

MOTION

Rensselaer Union 48th Student Senate**Date:** December 4, 2017 | **Motion #1**

WHEREAS the Student Senate is aware of the judicial processes underway involving members of the Rensselaer Union in relation to the peaceful demonstration that occurred on October 13th, 2017;

WHEREAS the Student Senate reaffirms the right for the Dean of Students Office's responsibility to, when there is evidence to cause concern of a possible Grounds for Disciplinary Action (GDA), to start a judicial process;

WHEREAS the Student Senate has heard the witness testimony of one of the members standing accused of three (3) counts of GDA violations and understands that both accused students did not organize the peaceful demonstration held on October 13th, 2017;

WHEREAS the Student Senate is fully aware of the failure to fulfill the duty charged to the Dean of Students Office to either alert, or have a designee alert, students in the event of a GDA violation to allow said violators to correct themselves (e.g. "comply");

WHEREAS the Student Senate is deeply concerned by the judicial processes using the incorrect information dispensed by the Office of Strategic Communications & External Relations, stating that the intent of the fence was for "fireworks safety" for the fireworks program commencing at 9:30 pm on October 13th, 2017 and concluding at 10:00 pm on the same night, to bring about GDAs; and

WHEREAS the Student Senate is deeply concerned by the actions the Dean of Students Office, in which he, knowing the duties of his office and the communicated intent of the fence, then initiated the judicial process against two students;

The Rensselaer Union 48th Student Senate hereby RESOLVES:

1. To urge for the immediate cancellations of judicial processes involving the peaceful demonstration against the students who attended said peaceful demonstration,
2. To deplore the actions of the Dean of Students Office, in full awareness of the situations, to allow this unjust process based on the evidence present at the start of the case,
3. To encourage the Dean of Students Office to follow the section of the *Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities* that states:

"It must be emphasized that judgment as to whether the regulations are being observed shall not be exercised by demonstrators, those demonstrated against,



or spectators in contradiction to the expressed judgment of the Dean of Students or designee, except at the risk of such individuals.”

Which outlines that the accused explicitly do not have jurisdiction over the judgment of the actions of their peers, and

4. To recognize the actions taken by the Dean of Students Office as violations of the *Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities*, specifically the *Student Bill of Rights*, Article V, Section D.

DRAFT

SO MOVED BY

Hannah Merrow '18

AND SECONDED BY

Steve Sperazza '18

VOTE

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