

Label: Articles of Impeachment-50001

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Impeachment proceedings against the Chief Elections Commissioner, Kendrick Alridge

Whereas, Title VII, Article 1, Section 1, Clause 2 of the University of Houston Student Government bylaws decree a minimum of seven (7) signatures to initiate a Bill of Impeachment against elected or appointed officials of the University of Houston Student Government Association, and

Whereas, the minimum of seven (7) signatures to initiate a Bill of Impeachment have been attained, and the signees may be found as sponsors and authors, and

Whereas, the Title II, Article D, Section 1 of the University of Houston Student Government Electoral Code gives the University of Houston Student Government's legislative branch the power to remove any member of the University of Houston Student Government Association's Electoral Commission on the grounds of nonfeasance or malfeasance, and

Whereas, the Chief Elections Commissioner, Kendrick Alridge, has committed acts of nonfeasance and malfeasance, which include, but are not limited to making lewd and offensive remarks to Graduate at-large senator Charles Haston, as well as Emerging Leader Will Fisher on the night of February 24th, 2014, and

Whereas, Title VII, Article 1, Section 1, Clause 3 states

“Malfeasance” shall be defined as the improper or unlawful conduct by any official, elected or appointed, in the performance of duties, responsibilities of functions of the office which violates trust inherent in the office.

Whereas, Mr. Alridge's aforementioned actions were acts of malfeasance, as he was performing the duties of the Elections Commissioner during a hearing held by the Student Government Association's elections hearing board to investigate whether or not there were violations of the electoral code by one of the running parties, and

Whereas, Mr. Alridge’s actions included, but were not limited to, telling a member of the Mr. Fischer to “Shut the [expletive] up,” as well as threatening and attempting to instigate a confrontation with Mr. Haston by calling on him to “Say it to my face, [expletive],” and

Whereas, Mr. Alridge’s verbal outburst prompted removal from the courtroom by the Sergeant at-arms, Bruno Ugaz, and

Whereas, Title VII Article 1, Section 1, Clause 2, states

“Nonfeasance” shall be defined as the failure of any official, elected or appointed, to perform the duties, responsibilities, or functions of office,

Whereas, Title II, Section C, Clause 1 of the University of Houston Student Government Association’s Electoral Code states, and

The powers and responsibilities of the Chief Election Commissioner shall be to:

[...]

- *Remain impartial to any candidates or parties participating in the election,*

[...]

Whereas, Mr. Alridge’s comments, attitudes, and behaviors towards one specific party running in the current elections cycle demonstrated a lack of impartiality, and

Whereas, these behaviors included, but were not limited to, as mentioned above, verbally assaulting Mr. Haston by calling on him to “Say it to his face, [expletive],” and telling Mr. Fischer to “Shut the [expletive] up”, and

Whereas, Mr. Alridge has overstepped the bounds of his position, particularly by composing new electoral policies, a power that can be neither found nor extrapolated from any of the duties outlined in Title II, Section C, Clause 1 or Title II, Section C, Clause 8 of the University of Houston Student Government Association’s Electoral Code, and

Whereas, Mr. Alridge composed a policy through which the use of 8 x 11 pieces of paper, scissors, and/or tape would not need to be reported by the parties in their financial disclosures, and

Whereas, such an action prompted a reprimand by means of a cease and desist letter upon the Electoral Commission by the University of Houston Student Government Association’s Attorney General, David Ghably, and

Whereas, Mr. Alridge attempted to make an exception to the electoral code, which he is not allowed to do by any precedent or statute in neither the University of Houston Student Government Association’s Electoral Code, nor the University of Houston Student Government Association’s Bylaws, and

Whereas, Mr. Alridge has proven to have taken actions of both malfeasance and nonfeasance, and

Whereas, Title VII, Article 2, Section 2, Clause 1 of the University of Houston Student Government Association bylaws define a procedure for impeachment:

The presiding officer shall inform the accused at least ten (10) days prior to the designated Senate meeting, at which time the Senate shall decide on the matter. A certified letter, return receipt request or oral communication, or two (2) public notices in the campus newspaper and/or the Senate Journal will be deemed proper notification by the presiding officer.

Therefore be it resolved be the 50th Senate of the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

That Articles of impeachment be brought forward against Chief Elections Commissioner Kendrick Aldridge pursuant to Title VII of the University of Houston Student Government Association Bylaws, and

Be it finally enacted by the 50th Senate of the University of Houston Student Government Association that

Pursuant to Title VII, Article 2, Section 2 of the University of Houston Student Government Bylaws, that notification be sent to Kendrick Aldridge informing the accused of impeachment charges via a certified letter, return receipt request or oral communication or two (2) public notices in the campus newspaper and/or the Senate Journal. This notification shall include : The time, date, and place of appointed Senate meeting; the right of the accused to a preliminary hearing with the committee of investigation, prior to the impeachment proceedings at the Senate meeting, to discover extenuating circumstances; the right to the presence of counsel, either attorney or student defender during the preliminary hearings; The right of the accused to view the testimony of any witness after such testimony; the right of the accused to view the testimony acquired by the Committee of Investigation favorable to the case of the accused; The accused shall have the right, during the preliminary hearing, to petition the committee of investigation for an extension for not more than seven days, including weekends and holidays.