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*Working for students. Working for you*

## **Complaint and Request for Action**

Today, March 6, 2007, we are formally filing a complaint and request for relief by the University of Wisconsin Green Bay Student Government Association Student Court in regards to potentially illegal election rules and procedures.

The text in question is in the contract to be signed by all candidates. In the second paragraph, it states:

I also understand and agree that the SGA Student Court shall be the sole venue of remedy for any challenge, problem or discrepancy with the ballot, vote, tally or certification of the Spring 2007 SGA election. This includes, but is not limited to, matters associated with electronic voting procedures. I understand my obligation to bring any concerns regarding this election to the attention of the Student Court within 24 hours of the alleged infraction, for proper remedy prior to the certification of the election. I understand that the validation of the election by the Student Court is final.

It is our understanding that if there is a discrepancy, a candidate or ticket has only one way of pursuing relief-through the student court. In other words, there is no formal appeals process because the court itself is the election board. There could be no appeal to any court like in traditional governmental settings. This sets a very dangerous precedent.

However, UW System Regent Policy 86-4, Sect. B, Sub Sect. 1, gives students, student organizations the right to appeal any decision all the way up the chain to the UW System President and then the UW Board of Regents.

In the event an irreconcilable difference of opinion develops at any institution between or among student organizations, the faculty, the academic staff and the Chancellor, over whether or not a particular campus policy or procedure meets the letter and spirit of §36.09(5), and after institutional procedures have been exhausted, any of the contending parties may request the President to review the dispute and take such action as may be appropriate to its resolution. The request for review shall be made in writing, and shall include the evidence and reasoning upon which the request for review is made. If a decision is necessary, the President shall render the decision within 20 working days of receiving the request for review. Upon receiving the decision of the President, any of the contending parties may request a review of the President's decision by the Board of Regents by writing to the President of the Board. Upon receiving such a request, the Board shall determine whether or not to provide a review.

In years past, the Student Senate verified the election rules and heard complaints brought by candidates. This ensured that a difference of opinion between the election officials and the candidates would be heard by a third party. While it may have been overlooked, this could be potentially dangerous as there is a court that were all appointed by a single administration and possibly could be biased for and against certain candidates in an election.

### **Relief for action**

No where in the contract does it comply with Regent Policy 86-4, Sect B, Sub Sect 1. We are asking for relief on this matter with the following actions:

- A new appeals process that allows for tickets and individuals to seek an appeal outside of the Student Court, through the Student Senate or some other mechanism that allows appeals all the way up to the UW System President and Board of Regents.
- That the candidate campaign contract is rewritten to allow for a more substantial appeals process as written above claim for relief.
- That the Student Senate be notified of this overlooked matter and that election rules be amended to take an appeals process to be amended into new election rules.

Please contact us if you have any questions.



Michael Seleskie  
SGA Presidential Candidate



Sara Duginske  
SGA VP Candidate