

IN THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS STUDENT SENATE

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A Bill to Impeach The Speaker of the Students’ Assembly and/or The Internal Affairs Director

Summary: This bill establishes the grounds for the impeachment of The Speaker of the Students’ Assembly and/or the Internal Affairs Director through an examination of their misconduct as elected members of the Required Student Fee Review Committee.

WHEREAS, The Student Senate Constitution provides a basis for disciplinary action against members:

“§ 02-16-01. **In General.** The Legislative Branch may discipline any member of the Student Senate for failing to meet their responsibilities, violating the Code of Ethics, or otherwise interfering with Student Senate’s obligation to effectively represent the needs of the Student Body (together, misconduct).”

AND WHEREAS, The Student Senate Constitution empowers the Students’ Assembly with the ability to discipline members via impeachment proceedings:

“§ 02-16-02. **Authority.** The Student Senate grants the power to discipline all members to the Student Executive Council, through disciplinary proceedings; and to the Students’ Assembly, through impeachment proceedings.”

AND WHEREAS, The Student Senate Constitution establishes the process for impeachment of members to begin with a formal Bill of Impeachment followed by a trial within the Students’ Assembly:

“§ 02-16-10. **Bill of Impeachment.** A Student Senate member may be charged with misconduct under this Article through a bill of impeachment, which must lay out the specific forms of misconduct the accused member has committed.

a) Eligibility. The bill of impeachment must be authored by a Student Senate member.

b) Threshold for Trial. A bill of impeachment must be agreed to by ten members of the Legislative Branch, including Student Senators and Legislative officers, before it may be submitted to the Students' Assembly."

AND WHEREAS, The Student Senate Constitution explains the results of an impeachment trial to be either conviction of the accused by a two-thirds vote prompting their immediate removal from positions as officers, or an acquittal protecting the accused from further disciplinary action on the same subject matter:

“§ 02-16-12. Judgment of the Students' Assembly. At the conclusion of a trial on a bill of impeachment, the Students' Assembly must render judgment on whether the accused member has committed misconduct.

a) Conviction. The Students' Assembly may, by a two-thirds vote, render judgment that the accused member is guilty and remove them from being an officer, or from being a member in any capacity. The Students' Assembly may further, by a majority vote, forbid a convicted member from participating in the Student Senate for an unlimited amount of time.

b) Acquittal. If, at the conclusion of an impeachment trial, the accused member is not adjudged guilty, then they must be acquitted of the accusations made against them, and no further disciplinary proceedings may be started or continued on the same or similar accusations.”

AND WHEREAS, The Student Senate Constitution details the Code of Ethics which all members must follow. Violations of this Code are categorized as misconduct and open the perpetrators of these violations to disciplinary action, as disclosed above. The stipulations relevant to this bill are included in the following:

“§ 01-01-07. Code of Ethics. The Student Senate is empowered by the Student Body to responsibly and ethically represent student interests. For this reason, all members of the Student Senate must abide by the following Code of Ethics.

a) Student Senate members must faithfully and honestly represent the Student Body and, if applicable, their constituency....

c) Student Senate members must present all legislation with complete and accurate information....

e) Student Senate members must receive all legislation with fair and rigorous discussion.

f) Student Senate members must actively participate in meetings of the Student Senate. Members must contribute to the conditions necessary for healthy and productive conversation, as well as promote collaboration between their fellow members....

h) Student Senate members must practice mutual respect for their fellow members. Members must maintain decorum when they represent the Student Senate.”

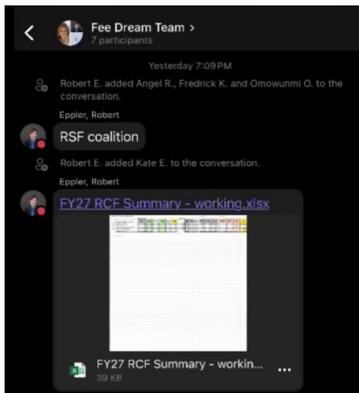
AND WHEREAS, The Student Senate Constitution specifies that the only official communication made on behalf of the Required Student Fee Committee shall be made by the Chair:

“§ 05-02-03. Responsibility. The Chair of the Finance Council shall be responsible for administering Fee Review, ensuring that the Fee Review Committee completes its proposal in a timely manner, and handling all communication on behalf of and within the Fee Review Committee.”

AND WHEREAS, The Internal Affairs Director emailed the University Daily Kansan, a Fee-funded entity, prior to deliberations to suggest that they apply for alternative sources of funding in an attempt to preemptively justify and limit debate on her plan to reduce their allocation to zero.

AND WHEREAS, The Speaker of the Students’ Assembly, acting as an elected representative of the Community Affairs Council, formed a selective and secretive voting coalition for the purposes of passing a pre-determined package of allocations through the Required Student Fee Review Committee and to ensure that the decisions which he favored would not be subject to the full discernment or deliberation of that same committee and its onlookers.

AND WHEREAS, The Speaker’s role as the coordinator of this initiative has been verified through messages sent in a private Teams channel, which were shared by a whistleblower who did not wish to participate in collusion, and text messages from the accused himself to the author of this bill.



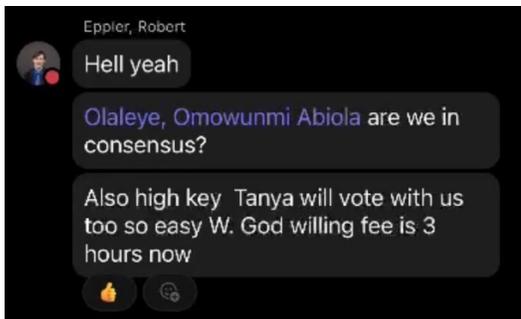
“RSF coalition” - Robert Eppler. Followed by a working document summarizing the ideal fee allocations created by The Speaker and his cohort.

Robert Eppler

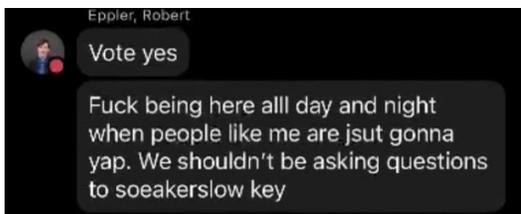
Hey comms officers, I humbly request can you please drop any impeachment against anyone else. This whole operation was my idea entirely. I make all the group chats.

“Hey comms officers, I humbly request can you please drop any impeachment against anyone else. This whole operation was my idea entirely. I make all the group chats.” - Robert Eppler

AND WHEREAS, messages sent by The Speaker to this small coalition of Required Student Fee Committee voting members during deliberations on Friday, February 6th, demonstrate a pattern of impatience with the processes of “fair and rigorous discussion” that are outlined within the Code of Ethics:

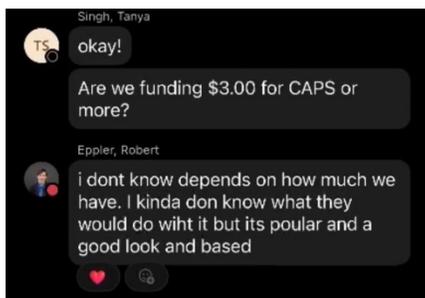


“God willing fee is 3 hours now.” - Robert Eppler

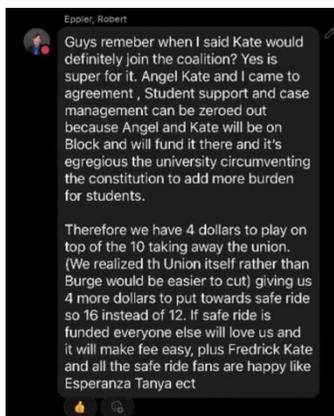


“Vote yes. F— being here all day and night when people like me are just gonna yap. We shouldn't be asking questions to speakers low key.” - Robert Eppler

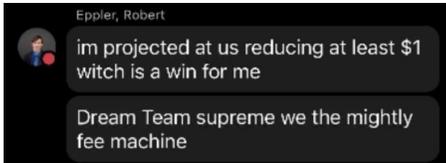
AND WHEREAS, The Speaker continuously referenced certain Fee allocations that would elevate the public image of The Speaker and his fellow committee members, rather than centering decisions on how to best represent the desires and needs of the Student Body.



“I kinda don't know what they would do with it but it's popular and a good look and based.” - Robert Eppler in regard to increasing funding for Counseling and Psychological Services.

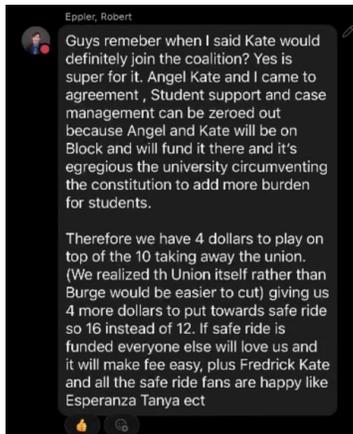


“If safe ride is funded everyone else will love us and it will make fee easy.” - Robert Eppler



“I’m projected at us reducing at least \$1 which is a win for me.” - Robert Eppler

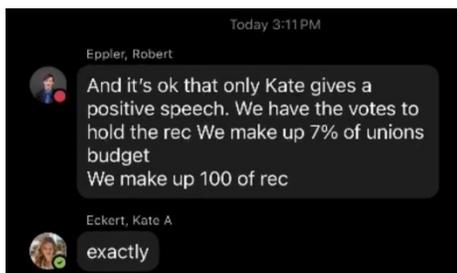
AND WHEREAS, The Internal Affairs Director of the Student Senate, acting as an elected representative of the Finance Council, enthusiastically joined The Speaker’s coalition and was an active participant in orchestrating discussions and directing votes.



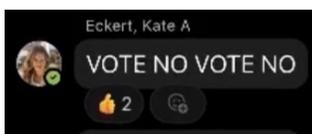
“Guys remember when I said Kate would definitely join the coalition? [She] is super for it.” - Robert Eppler



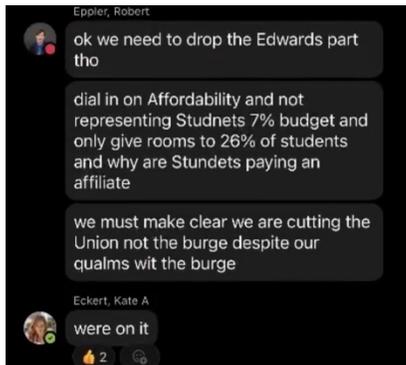
“Guys start talking.” - Kate Eckert. “Kinda don’t know what I want to say on recycling to start off. Let’s table that ish.” - Robert Eppler



“And it’s ok that only Kate gives a positive speech. We have the votes to hold the rec we make up 7% of unions budget we make up 100 of rec.” - Robert Eppler. “Exactly.” - Kate Eckert.



“VOTE NO VOTE NO” – Kate Eckert

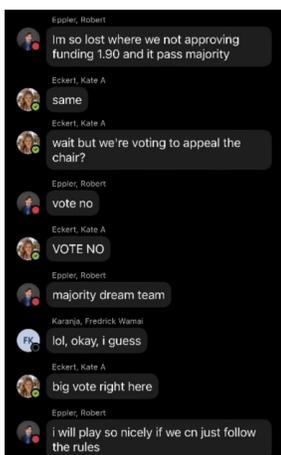


“Ok we need to drop the Edwards part though. Dial in on affordability and not representing students 7% budget and only give rooms to 26% of students and why are students paying an affiliate. We must make clear we are cutting the Union not the burge despite our qualms with the burge” - Robert Eppler. “We’re on it.” - Kate Eckert.



“Idk we might have everyone on 10.” - Kate Eckert...
“Let’s try 10 then fold to 6.” - Robert Eppler

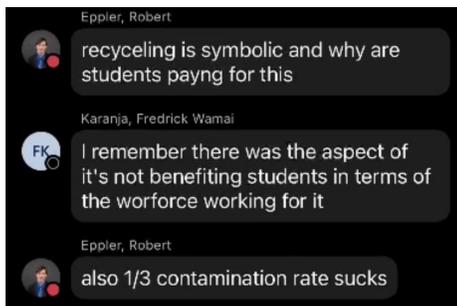
AND WHEREAS, upon the first occasion of a contentious vote not going the way The Speaker and Internal Affairs Director planned, they initiated a process to overrule the two-thirds threshold instated by the Chair of the Required Student Fee Review Committee. As reflected in the minutes, The Speaker raised a point of parliamentary procedure and moved to appeal the decision of the Chair to force a vote to lower the threshold for individual Fee entity decisions to a simple majority for the remainder of deliberations. The Chair was overruled by a simple majority.



“Wait but we’re voting to appeal the chair?” - Kate Eckert. “Vote no.” Robert Eppler. “VOTE NO.” - Kate Eckert. “Majority dream team.” - Robert Eppler

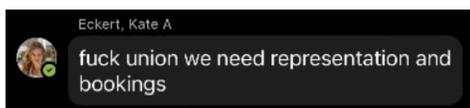
AND WHEREAS, The Speaker and the Internal Affairs Director created false narratives in order to prevent entities they personally saw as unworthy from receiving Required Student Fee allocations. The accused repeatedly claimed that certain departments, such as the University Daily Kansan and Student Support and Case Management, should not be paid for by the Required Student Fee, yet assured members of the Committee that these entities would receive funding through Block allocations. This is intentionally contradictory logic, as Block funding is generated through the Required Student Fee, as it is a portion of the Student Senate Activity Fee. These members also alleged that adding Student Support and Case Management as a Required Student Fee entity would be unconstitutional, which is completely false.

AND WHEREAS, the Required Student Fee Review Committee received a memo from the Student Senate Sustainability Advisory Board recommending that the Committee consider sustaining or increasing funding for Recycling, a Fee entity. This request directly from the very students the Committee was charged with representing wasn't remotely considered by the coalition, since The Speaker brushed off the service as "symbolic" and The Internal Affairs Director argued verbally in deliberations that allocating a portion of the Fee to Recycling would be like "funding bigfoot."



“Recycling is symbolic and why are we students paying for this.” – Robert Eppler

AND WHEREAS, The Internal Affairs Director repeatedly engaged in rhetoric that was highly disrespectful to certain Fee entities that she personally did not feel deserved funding, both verbally throughout deliberations (as quoted above) and online within the Teams group chat.



“F--- Union we need representation and bookings.” - Kate Eckert

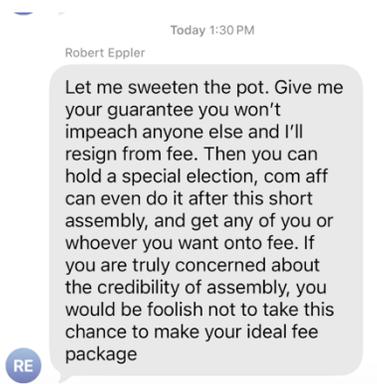
AND WHEREAS, the accused did not practice mutual respect for their fellow members. Along with the arguments of non-coalition members being largely ignored in favor of a pre-determined agenda, specific members of the Required Student Fee Review Committee who were not included on the coalition group chat were referred to disparagingly throughout deliberations.



“You better give a speech if Mia is flaming me.” - Kate Eckert... “Get wrecked Mia.” - Robert Eppler

“This is not contentious we are just better at politics agreeing to compromise between ourselves.” - Robert Eppler... “Hate us cause they anus.” - Kate Eckert said in regards to a non-voting member raising concerns of collusion to the Chair.

AND WHEREAS, upon being publicly confronted with allegations of wrongdoing through a statement made by the Student Body President, neither of the accused parties demonstrated remorse for their actions nor a desire to reinstate student trust in the institution of Student Senate through transparency. Furthermore, concerned with the possibility of facing impeachment, The Speaker reached out to the author of this bill, as well as the other officers of Community Affairs Council, in an attempt to bribe them. In exchange for limiting disciplinary action to only himself, The Speaker offered to orchestrate a special election for the Required Student Fee Review Committee which could in turn benefit the author and sponsors of this bill, if they had been so inclined.



“Let me sweeten the pot. Give me your guarantee you won’t impeach anyone else and I’ll resign from fee. Then you can hold a special election, [community affairs council] can even do it after this short assembly, and get any of you or whoever you want onto fee. If you are truly concerned about the credibility of the assembly, you would be foolish not to take this chance to make your ideal fee package.”

AND WHEREAS, disciplinary action against members not currently affected by this Bill of Impeachment, if deemed necessary by their peers, can proceed internally without the question of interference from the parties hereby accused, if impeached. Constitutionally, the internal complaint process, which provides for the investigation of alleged misconduct and subsequent disciplinary proceedings through the Student Executive Council must be conducted by The Internal Affairs Director or The Speaker, without a defined line of succession.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED, that the Students' Assembly votes to impeach The Speaker and/or The Internal Affairs director for their violations of the Code of Ethics, their failure to appropriately represent the Student Body to the best of their abilities, and their general behavior unbecoming of officers within the Student Senate. The impeachment of either party requires its own vote, so that their actions as individuals can be properly assessed, which needs to meet a two-thirds threshold to pass.

AND BE IT ENACTED, that this impeachment serves to remove The Speaker of the Students' Assembly and/or The Internal Affairs Director from their positions as officers. If further determined by the Students' Assembly, this bill serves to revoke the membership of impeached parties within the Student Senate and/or forbid future participation within the organization.