

PETITION STRUCK DOWN

The UPEI Student Council met on the evening of October 4th and struck down a petition that called for the impeachment of president Tracy Arsenault. The petition, which contained over three hundred and forty-one signatures, came about as a result of students' dissatisfaction with Arsenault's handling of the alleged sexual assault on campus.

The motion for impeachment was left to the end of the Council session, by which time the chair pointed out that a legally valid petition must have the its question written at the top of each of its pages, so as to ensure that each person signing the document is aware of what it entails; otherwise, as in the case of this petition, the document is not legally binding. With the invalidity of the petition, the motion for Arsenault's impeachment was no longer possible since a petition representing ten percent of the university's population is necessary for such a motion, and the petition in this case had more than enough signatures but could not be admitted.

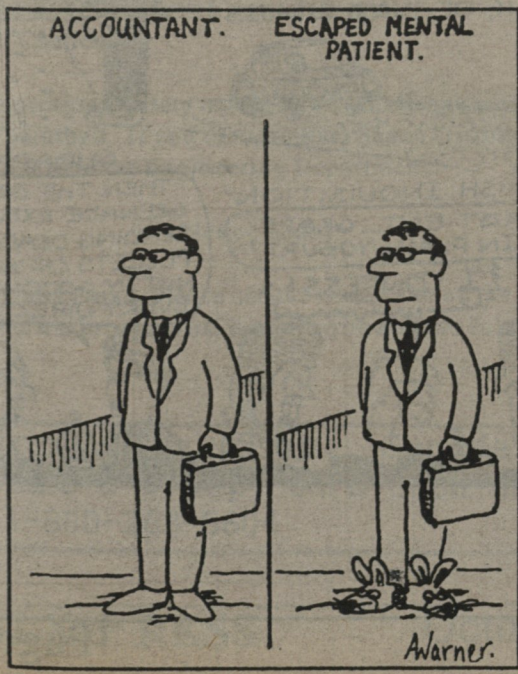
Various councillors and observers argued for the petition's acceptance despite the questionable legality, on the grounds that it obviously represented the desires of a significant segment of the university population, but a majority of councillors still voted to reject the document. The petition can be retaken, though it is as yet unclear whether that will actually occur. For the moment both the petition and the impeachment motion are defeated, but they may well resurface at the next council meeting. In the meantime, student Laurie Callaghan has started a counter-petition to show support for Arsenault.

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