

IZSO APPEAL: Both sides seek legal counsel

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am going to have to contest (decision) due to Oregon Meeting Laws," he said. Decision can be made under clause, and I actually have statutes for you how this open meeting as per my ion. Would you like to see legal statutes in regards to

According to an Oregon Attorney General's Office pamphlet "a governing body" is for more members of a public body who have the authority to make decisions for or recommendations to a public body or administration."

The Clackamas student government has an advisory position on the board of education makes decisions regarding policy.

Other part of the pamphlet that governing bodies may be the public, but not the subjects by calling for an open or closed-door session. However, these sessions are only allowed in very limited cases, and no decisions may be made during them.

Following Izso's offering of legal statutes, Baker became the center of the disagreement, claiming that the meeting was not for that purpose. She also said a lawyer had been consulted about whether the meeting should be private.

During the meeting, Izso read a written statement regarding his termination, stating his rights to due process and free expression. At the end of his statement, he called out ASG on the election process and asked for the election to be considered unconstitutional and void.

"Just so you know, this is not about the elections," Knudsen said. "This is just about you being reinstated to student government."

Izso replied, "They are directly related."

Changing the subject, Knudsen asked Izso if that was all and then asked the people in the room to leave so the committee could make its decision. Izso was also asked to remove himself from the room.

When asked what the exception the committee had to Oregon Public Meeting Laws, Baker said, "You can ... talk to Bill Zuelke, who is our dean, if you have any questions ..."

The small crowd gathered became agitated, questioning the constitutional basis the committee was using to hide behind closed doors and whether, if needed, Zuelke could be called to affirm it himself. Izso again reiterated that there was a need to state an exemption with constitutional backing.

Meeting cancellation

At 3:07 p.m., the committee collected its things, stood up and left the room.

Waiting for the committee to return with Zuelke, the room became loud with discussion of what was going to happen next.

At 3:35 p.m., Mike Caudle of Student Outreach returned to tell Izso that the committee would not be returning. The crowd accumulated quickly, moving from the room to the area outside of the Fireside Lounge while Izso and Ostergren set out to find Zuelke for a written

notice as to why the meeting was not continued and when it would occur.

"He notified me that there was no cancelled meeting and, in fact, the meeting occurred in the way it was supposed to," Izso said. "He said, 'You made your statement, and the meeting was concluded. We made a decision in private session. The decision will be sent in a letter.'"

Zuelke said, "Stating legal exemption is not required. Our legal representation says we are following the law. We have a process that is fully appropriate. No rules or regulations have been broken. They met in private session due to the process. We have to follow our process with our best advice on the back table."

Future action

Izso is seeking legal counsel and plans on following the matter as far as the law will take him.

"We pursue this issue with all legal vigor," he said. "I currently have legal counsel, who I will be meeting with. Right now, the primary focus is to represent the students still ... we are really just trying to change this student government we have."

Calls made to the ASG office were not returned. ASG President Tim Lussier did not respond to messages left at his office or on his cell phone. When asked to speak with the department chair of Student Leadership and Outreach, Mindy Brown, *The Print* was told that she was unavailable.

Timeline of Events

Tuesday, April 29

First day of the "Meet and Greet": Izso missed the meeting due to work conflict. His student representative, Ostergren, was barred from speaking to students by ASG Vice President Jessica Hendrickson.

Wednesday, April 30

1 p.m.

On the second day of the "Meet and Greet," the conversation between students, ASG members and the candidates became heated.

Wednesday, April 30

3 p.m.

At the regular meeting of ASG, Izso and Ostergren requested that Adviser Mindy Brown and Hendrickson remove themselves from the election process.

During new business, Senator Mitch Knudsen accused Izso of violating the ASG behavior code of conduct and failing to complete duties of his assigned position.

In a closed-door session, Izso was removed from his position, leaving him ineligible to continue his candidacy for the presidential elections.

Wednesday, April 30

Later that afternoon

Izso and Ostergren drafted a letter of appeal to ASG, stating that the removal procedure was unethical and unconstitutional according to state law.

Thursday, May 1

Democrat Club President Catherine Pike spoke to Javierh Montero, ASG clubs senator, to call an emergency Interclub Council Meeting. The request was denied by Montero.

Monday, May 5

3 p.m.

The appeals committee met in CC126. Izso arrived to make a statement that he would not be attending due to the lack of notification. The meeting was rescheduled.



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Questions regarding state law continued to be asked, the committee, led by Mitch Knudsen, filed out of the room. The committee made its final decision on Izso's appeal in an executive session.

ASG ELECTION RESULTS

The results of the election were announced Friday, May 9.

The online ballot had one name for president, plus a space for a write-in. The section vice president was the same.

Michael Vu was elected president, and Tisha Burley was elected vice president.

Calls made to the student government office concerning the voting numbers were not returned by press time.

ASG AND LAWS: senators under fire

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According to Robert Cox, adviser of Mt. Hood Community College's ASG, Mt. Hood's student government also abides by public meeting laws, which are outlined in its 38-page constitution and bylaws.

Lane Community College's student government also contains a specific clause mentioning its adherence to the meeting laws.

Clackamas' constitution does not mention anything in regards to the particular state laws to which ASG must hold

fast. Yet, according to its own constitution, members of ASG serve as a liaison between students, the administration and the Board of Education. The president of ASG holds an advisory position on the board.

"According to our constitution, he (Lussier) is a de-facto member (to the board)," Izso said. "He is an advisory position - he represents the students - but he does not really have a vote. Under state law, ASG is therefore accountable as a public body."

"The issue is," said Matt Ostergren, Izso's student rep-

resentative, "is we are attempting to appeal, through the normal processes as outlined in the handbook. To be honest, we do not like the process they are using because it is not outlined in their constitution. It is, essentially, being made up on the spot. We don't really know what is happening."

Phone calls made to ASG Adviser Michelle Baker regarding the attorney to whom student government spoke were redirected to Zuelke once again. By press time, Zuelke was unavailable for comment, as he was out of town on business.