

ELECTIONS GRIEVANCE FORM

This form is being provided in accordance with Section 2, clause VI of the AS Senate Election Code. **You are strongly encouraged to try to resolve issues in a professional and calm manner before filing this form.** The AS Elections Coordinator is available to offer options, additional information, support in contacting the other party, etc. Please contact the AS Elections Coordinator at as.elections@wwu.edu.

Complainant Name: Abdul Malik Ford

Phone number: (206) 432-2916 Email: Fordaa@wwu.edu

Signature: Malik Ford Date: 5-1-2019

Grievance Filed Against (name): Dayha McMillan

~~Who is running for the position of:~~ ^{has a current position of} AS Senator for Fairhaven College

Specific Section of Code Violated: Section 3, IV. Endorsements, b, c

State the specific violation of the ASWWU Election Code. Give details of when and how the violation was discovered (may attach additional materials):

Dayha McMillan on April 29 at 5:53 PM posted a statement addressing me, Abdul Malik Ford, and with that document, Dayha outlined why she believes I'm not qualified to be AS President, claimed I am homophobic, and also endorsed Lani Defiesta in a Facebook status.

Dayha was also documented trying to direct my supporters to Lani Defiestas Campaign page via Instagram DM's. (4/17/19)

Received by Election Board Chair: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Running While Black

I, Abdul Malik Ford am crafting this document to point out the chronological events that have happened from April 16th, 2019, until the end of elections on May 3rd, 2019.

As of 5/4/2019, the final Election results came out as 941 Votes for me, Abdul Malik Ford, and 1065 votes for Lani Defiesta. This can be reduced to a difference of 124 votes. The number of post reactions and shares for every screenshot add up to around 400 (this is a rough underestimate because these screenshots were taken usually at the very beginning of a post).

Take this as my formal grievance.

1. I would firstly like to start with the first instance of election code being broken 'Section 3, IV Endorsements sections b and c'. In this instance, '93percentlesbian' AKA Dayjha McMillan (**The current AS Senator of Fairhaven College**) sent the following information to Mikaila Moe on Instagram on 4/17/19. The above code cited explicitly states:

"c. Current AS employees, may not, as employees or individuals, endorse candidates.

d. AS employees may not, even as individuals, work on a campaign for or against a candidate, with the exception of their own as a filed and eligible candidate. " each post in this document breaks that very code.

T-Mobile Wi-Fi 23:39 26%

< mikailamoe_ [message icon] [flag icon] [info icon]

Thank you!!! I appreciate this, I'm not quite sure what to do about this but we needa address it!!



i replied to her saying the following

i have and and i'm happy to be voting for malik! you can have your thoughts and be "critical" of malik or whatever else might upset you but i support him and resonate with what he says.

And that's okay!!! I'm just spreading word because i know folks have decided to vote for him just because he's black which is ridiculous in my opinion lmao. But if you like what he's saying then that's good! I'm just glad folks are voting since voter percentages are v low

Message...

q w e r t y u i o p
a s d f g h j k l

Verizon 4:58 PM 76%

< 93percentlesbian [message icon] [info icon]
Active 7m ago

meeting because folks don't really show up but I'm hoping to do a couple meetings this quarter! You have s Facebook right? I can add you to the Facebook page

oooh okay, but yeah please add me :))

4:37 PM

Replied to your story



Hmmmm.... If you have it in ya check out Lani Defiesta's campaign!!! she's a queer woman of color who is doing some RAD work and has a bunch of experience!! I obviously cannot tell you who to vote for but be critical of Malik lol

Message...



mikhailmoe_



Wednesday 5:14 PM

just wanted you to know she's talkin
bout you.. but i support you running
and what you're running for!! votin
for u!

meeting because folks don't really
show up but i'm hoping to do a
couple meetings this quarter! You
have a Facebook right? I can add you
to the Facebook page



oooh okay, but yeah please add
me :)

4:57 PM

Replied to your story



Hmmm... if you have it in ya check
out Lani Defiesta's campaign!!! she's
a queer woman of color who is doing
some RAD work and has a bunch of
experlence!! I obviously cannot tell
you who to vote for but be critical of



Message...



3. What happened next was Dayjha McMillan posted a statement addressing me, Abdul Malik Ford, our interactions, historical and current issues surrounding inclusivity in the Black Student Union, and her opinion that I, Abdul Malik Ford am not qualified to be AS President. Let it be known that before doing this, Dayjha filed a grievance AGAINST HERSELF and publicly released her personal endorsement (as a current AS Senator of Fairhaven College). The following screenshots are the original statement as well as the Facebook status of Dayja McMillan.



Dayjha McMillan
19 mins · 👤

"I am saying all of this because I want people, who are voting, to know what kind of candidate he is. I do not believe he is equipped nor qualified to be AS President. I think he has a lot of learning to do before he can honestly say that he can support the entire campus. How can someone support the entire campus but can't support the queer and trans folks inside of the black community? As President of the Black Student Union, it is your JOB to not just make queer and trans black people feel "welcomed" into that space, but to create the space with us in mind."

With all this said- VOTE FOR Lani DeFiesta <3

of the AS Candidate Malik, have become conflated with Lani. Why I am stressing the importance of this clarification is that it is not only homophobic but anti-black. The conflation of Lani and I is homophobic because not every person who is gay is the same. Everything that I am writing is based on my personal experience with the black community, its leaders, and the lack of commitment to naming the homophobia/transphobia in those spaces. This conflation is anti-black because this critique is rooted in blackness and is a black issue. The repeated attempts of bringing the other AS Candidate, Lani Defiesta, into this conversation is an attempt to derail this black issue with a general gay issue and that very act- is anti-black. The second thing that I want to clarify is that this conversation is not a new topic within the black community at WWU. This specific conversation has been brought up time and time again and there has been no progress. This statement that I am writing is a call out built from love because I believe in us, the black community, and I am tired of trying to manage this issue privately. I am calling this issue out because I am refusing to be consistently silenced.

"Being a public representative means you are signing up to be held accountable publicly for any public or private thing you do in the name of that public service." - a dear friend of mine said this in the AS Elections of 2017.

To give a historical context, I am going to bring up the first round of conversations that I

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A Call Out Built from Love

Before I begin, I must clarify two things. Firstly, everything...

👤 Ally Finn and 6 others 2 Comments 3 Shares

📄 📺 🏠 👥 🔔 9+ ☰



A Call Out Built from Love

Before I begin, I must clarify two things. Firstly, everything you are about to read is in no way shaped or related to Lani Defiesta's campaign. For reasons that are unknown, my critiques of the AS Candidate Malik, have become conflated with Lani. Why I am stressing the importance of this clarification is that it is not only homophobic but anti-black. The conflation of Lani and I is homophobic because not every person who is gay is the same. Everything that I am writing is based on my personal experience with the black community, its leaders, and the lack of commitment to naming the homophobia/transphobia in those spaces. This conflation is anti-black because this critique is rooted in blackness and is a black issue. The repeated attempts of bringing the other AS Candidate, Lani Defiesta, into this conversation is an attempt to derail this black issue with a general gay issue and that very act- is anti-black. The second thing that I want to clarify is that this conversation is not a new topic within the black community at WWU. This specific conversation has been brought up time and time again and there has been no progress. This statement that I am writing is a call out built from love because I believe in us, the black community, and I am tired of trying to manage this issue privately. I am calling this issue out because I am refusing to be consistently silenced.

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To give a historical context, I am going to bring up the first round of conversations that I have had, with AS Candidate and President of BSU Malik, from the end of Fall

← A Call Out Built from Love

the first round of conversations that I have had, with AS Candidate and President of BSU Malik, from the end of Fall of 2018. After the forum that occurred on December 7th, some black students were upset. They were upset because they expected the forum to address only black issues and they felt tokenized by the organizers of the forum. (There were 3 out of 6 of us who are queer and black.) The night of the forum these black students wrote a statement calling out anti-blackness. This statement was mainly in response to one of the urgent needs which was the resignation of Ted Pratt. (Who has been very homophobic, transphobic and sexist.) This may not be well known, but that demand was added on there from Queer Trans People of Color (QTPOC.) After a private meeting with the students who wrote the statement, we agreed to remove that demand; although, that very act was asking us to ignore the real violence that he has inflicted on black queer and trans folks. We did this to align ourselves with the majority of black people and we want to recognize how we erased ourselves to foster a sense of "community."

In the [Black at WWU](#) statement that was written, they said, "We **wholeheartedly** empathize with Ted Pratt and in **no way agree** with the demand for his immediate resignation." That statement was telling us, as black queer people, that they do not care about OUR safety on this campus, and in **no way agree** with what we said. Additionally, when they said, "We still want to state that he has been seen as an ally for many Black students and a professional that we can talk to at any time that we can relate to," they were talking about black students who are cisgender and straight. That Sunday, we talked with the students who wrote that statement, Malik being one of them, and spoke on experiences with Ted Pratt that have been

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campus, and in **no way agree** with what we said. Additionally, when they said, "We still want to state that he has been seen as an ally for many Black students and a professional that we can talk to at any time that we can relate to," they were talking about black students who are cisgender and straight. That Sunday, we talked with the students who wrote that statement, Malik being one of them, and spoke on experiences with Ted Pratt that have been harmful. Instead of removing the Ted Pratt section of this statement to accommodate ALL Black voices, as they said they were, They purposefully silenced us once again. They wrote that they had been updated on his harmful acts but never specified what they were in the statement. This very act is another form of silencing the issue. If you want to stand behind someone who has harmed queer and trans black folks in very real ways, do it **wholeheartedly**.

In January, there was a State of the Black Community meeting. In that meeting, the 3 black queer organizers called out the homophobia within spaces like Black Student Union and African Caribbean Club. Malik, the president of Black Student Union, opened up about not knowing anything about "the gay stuff" and requested that we, the black queer and trans folks in the room, educate him and the clubs on LGBTQ matters. Once I specified that it was not the jobs of the queer and trans black people to educate the straight and cisgender folks in the room on LGBTQ matters they told us they would do research and talk more about privilege and identity in the following BSU meeting.

I never showed up to that meeting because I do not believe in celebrating mediocre behavior.

I later learned that the meeting was very lazily put

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I later learned that the meeting was very lazily put together. It was a “step in step out” game which is inaccessible, didn’t pertain to queer issues, and forces people to consistently out themselves of their traumas. An example was that they asked folks to “step in if they have ever felt unsafe holding their partner's hand or using public bathrooms.” This was the one meeting that they held where they “addressed” privilege and identity. (Which is ridiculous for a number of reasons but the biggest one is centering privilege in a talk that was supposed to be about queer things.)

At the most recent AS Candidate debate, I decided to talk with Malik. At that debate, he took credit for the sit-in and forum from fall quarter and that angered me. I approached him to tell him that I was upset that he took credit for that work, that I do not think he is qualified to be AS President, and that he burned a bridge with me. That should have been the extent of that conversation. This entire statement would not have been released had that been the extent of the conversation. Instead, he yelled at me when I called him out on the homophobia in the club that he runs. I told him that I believe he is homophobic because of his complicity in that role. He did not soak that in but yelled at me for calling him homophobic. There were a number of other things discussed at that moment but my biggest takeaway was the obvious homophobia he was showing based on his reactions to my critiques.

I am saying all of this because I want people, who are voting, to know what kind of candidate he is. I do not believe he is equipped nor qualified to be AS President. I think he has a lot of learning to do before he can honestly say that he can support the entire campus. How can someone

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In addition, Camilla Mejia (**The Current VP for Diversity**) shared this statement to the Facebook group chat ‘18-19 Bosses’ which is comprised of every ESC club Chair/President.

5. I later published my own statement as a response to address Dayjha McMillan's. Later, a counterpart of Dayjha McMillan's, McKenzie Clark posted Dayjha's Venmo under my Facebook post, I removed it, and Clark reposted it AGAIN, and it was ultimately removed a second time, thus sparking the idea that my "apology" to Dayjha McMillan was inauthentic. That conversation can be found here.

Abdul Malik Ford

Abdul Malik Ford
Monday at 23:56

I wholeheartedly take this criticism and perspective of Dayjha McMillan. I also want to acknowledge that I know who I am, I know what I've done, and others know who I am and what I'm about. This does not reflect who I am and it is a message disguised to target the Black clubs at WWU. This is an attack on my character, my campaign, and all the work others and myself have done thus far. This WILL be constructively addressed.

Sending love and prayers,
Abdul Malik Ford

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Jada Rogers and 31 others 32 Comments 1 Share

Like Comment Share



Dayjha McMillan
Yesterday at 08:23

This "apology" to me was v clearly fake and if you'd like to know more come slide in the comments or DM's. His most recent comments and messages to me show that he hasn't taken accountability and I'm tired of y'all praising yet another mediocre thing that a man has done. Literally so done with this fake growth. Hit my line to learn more

Abdul Malik Ford
Wednesday at 10:06

Let me start this by saying that this document was ultimately inspired after reading the article shared last night by McKenzie and @Kate titled... Continue Reading

Kate Rayner Fried and 27 others 3 Comments

Like Comment Share



Abdul Malik Ford

Like Comment Share

Abdul Malik Ford
Wednesday at 10:06

Let me start this by saying that this document was ultimately inspired after reading the article shared last night by McKenzie and @Kate titled '10 Tips on Receiving Critical Feedback...' Thank y'all

I wrote this last night to address a few things that have happened and are happening right now. What you will read seems like a night and day difference from the energy I was giving out a couple days ago so take that how it is. Though these are just words, I would like to ask everybody to hold me accountable to what I say so that I can bring these words into fruition.

To those who have rallied behind me in this time, I love and appreciate you, the validation from y' all kept me from absolutely losing my mind and it gave me time to reflect and compose myself so that I may properly address what is going on. Here it is:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18I656HckhAemfecZCDQ0XoxICpj9cVEfZ51GNSaYb6o/edit?usp=sharing>

Ari Winter and 73 others 14 Comments 8 Shares

Like Comment Share

McKenzie Clark
I shared them w Dayjha bc it impacts them, too. But you didn't really give me a good re... See More



Dayjha's Post

I wrote this last night to address a few things that have happened and are happening right now. What you will read seems like a night and day difference from the energy I was giving out a couple days ago so take that how it is. Though these are just words, I would like to ask everybody to hold me accountable to what I say so that I can bring these words into fruition. To those who have rallied behind me in this time, I love and appreciate you, the validation from y' all kept me from absolutely losing my mind and it gave me time to reflect and compose myself so that I may properly address what is going on. Here it is:

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Like Comment Share

Kate Rayner Fried and 27 others

Abdul Malik Ford
You base my apologies being fake solely from the fact that I didn't allow someone to put your Venmo under MY post? I agree that you deserve to be compensated for your trauma which is why I recommended that person to remove it from my post and post it on their own profile. Which they did BTW. 1d Like Reply

Write a comment... GIF

