

Executive Board Resolution: #1 - No Confidence Vote of Faculty Advisor, Dr. Jeffrey Markovitz.

Date: November 19, 2024

Time: 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Location: Community College of Philadelphia, Main Campus.

### Voting Procedure

Voting took place from 2:30 – 3:30 pm in the lobby between Saxby's and the Learning Commons. Each member of the Student Government Association Executive Board was allowed to vote Yay, meaning yes, Nay, meaning no, or, verbally, through absence, or by failure to verbalize a vote, abstain from voting.

Voting through email was only permitted for Senators serving as representatives for the CATC and Northeast Regional Centers since, by nature, they are not expected to be on the Main Campus. In the case that an Executive Board Member indicated they were unable to attend the meeting because they had class during the time of the vote or were experiencing a medical emergency, with the proper records indicating as such, they were permitted to vote by email.

Well over Fifty-one percent of SGA Executive Board members were present, which met the requirement of 51% attendance for a quorum. The SGA members voted in favor of the resolution.

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### Resolution:

The Student Government Association's Executive Board recognizes that the leaders of any given organization shape the organization's culture, and operations. The SGA Executive Board has carefully examined a recurring failure of the SGA to fulfill its mission as being a united voice for the student body. The SGA has recognized the importance the Faculty Advisor plays in maintaining the operations of SGA. After careful examination and deliberation, the SGA Executive Board, without making any character assessments, finds that Faculty Advisor, Jeffrey Markovitz, has largely failed to manage SGA properly. The Executive Board finds that this failure has significantly hindered SGA's growth, and ability to serve its mission. The Executive Board has outlined a few ways in which Dr. Markovitz has failed to uphold and even violated both the SGA constitution and his SGA Faculty Advisor Contract, which has subsequently hindered the SGA.

Specifically, Dr. Markovitz has violated the SGA constitution and his SGA Faculty Advisor Contract in the following ways:

- 1) Dr. Markovitz has failed to attend all General Assembly Meetings with no explanation or excusal. Specifically, Dr. Markovitz failed to attend the General Assembly on October 17<sup>th</sup> and November 5<sup>th</sup>. The Faculty Advisor Contract states that the Faculty Advisor must "Attend all Student Government Association meetings"
- 2) Dr. Markovitz has failed to hold or attend executive meetings and has canceled the two most recent executive meetings with no explanation or excusal. Specifically, Dr. Markovitz failed to attend the executive meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup> and canceled the

executive meeting scheduled for November 15<sup>th</sup>. The Faculty Advisor Contract states that the Faculty Advisor must “Attend all Student Government Association meetings.”

- 3) Dr. Markovitz failed to meet and cooperate with the SGA President. Specifically, in an email sent on October 29<sup>th</sup> to all executive board members, the Faculty Advisor stated “from this moment on, I will not associate in any way with Frank Scales. His ethics and behaviors are in direct conflict with mine, and I will no longer compromise my values.” Dr. Markovitz failed to explain how Frank Scales’ ethics and behaviors conflict with his. The SGA advisor contract states that the Faculty Advisor must “Meet on regular basis with the Student Government Association president to provide guidance and counsel”
- 4) Dr. Markovitz has refused to review SGA Draft Documents. Dr. Markovitz was asked by the SGA President to review an amended draft of the SGA constitution. In an email on October 16<sup>th</sup>, the SGA President asked Dr Markovitz if he had reviewed the constitution saying “Did you have time to review the constitution. If so, can we schedule a meeting for sometime next week?” Dr. Markovitz responded stating “Please direct all queries regarding constitutional revision to the Dean.” After Dr. Markovitz was asked to review the constitution again, Dr. Markovitz responded saying “I will not review your constitution. I believe that your interests are singular and personal, and that they do not reflect the wishes of the rest of the SGA nor benefit students at this college.” The SGA advisor contract states that the SGA Faculty Advisor must “Review all important Student Government Association draft documents to assist in meeting professional standards.”
- 5) Dr. Markovitz provided students with a version of the SGA constitution from 2015 while a version that was written in 2021 existed. Dr Markovitz did not correct this mistake even after learning that the students were doing a constitutional convention to reform the document. The SGA constitution states the Faculty Advisor must “Help sitting and new officers of the SGA make successful transitions.”
- 6) Dr. Markovitz has labeled certain SGA members as radicals and has written poorly of them to other SGA members in emails. The labeled SGA members were not included in the emails where Dr. Markovitz spoke negatively of them. This has led to division amongst SGA members. Dr. Markovitz’s actions led some SGA members to feel alienated. Labeling students as radicals based on their viewpoint is in direct contradiction to the college’s commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. The Faculty Advisor contract states that it is the duty of the Faculty Advisor to “Ensure the student government association adheres to the College’s mission and all pertinent policies and procedures.” The SGA constitution also states that “Officers may be removed from office by the SGA for the following causes” the constitution goes on to list “Undermining the authority of one or more of the elected officers of SGA;” as an impeachable offense.
- 7) SGA alumni Issa Kabeer wrote that Dr. Markovitz was at times difficult to reach through email saying that Dr. Markovitz was “hands off” in his management of SGA and added that Dr. Markovitz discouraged SGA members from pursuing initiatives. Article XI of the SGA constitution states that it is the Faculty Advisor’s duty to “actively encourage SGA members and leaders as they seek to meet their goals and carry out their Constitutional duties.”

- 8) The SGA Executive Board was not allowed the opportunity to nominate an advisor. The SGA constitution states “The SGA shall carefully interview, nominate and responsibly work with an Advisor. Like the appointed officers, the candidate chosen for Advisor by the elected officers must be discussed by the SGA Executive Board.”

The Executive Board disapproves of Dr. Markovitz’s neglect in managing SGA. Furthermore, the Executive Board disapproves of any poor treatment directed to SGA officials because of their different viewpoints. This is contrary to the college’s commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and contrary to the purpose of student governance.

Since informal attempts to resolve these issues have failed, the Executive Board has no confidence that Dr. Markovitz will execute his responsibilities as SGA Faculty Advisor now or in the future. The Executive Board formally requests that Dr. Markovitz resign from his position by the end of the 2024 fall semester, on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

The Executive Board will collectively appoint a new Faculty Advisor through careful interviewing and nomination as outlined in the SGA constitution. In the meantime, the Executive Board asks that the Administrative Advisor, Ms. Jenavia Weaver, handle event requests, including the planning of the December 5<sup>th</sup> SGA Winter Formal.