

IFC

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As the meeting began, Masat, who the committee voted out of office Friday, attempted to chair the meeting and conduct business.

Citing an ASUO Constitution Court decision that he said states only the court may remove a student government officer from his post, Masat said the committee's decision to remove him was illegal and invalid.

Masat also said the committee did not have the necessary seven members to consider removing a member.

Committee members Efreim Mehretab, Ed Carson, Anne Wagoner and Bobby Lee said they had followed correct procedures under IFC rules, and told Masat he would have to take his case to the Constitution Court.

"The Constitution Court is the only body that has the right to decide if our decision is illegal," Mehretab said. "They should be on to say whether this or that should happen."

Lee also quoted the final paragraph of the Constitution Court opinion that gave the committee the right to consider ejecting Masat.

The opinion said Masat's removal is effective unless the court decides otherwise, and the court reserves the right to decide whether Masat's removal from office was appropriate.

Moore accused Lee of corruption because he had the authority to choose the court while he was ASUO president.

"Bobby, at least come out and be honest," Moore said. "Didn't you appoint the entire Constitution Court?"

Lee replied that he appointed a committee of student government leaders, including Masat, to choose the court.

Masat and Moore said the committee's decision was also invalid because Lerma had moved the IFC reconsider its ouster of Masat after Friday's vote.

Lerma said she could not recall whether she had officially motioned that the committee reconsider Masat's ejection from the committee or if any other committee member had seconded the motion, but Moore said he had recorded her motion on audio tape.

However, a review of the committee's meeting minutes showed no record of Lerma proposing a motion, and Moore could not produce the tape.

"The tape ran out," Moore said.

After Scarborough cleared the room, the committee conducted regular budget matters until Moore returned with a statement from the University Registrar's office stating that two Constitution Court members who ruled on the committee's ability to remove Masat were not enrolled in classes at the University.

Moore said the court's decision was invalid because Chief Justice Paul Loving and Justice Will Portello were not attending the University when they made their decision.

IFC members Bobby Lee and Ed Carson said Loving and Portello will not officially graduate from the University until June 1, so their decision is valid.

The question of whether Loving and Portello were attending the University at the time of their decision looms large in this case because a court ruling enabled the committee to consider Masat's removal from the IFC.

The court met Friday and ruled the committee could change two IFC rules in order to consider expelling Masat.

Citing a new ASUO Constitution Amendment, Justice Michael O'Leary had signed an injunction preventing the committee from considering whether to replace Masat Thursday.

Because the new Incidental Fee Committee takes office today, the final resolution of Masat's status with the committee will probably end up in the Constitution Court, Lee said.

However, at this time, Steve Masat is not a member of the IFC, Lerma said.

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MEETINGS

Returning Students Association will meet and have a social today at 5 p.m. at the 19th St. Cafe (McMenamin's Pub), 19th Avenue and Agate Street. For more information, call 346-4305.

El Salvador Sister University Project will meet today at 5:30 p.m. in EMU Century Room A.

Student Senate will meet tonight at 6 in EMU Century Room A. For more information, call 346-0630.

MISCELLANEOUS

Pi Gamma Mu, international honor society in social science, will have a reception for new members tonight at 7 in the EMU Gumwood Room. For more information, call 346-1068.

Malaysian Student Organization will have a charity clothing drive for the homeless people and will accept clothing donations today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the EMU Lobby. For more information, call 346-9987.

OSPIRG will have a news conference on a new plastic recycling scam as part of its "Ban the Burn" campaign today at 1 p.m. at the OSPIRG Campaign Office, 1410 Orchard St., Suite 201. For more information, call 231-4181.

Career Planning and Placement Service will have an office orientation today from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Room 221 Hendricks. For more information, call 346-3235.

Not so highball

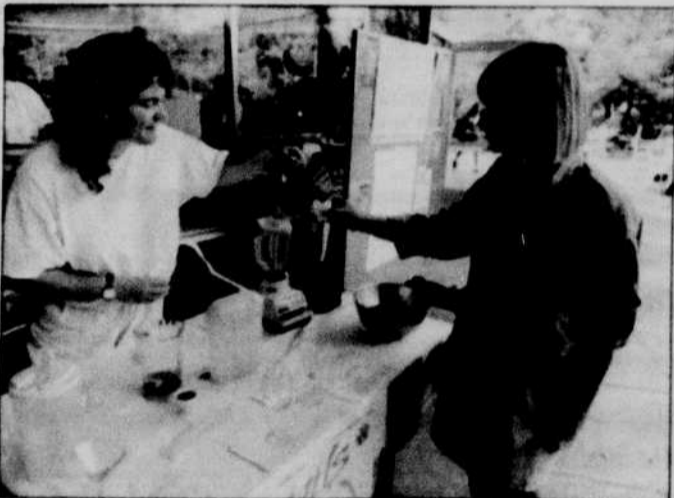


Photo by Randy Thielen

Erika George, a peer health adviser for the Student Health Center, pours a "mocktail" in front of the EMU Fishbowl as part of Alcohol Awareness Week.

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