

COMMENTARY

An insider's view of S.U. President Tracey Arsenault's handling of alleged sexual assault controversy

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Does anyone know why Tracey Arsenault is facing a possible impeachment? If not then don't take a side on this issue until you know the facts. Impeachment is a very serious action and should not be entered into or dismissed without serious thought.

Let me spell out some facts that may help you make a decision. But whatever you do, please do something. Apathy is no solution.

Monday :

1. Miss Arsenault is informed of the alleged sexual assault.
2. Press calls for Student Union statement and none is given.
3. Miss Arsenault, in a gossip session, reveals the victims name to a select group of friends and makes a comment concerning the promiscuity of that girl.
4. The matter has still not been discussed with the executive.

Tuesday :

1. Miss Arsenault begins to tell one executive about the crisis but decides that the information should not be divulged.
2. An X-Press writer asks about the alleged rape and receives no information.
3. A member of the executive asks about the incident and is refused information.

Wednesday :

1. Student Union executive meets. The executive demand that all information be put on the table and a statement be put forth. Despite Miss Arsenault's opinion that sexual assault is not a problem on campus, the executive make a written statement and instruct Miss Arsenault that she must, as president, respect it as the position of the Student Union.
2. Miss Arsenault goes on *Compass* and, although she admits to knowing the details of the incident days prior, states that the executive wasn't able to meet and that since no one had come to her expressing concern, she didn't feel it was necessary to act sooner.

Friday :

1. In a forum called by President Eliot who apologizes for his part in the mishandling of the incident, Miss Arsenault screams at the top of her lungs at A.J. MacLeod for making a statement remarkably similar in nature to that which she had made only two days ago.
2. Although President Eliot had set the stage perfectly for Miss Arsenault to apologise for not realizing the seriousness of the situation, she makes no apology.

3. She hasn't even admitted that she made a mistake at this point.

Saturday :

1. Miss Arsenault is informed that a petition is being circulated asking for her impeachment.
2. Her plan of action? She calls a lawyer and asks what she can do.

Sunday :

1. Council meets and a petition containing over 370 names is presented.
2. Motion to accept is denied on grounds that the petition would not stand up in court should Miss Arsenault pursue legal action.
3. Miss Arsenault is again given an ideal time to apologize for her actions or lack thereof. No apology is made.
4. Arsenault refuses even to admit that a mistake was made on her part.

I did not sign the first petition. I felt that a mistake had been made on Tracey's behalf, but that no one was perfect and she would likely learn from the crisis. I no longer feel that way. She will not admit that she made a mistake and, for that reason, I can't see her learning from this situation. Miss Arsenault has worked in the office of Student Union President as a dictator refusing to listen to anyone who has disagreed with her all summer and she will likely do so until

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