
From: Justin Etzine <etzinj@rpi.edu>
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2018 5:46 PM
To: gm@rpi.edu; pu@rpi.edu
Subject: Improper Hiring of Director of the Union and Violation of the Student Activity Fee

Fellow students,

As you saw from the email recently released by the administration, **Dr. Jackson has appointed a Director of the Union.** We were only notified of the appointment this morning when we spoke with administrators on phone calls. **This is the first update they have shared with us regarding the hiring process since early May.** The Executive Board was not provided any opportunity to vote on the candidates being brought forward. In fact, the administration promised us this would not occur over the summer while the majority of students were absent from campus. This also follows numerous complaints from students regarding the improper process followed, which we directly conveyed to Interim VP Strong and AVP Apgar in April.

Furthermore, the administration has stated that **Union Activity Fee money will be used to fund the position, even though financial policies of the Executive Board strictly prohibit this without an affirmative vote of the Executive Board.** Additionally, contrary to a binding motion passed by the Executive Board, the administration has also opted to improperly reallocate office space within the Union for this purpose. These violations compound onto the countless unfulfilled promises made by administrators for Executive Board and student government involvement throughout the hiring process and further demonstrate the administration's disregard for supporting student interests or our Union.

This is not the first time the administration has taken away the students' ability to make decisions on how their Student Activity Fee is spent. In 2016, the administration forcibly removed the funding of intercollegiate athletics from the Union budget by claiming our Union's budgetary processes did not comply with procedures from the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA), a claim which was never validated and is directly contradicted by NCAA guidelines.

We are appalled by this most blatant violation of student rights and the *Rensselaer Union Constitution* to date, and we censure this further attack on what once was a model for student-run unions across the country. **Because of the level of severity at which the administration has violated the *Union Constitution* and, therefore, the Act of Incorporation passed by the New York State Legislature, we will be filing a formal complaint with the Board of Regents of the New York State Education Department regarding these incidents.**

We will be sure to keep you apprised as this situation develops further. As always, if you have any questions or thoughts, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at pu@rpi.edu and gm@rpi.edu.

Respectfully,

Justin Etzine
129th President of the Union

Stefanie Warner
153rd Grand Marshal