

Hearing: Attorneys dig deep into allegations

Continued from page 1

felt left out of the process.

"I felt like my talents weren't being put to good use," noted Gould.

Regarding the removal of student applications, Gould gave a detailed testimony.

"I put them in a white manila envelope in my desk drawer and I shut it," added Gould.

When asked if he knew Rankin was taking the file, or if she had his permission to do so, he said "no."

Earlier Rankin said that she took the file from the top of Gould's desk where it was in plain view.

Godfrey discuss probation

Jan Godfrey was called to discuss Rankin's probationary agreement dating back to last May. Rankin was placed on probation for consuming alcohol at

a school-sponsored event.

"Using alcohol at this event showed a lack of judgement," said Godfrey. "I believe in behavioral contracts with students when they make mistakes. I'm not working to remove her. That's not my interest. I'm interested in working with her."

Jennifer Rankin seemed to be a typical student here at the college without a lot of outside experience," continued Godfrey.

However, Godfrey went on

to describe the seriousness of removing student application files.

"I had begun to receive complaints about the hiring of the administrative assistant," added Godfrey. "Files were missing. It

was a very big crisis. We had a lot of students who were traumatized about this situation."

Bryan Fuentez and Mike Lewis, both applicants for the position filed written complaints about the removal of the files.

"I felt like it was a breach of trust for ASG and especially for James," said Lewis. "I felt it showed a lack of integrity."

"I found out about it and I was personally offended," noted Fuentez

who was selected as the administrative assistant. "I didn't know of the guilty party. I wanted that person to be removed from ASG."

Rankin's defense of these al-

legations was that the removal of student files was a common practice in ASG.

As a defense witness, Child Care Officer Glorianne Muggli stated that she had taken home application files and had recently had a complaint filed against her for doing so.

When asked if disciplinary action had been taken, Muggli replied "I was interviewed—that's all."

The same sentiment that Rankin was being singled out was echoed by defense witness Elise Norman.

Norman, legislative officer, said "Five members and I engaged in drinking alcohol at ASAC [a student government meeting in Washington, D.C.] including Cristine Reed [former ASG officer and current senator]."

Tauman asked if she is over 21.

Norman said, "No, I'm not." Rankin, who admitted to drinking last May and agreed to her probation for those actions contended, however, that she wasn't the only one drinking.

"All the other presidents were there," said Rankin. "David LeDoux [last year's ASG president] was also drinking. There wasn't one person there who didn't have a beer in their hand."

Saida Johnston, Minority Outreach senator and defense witness, felt that Rankin was being singled out from the moment she decided to run for president.

"When Norm found out I was helping Jennifer with her campaign," noted Johnston, "he said 'I thought you knew better. You are exercising poor judgement to help her'."

Rankin made strong statements about Berney.

"From the day I submitted my application, he harassed me," said Rankin. "He told me they already had qualified candidates to run and he asked me why I didn't consult him first. I was

under the impression that any student could run for ASG president."

When asked how he felt about Rankin running for president, Berney replied to defense counsel by saying, "I felt that her only disadvantage was experience."

Final arguments given

As the hearing came to a close, both attorneys shared final arguments.

"We're looking at a young woman who has given a lot of chances," said Tauman. "Her excuse is that everybody does it. That's not how it works in the adult world. The fact that others took records and may have to be disciplined does not have any bearing on this case."

"We have conflicting testimony and you [the committee] have to decide who's more credible. Read these complaints. These people are speaking from the heart. They are supposed to be members of her team. They feel betrayed."

"Ms. Rankin hasn't read the student handbook and she's the student body president. Even if you don't know the law, you are still responsible for it."

Scott's final statements touched on the ideas that Rankin was indeed singled out and that she didn't receive support from her advisor.

"If you discipline Jennifer [for removing files], you have to discipline half of the ASG," said Scott.

"It was clear that Mr. Berney didn't want Jennifer to be there in the first place."

"Jennifer is not being dishonest in any way. She has made every effort to comply with the probationary agreement. Jennifer Rankin should be reinstated forthwith."

The committee will meet in executive session for deliberation. A recommendation to Keyser could be made by the end of the week.

International week celebrates diversity

MAGGIE JIRASEK

Staff Writer

What do you think would to happen if students from all around the world, students with different backgrounds, different cultures, religions and languages got together at one table?

Well, I didn't know either until I attended Clackamas' first "International lunch meeting" last Wednesday.

It was an opportunity for International students as well as U.S. students to get to know each other, share opinions, learn about different cultures and just talk and have lunch together.

About 20 students attended the meeting, which

was quite a big surprise. One could tell by the expression on their faces that most of them were excited about getting to know each other.

I think that, especially in today's society, it is hard for people with different backgrounds to mix and accept one another just as human beings. Students prefer to stay in their own culture, talk to people they know in their own language because they are too shy or scared of not being accepted.

As an international student, I myself have experienced that there will always be people who don't like you just because you are different. But I realized that there is nothing wrong with being different. Sometimes people

might treat you like you are from "the moon," but remember that we are all the same. We are all human beings, so don't be afraid of getting to know people who are different than you.

In my opinion the International lunch meeting, held every Wednesday in the cafeteria, is a good opportunity to let go of your fear and meet new, interesting people.

You might be surprised how much we can learn from each other.

By the way, did you know that in some countries, if you eat a piece of cake that was put on your plate sideways, it means that you will not get married? Isn't that something to think about?

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