

# 'Colgate' controversy not over yet

By Kirsten Lucas  
Emerald Reporter

Mike Colson, who became infamous in last year's "Colgate" scandal that ultimately led to his ouster from student government, says he was the victim of an unjust ASUO investigation and wants to see blame directed where he believes it belongs.

"This entire thing has been a big sham," Colson said. "They owe me an apology."

Colson, who was found responsible by the ASUO last year of altering the minutes of a January Incidental Fee Committee meeting, was voted out of the IFC and subsequently lost his bid for the ASUO presidency.

Colson maintains his innocence and has presented the ASUO with a complaint alleging that former IFC secretary Lydia Lerma altered not only the Jan. 31 minutes but also the minutes of other meetings.

Lerma filed the original complaint with the ASUO, asking that the problem of the altered minutes be looked into. She was elected to an IFC seat last spring and is now the chairwoman. Lerma changed the altered minutes in May by deleting a line that had been added. She said she made the change only after she was given permission by 1990-91 ASUO president Kirk Bailey.

Ironically, the information Colson has presented to the ASUO comes directly from the ASUO investigation documents, which were released in compliance with an order from the Attorney General.

Colson's complaint relies primarily on what he says are discrepancies in the dates of computer entries and inconsistent interviewing procedures — all of which Lerma considers insubstantial technicalities.

"We never followed any set procedure on public records," Lerma said. "It wasn't a formal situation. He can go on about the technicalities of it if he wants, but that's just the way things were done."

Lerma believes that Colson is simply trying to drag her down.

While Lerma believes the ASUO's original investigation was sound, she said she empathizes with Colson's situation.

"With what he had at stake,

his behavior is thoroughly understandable," Lerma said. "I'm sure this isn't going to be the last we hear from him," she said.

Colson, who is frustrated with the ASUO's inaction on his 3-month-old complaint, affirmed that expectation.

"I am close on the verge of taking this thing into a real court of law," Colson said. "I have no qualms about doing that because I know that the ev-

idence is on my side."

ASUO Affirmative Action Coordinator Bobby Lee, who was involved in the original investigation, said the ASUO has been struggling to initiate an investigation into Colson's complaint ever since it was received.

"I told Bobby Lee that 'if you're going to another investigation like this ... you should bring in outside authorities,'" Colson said. "And they better ... get some guidelines."



Lydia Lerma



Mike Colson

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