Ultimatum prompted by concerns with Mathewson’s performance

They wished to remain anonymous due to a confidentiality agreement all councilors-sign which prohibits them from revealing what was said in-camera.

They also stated that council members were questioned with punitive legal measures at the meeting if they disclosed information related to Mathewson’s resignation.

One Source Bom councilor, Jon Maesel, confirmed that he recognized the document from the January 14 council meeting, but was unable to elaborate any further due to the confidentiality agreement.

According to the document, the executive committee had a number of concerns with Mathewson’s performance that prompted their actions, including both his performance as an external representative of students as well as his internal role and commitment to the SU.

There is currently no formal performance review process for SU executive members, though they can be asked questions related to their performance during council meetings.

When contacted for comment, Mathewson declined to elaborate on his “personal reasons.”

Following Mathewson’s resignation, councilor Carol Zepp was appointed as President on January 15. They appointed Tanja Chin as VP (Operations and Finance) on January 26.

When recently asked about the circumstances surrounding Mathewson’s resignation, current President Nick Di Rob and current VP (Operations and Finance) Zach Fentiman declined to comment. According to Di Rob, they were informed from doing so “to protect Kory’s privacy.”

Fentiman couldn’t elaborate on Mathewson’s performance beyond noting that members of the executive regularly provide each other feedback throughout the year. He maintained that it was a matter that should be dealt with internally.

“I’ve kind of squashed it in my head so a personal matter, which wouldn’t normally be in the public domain for anything, really.”

According to Fentiman, the SU spent $3,542 to cover Mathewson’s legal expenses. In addition, a total of $7,995 in legal fees was spent during the period that included Mathewson-related expenses.

While Fentiman couldn’t break down exactly what was spent, as the bill included other unrelated legal costs, he estimated that the majority of the bill was related to Mathewson. The expenses remained within the SU’s total budget for legal fees, which was approximately $14,000 last year, according to Fentiman, who explained why it was necessary to spend money on legal fees.

“Given the office and the nature of the information that the president is privy to, both within the organization and as a representative of the organization, it requires a higher caliber of privacy agreement,” Fentiman said.

2009-10 engineering councillor Adam Zepp disagreed with SU finances being used in such a manner.

“I think one dollar is too much. I don’t think any money really should be spent,” Zepp said. “I definitely see how people could be angry that their SU money, and money to go to school, is being spent on essentially hiding information from them. I’d be the first to say that this is complete bullshit. And I think everyone should know exactly what happened.”

According to Zepp, what other executives did to Mathewson was “absolutely not fair.” He felt the concern with Mathewson’s performance didn’t merit what transpired and feels the executive was overly critical.

“At hindsight, it looked like they were watching Kory like a hawk [...] I think it just terrible; instead of just trying to work with a guy, you’re watching him, taking notes after every meeting.”

Current Agricultural, Life & Environmental Sciences (ALES) councillor Natalie Cox served during Mathewson’s resignation. Her memories of Mathewson’s time to office differ substantially from Zepp’s. Referring to Mathewson’s in-camera council, she stated his record was “less than stellar.”

Cox further described Mathewson as a person who “didn’t explicitly express a passion for the institution that some of the other executives did.”

Unlike Zepp, Cox said The Gateway that the executive committee acted appropriately. Councillors are allowed to go back to recordings of the in-camera meeting, and Cox feels that the fact that no one in the current council has raised concerns is a testament to the legitimacy of the Vin’s actions and proof that nothing “shady” occurred.

She explained that the in-camera meeting simply “satisfied curiosities” and “kept the executive accountable.”

“It wasn’t necessary to have these in-camera meetings to move forward, but it just gave closure to council,” said Cox. “After knowing everything, council had the option to not appoint Zach as president and appointed him with a vast majority of votes.”

However, Cox said that the situation illustrated some weaknesses in the SU’s current bylaws, saying, “I think there should be a mechanism to make a vote of confidence.”

Before 2016, governing the executive, does not denote a process for removing an executive member. Below 106, however, which deals with Student’s Council, states in Section 4, regarding removal of members, that Student’s Council does not have the authority to remove any Councillor. This leaves open the option for Student’s Council to remove executive members, as they are not councillors, but a process for doing so is non-existent.

Adwin Singh, Co-Chief Tribune of the Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement (DIE) Board, which deals with the interpretation and enforcement of SU bylaws, said that there isn’t a set process to remove an executive from office.

Timeline

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<th>JAN 11</th>
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<th>JAN 14</th>
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<td>Executive gives Mathewson ultimatum</td>
<td>Mathewson resignation takes effect</td>
<td>Vice Presidents report to council on Mathewson’s resignation</td>
<td>Councillors learn about the ultimatum in-camera</td>
<td>Zach Fentiman appointed president</td>
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