrality, according to the committee by laws.

On the issue of viewpoint neutrality, the Fee Allocation Committee decided to reconvene the following week to review the appeals and to research what viewpoint neutrality meant. Please view the attached document, as this is what they ultimately based the rejection of the Black Student Union appeal on. On April 17th, the point of due process was never fully considered and was not a part of the conversation to dismiss the appeals. Committee members concluded that procedures were followed, but never referred to any

specific procedures or consulted in a third party for review. When concerns were brought up in reference to questionable D-Day processes and happenings, which were outlined by the Committee's own minutes, the Committee Chair stated that their minutes were irrelevant to the discussion.

The Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee denied the Black Student Union the right to express their concerns to the board by rejecting to even hear the appeal.

Again, this is a complaint about the process, or rather the lack of a required process, that would help to ensure a fair and viewpoint neutral system that is used on D-Day in determining how funds are allocated to each student group. We also believe a clear and objective appeals process must be in place so all organizations will have their voices heard in the future regarding this important issue of funding. We are asking that the Segregated University Fee Allocation Committee be required to follow a set of guidelines and that the group and advisor(s) be held accountable to those guidelines, preferably by third party review.

We look forward to your prompt response in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Kathy Koehne via e-mail.

Sincerely,

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