

I would like to first start by providing my Statement.

Secondly, I would like to provide the accounts as well as the rebuttals to the many arguments that were made during the Appeals hearing.

“The majority of the arguments provided by the appellants are a detraction from our main argument and are rooted in the 2 tenants of:

1. **Complicity - WHY?** The procedural elements were fumbled by the advisors of the elections board, the election coordinator, and other AS staff in charge of the grievance process. Evidence follows (see photos 1,4, 5, 6, 7, 8)
2. **Nepotism - WHY?** There is hypocrisy involved in this process. There is clear evidence of colleagues of these appellants attempting to insert themselves in this process and encourage a certain decision as seen in our appellants supporting documents. (See Nicole’s Appeals document statements)

The disqualification of these candidates is unprecedented because the organization is finally waking up to the injustices towards Black students and other students of color that have been happening since the start of this organization. It is true justice. I am fighting the same patterns that occurred during last year’s election so it’s absolutely imperative to break the culture of these wrongdoings. The failure to adhere to policy is the core reason these injustices are happening. That applies to many other institutions and organizations, not just the AS.

I will not entertain any of this trickery and deviation from the argument. I will not entertain the conversations around bias in the elections board when it was not transparent that (Breaker Chittenden - the main writer for the dissenting opinion) was publicly in support of the candidates who were disqualified (Also further verified by Nicole Ballard, and Jose Ortuzar) (see photo 2). The double standards and changes in energy are not fair, and they are not warranted. I will not allow this situation to be straw manned.

Rebuttal to all Appellants (Nate Jo, Nicole Ballard, Nora Harren)

- **The vote margin was 18 votes for the Presidential race and 13 votes for the Sustainability race.** Thinking logically and rationally, one would assume that the endorsement from Shred the Contract did in fact greatly impact those margins. These two specific ballots were not a landslide, they were very slim, which is why Nicole is the only person encouraged to appeal (as seen in Nicole’s Appeals document).
- And to Nate, Nicole, you had a reasonable doubt that the endorsement was a little sketchy, so you went back to check the election code. You are not qualified to interpret the elections code, Ina is.
 - What did you have to gain for not checking in? 18 votes. Enough votes to secure this election for you.
 - Your action to not deliberate with our elections coordinator. I’m 1000% sure you would have received the same information. You instead acted from a place of privilege and did not check-in.
- **Your secrecy in this process is not transparent. Your integrity is most important to you yet you are not upholding that integrity for yourself or the process. (To appellants) Participating in the**

Creation of an email template dispersed and targeted to your student supporters to apply pressure to the advisors of the appeals committee is not transparent (see link).

- [The supporting document for this email template was titled “A Rigged Hearing” found here](#) (see photo 9) is also an unfortunate appropriation and jab towards my document “[The Rigged Election](#)” that I compiled for last year’s (2018-2019) grievance period, let it be known that it also mocks the trauma and pain that I endured during that process.
- I am not attacking you for receiving an endorsement. I am seeking accountability for the way that you utilized that endorsement.
- To further emphasize the point of being frustrated and disappointed, I completely understand. I believe I was experiencing similar feelings during last year's (2018-2019) grievance process. My perspective is not made to in any manner discredit your valid thoughts and feelings in this manner. I will say that you must first remember that you need to hold yourself accountable for your actions.

Rebuttal to Nate specifically

- **The inclusion of comparing current Black students to future white supremacists was extremely offensive, damaging, inflammatory, and not conducive to the task at hand. It is astonishing that you, Nate Jo, would think of and express such an excruciating dichotomy in the same breath that you stated you cared about Black students DURING this public meeting. If you are demonstrating that you are out of touch with the current climate of today’s world, especially living in this country, the epicenter of the global injustices happening, then our Black students can not trust you to honor your commitments to dismantling anti-Blackness as the AS President.**
 - Your words: *“Imagine for a second next year, a Black student wins the majority of the legal votes cast in the 2021 election, and then a white supremacist group on campus doesn’t like that. So they ensure they have a majority on the elections board, and get the Black candidate disqualified on false charges. Does that look like justice to you? Is that the legacy you want to leave?”* (for reporters, please verify this quote if you are to use it).
 - Keep in mind that Selome Zerai, the ASVP for activities and the only Black representative on the AS Executive board was the only person who spoke out against this statement.
- The democratic process is not being sabotaged. The elections board has the ability to take whatever course of action is appropriate and allowed. That is why grievances exist.
- Expressing that I look forward to working with the incoming executive board member Sargun Handa immediately after the Grievance decision in no way invalidates my quest for Justice and fairness. Your assumption is manipulative and is not representative of who I am as a person.

Rebuttal to Nicole specifically

Rebuttal to Nora specifically

- I absolutely know what the code says, which is why I attempted to submit them in a timely manner. I also did not have access to those grievances forms. I would like to

include that I submitted my grievances in person, with physical form, thus, I did not have access to a digital form.

- Ina encouraged candidates to text her phone number and ask any questions necessary. Thus, our communications via text were official.
 - Furthermore, you also stated that Ina provided her personal phone number at the official AS candidacy meeting.
- You also stated that you discovered the fact that a grievance was being filed against you, had not received official communications,
- In addition, STC has been hosting weekly virtual meetings for their book club/podcast space, IT is NOT an excuse to say you didn't know clubs were holding meetings during the quarantine.

In regards Ina LaGrandeur's shortcomings and timing concerns

- The grievance materials were never posted as a resource for the candidates, The process was never posted for the candidates, and Ina sent me the grievance form a day after I asked her for it so the argument of me not submitting it in time is invalid. I was not provided the opportunity to even send these grievances out in a timely manner. I even continued asking for Ina to send me the grievances so that I could send them in a timely manner. I received these documents in the afternoon of the 9th of May.
- The grievances were also not accessible. Whatsoever. Also,
 - *Section 3: Election Policies, VI. Grievances, a: "In the event that a candidate or any person associated with a candidate, initiative or referendum campaign (for or against) violates the Election Code and/or filing packet before or during the elections, an affected party, another candidate who has observed the violation, or the Elections Coordinator may file an official grievance against that person."*
- Even if my grievances were thrown into the trash, our elections coordinator, Ina LaGrandeur had a responsibility to report this wrongdoing. That never happened.
- **Ina had the proper resources, beliefs, opportunity, and responsibility to officially submit a grievance and she instead decided to protect peers and send them the election code again instead of addressing the core violation and submitting a grievance.**
 - **She then wrote a statement attempting to invalidate the Election Board's decision to disqualify these candidates. A clear indication that she is rescinding her energy that the endorsement was a violation. It is not her**

purview to comment on the decision of the Election Board since we are no longer in the grievance process. That Should have been addressed long before.

- Ina's perspective does not trump the code. They are the same thing. As the coordinator, her word is the law during the active campaigning and election period, Which is why an entire meeting with every candidate was hosted to explain the code.
- The phrase "Elections Coordinator" is mentioned 68 times in the election code. This position is absolutely integral to the enforcement and clarification of the code.
- As said before, **the appellants did not exhaust every means to understand the code.**
- Ina was prepared to receive my question, She answered in the same minute I asked the question. She was also prepared to receive the other candidates and their qualifying questions.
- **The code was meant to be interpreted how Ina described it. I asked the question, she answered it in the same minute I sent it. No further deliberations were made nor needed to be made.**

The legitimacy of the calling to hold an official hearing

- The decision to hold an official grievance meeting was only because the elections board chair did not receive all of the proper materials and evidence that was supposed to be passed on by Annie Byers. The AS Board Program Coordinator.
 - It was even communicated in a screenshot of a conversation between Nicole Ballard (Appellant) and Nathalie Wagler (Election Board Chair), that Natalie did not receive any of the grievances from Annie Byers until after 5/16/2020. Days after I myself submitted those grievances (see attached photo #).

Evidence

Photo 1.

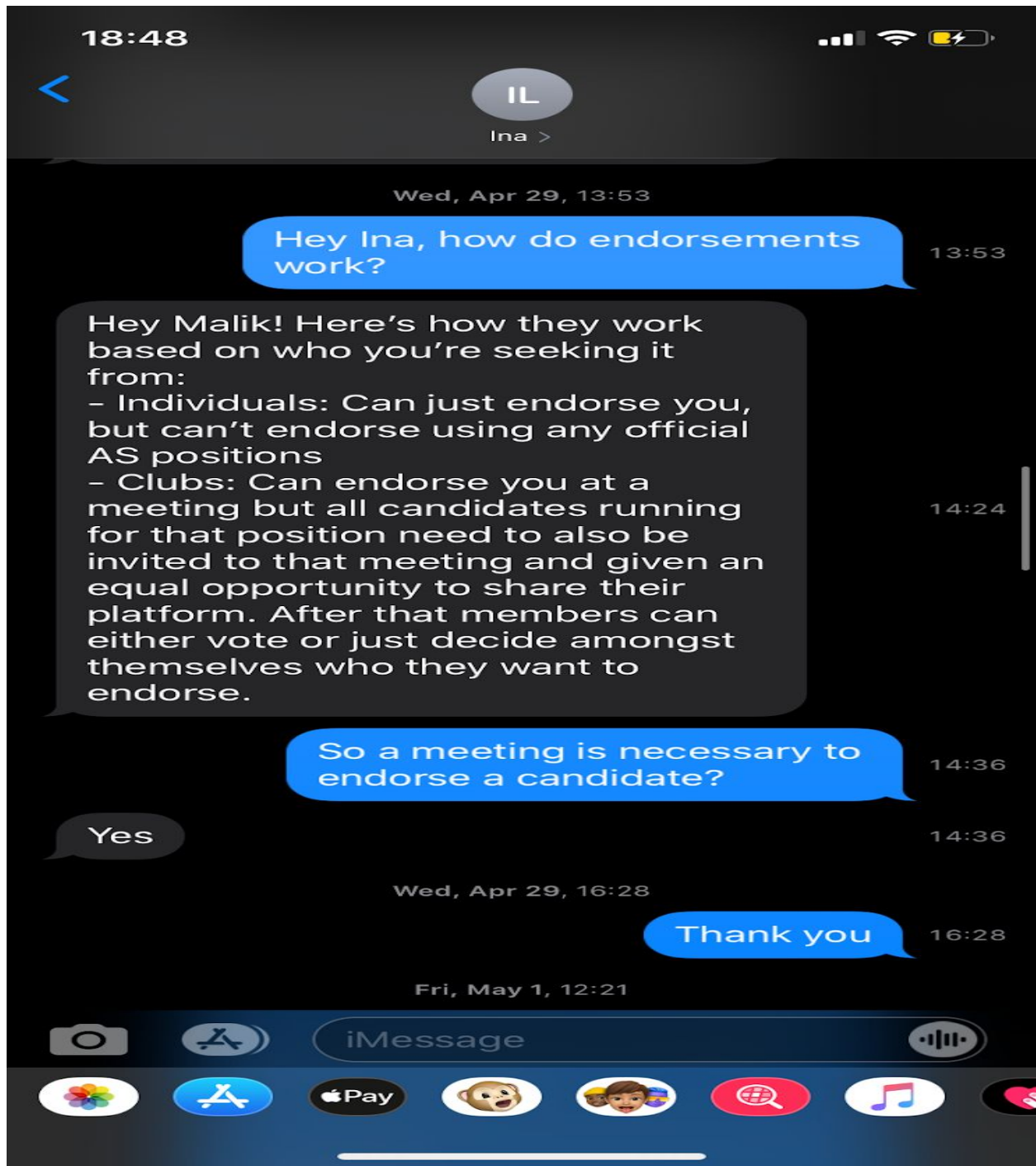


Photo 2

20:34

LTE



Jose 4 AS VP

Active 17m ago



By the way did you say one of the the people on the grievance board endorsed Nate and the others?



breaky_boy

Follow



133 posts

189 followers

346 followin

Breaker

college, read, write, relax, repeat

Sign the petition to fund the World Health Orga
chng.it/qrcs5ZVvQy

Followed by [expat1999](#), [_micgayla](#), [madsforgov](#) + 7 more

this person breaker endorsed nora nicole and nate on their story I remeber because i unfollowed him after that lol



Photo 3

< 230

the wife, can you text by
chance ?? ❤️



I have already voted! And I actually didn't vote for Malik, I was around during the last election cycle and wasn't impressed with his response to all the allegations made at him. I've also obviously had issues with men being normalized in our community who have been accused of sexual assault and he didn't pass my leadership skills test either. Also I really value STC's endorsement.

No hard feelings to you at all Ruhksar, I appreciate all the hard work you do. Seriously girl. ❤️



iMessage



Photo 4



Nathalie Wagler
Fri 5/29/2020 7:36 PM
To: Abdul-Malik Ford



Hi Malik!

Thank you for sending along those messages! I apologize if my email earlier was misleading. I talked with Eric earlier today, and I realized that I didn't have all the information about your conversations with Ina. In order for things to be the most fair, we thought it would be easiest for everyone involved if we had a formal grievance hearing. We want to hear about the filed grievances and the conversations between you and Ina so we can fully understand what happened and what we can do to fix it.

The goal of the meeting is to both have a hearing, and discuss the language in the code. Since you and the other folks involved have been the ones affected by the lack of clarity in the code, we wanted to have a conversation with everyone to discuss changes in the code language to make it more clear for future elections.

Since everything has been online it's been really easy to have miscommunication, and I really appreciate you reaching out to clear things up. I hope this helps clarify the point of next week's meeting. Let me know if you have any more questions or if there's anything I can do to clear things up.

I hope you have a great weekend!

Nathalie

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)



Photo 5 -



Photo series 6



Abdul-Malik Ford
Sat 5/9/2020 8:07 PM
To: Annie Byers



Nicole Grievance.pdf
42 KB

 Show all 6 attachments

Hello **Annie!**


Attached are my grievances for this year's election. There are also pictures as supporting evidence.

Thank you, I hope all is well with you and your family.



Abdul Malik Ford | Forda9@wwu.edu | (206) 432 - 2916 |
Western Washington University |


Photo series 7


 Abdul-Malik Ford
Sat 5/16/2020 1:21 PM
To: Nathalie Wagler

Hey Nathalie!

A couple of others and I are wondering what the process of the grievances is looking like. We'd just like to check in to see if there's anything additional you would need from us or if there are any roadblocks in the process.

Thank you.
I hope all is well with you and your family!

 Abdul Malik Ford | Forda9@wwu.edu | (206) 432 - 2916
Western Washington University |

 Nathalie Wagler
Sat 5/16/2020 1:39 PM
To: Abdul-Malik Ford

Hi Abdul!


I haven't been contacted about the grievances yet. I emailed Annie yesterday, so hopefully by Monday I'll have them and we can move forward. After I get the grievances, the Board and I will go over them, and you'll be contacted after that. At this point, there's nothing else you'll need to do.

Thank you reaching out! I'll keep you updated as we move forward with the process. Have a great weekend!

Best,

Nathalie Wagler (she/her/hers)
AS Elections Board Chair
waglern@wwu.edu
Office Hours: by appointment over Zoom or Teams

Grievances

 Abdul-Malik Ford
Sat 5/16/2020 3:13 PM
To: Nathalie Wagler

Hey,

I was under the impression that she had already forwarded them to you! No problem.

Thanks a bunch!

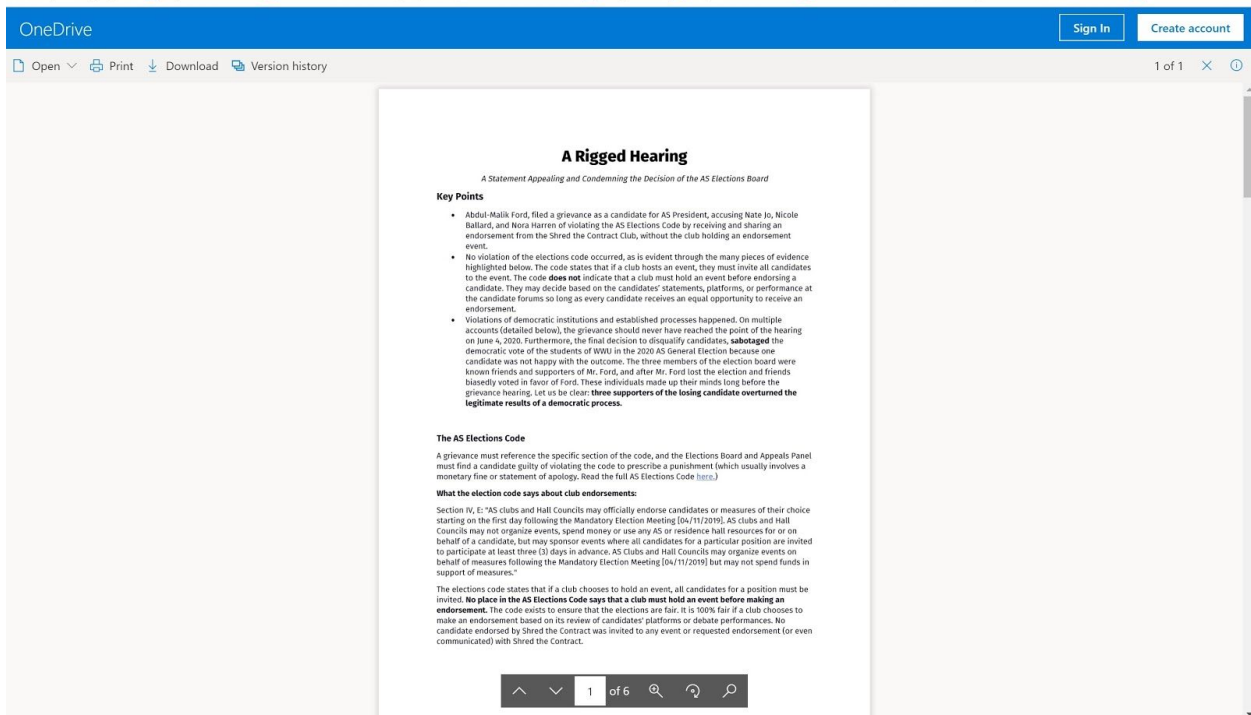
Photo 8 - from page 13 of the AS Election Code Section 3: Election Policies, VI. Grievances, a:

VI. Grievances

- a. In the event that a candidate or any person associated with a candidate, initiative or referendum campaign (for or against) violates the Election Code and/or filing packet before or during the elections, an affected party, another candidate who has observed the violation, or the Elections Coordinator may file an official grievance against that person.

13

Photo 9



Definitions