

[senate] Recusal as Grand Marshal

1 message

Cait Bennett <benne6@rpi.edu>

Fri, Mar 18, 2022 at 7:31 PM

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To: Senate General <senate@union.lists.rpi.edu>

Cc: "Potts, Charlie" <pottsc@rpi.edu>, "McLean, Cameron" <mcleac2@rpi.edu>, "McElligott, Martha" <mcellm@rpi.edu>, pu@rpi.edu, up@rpi.edu

Hello all,

As we move into GM week, I am writing to inform you that I am recusing myself as Grand Marshal through the conclusion of GM Week voting to prevent any form or perception of conflict of interest. During this time, Sean Heffernan will serve as Acting Grand Marshal, effective immediately and ending at 5 pm on Wednesday, March 23rd.

In compliance with the *Senate Bylaws*, Sean will handle all roles and responsibilities of Grand Marshal during my absence. I will not oversee committees or lead Senate meetings. Once the recusal period is finished, I will resume my role as Grand Marshal until the election results are announced.

When I was elected by the student body as the 156th Grand Marshal, I committed to transparency. I did not anticipate that I would run again. There are some complexities for an Officer of the Union running for re-election, and this is especially true for the Grand Marshal. The Grand Marshal oversees the Student Senate and its committees; one such committee is the Elections Commission, which oversees GM Week Elections.

When I decided to run again, I knew I had to distinguish between my role as Grand Marshal and my role as a candidate. While I've already taken steps to separate myself from the elections oversight and the commission since announcing my candidacy, I want to place a special emphasis on separation and impartiality during GM Week.

This is not the first time that a Grand Marshal has decided to run for re-election, and I am sure it will not be the last. Learning from past cases of GMs and PUs running for reelection, I am confident this will ensure that the Elections Commission can run the day of voting smoothly while obviating any possibility of a conflict of interest.

As always, you can still reach out to me with any concerns you would like to share. In the meantime, please contact Sean with any pressing matters.

I believe firmly in the sanctity of our elections. They are a cornerstone of our Union, and I am privileged to participate in them. I am grateful for the work the Elections Commission has put into this year's election, and I am looking forward to voting on March 23rd.

Best,

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Cait Bennett

156th Grand Marshal

Student Body President

B.S Electrical Engineering '22