Tough Decisions Makes the Right Ones

On Thursday, October 21st 2010, The ASCC Student Senate voted for an amount of $700 to fund the Cabrillo Leading Out club headed by Ms. Elizabeth Habarra for a prom event. Having carefully reviewed and considered the heated debate before and after the vote, I hereby VETO item D under old business, titled, Cabrillo Leading Out Fund, sponsored by senator Hoffman that reads “this item is on for discussion / possible action regarding approval of up to $1000 for the Cabrillo Leading out club to put up the first annual LGBT and Allied Straight prom on December 3rd in the cafeteria.” The original motion was amended to $700 by treasurer Chiuko during the meeting and passed with a sizable vote. I veto this item on three basis. Please allow me to share them with you.

First, there are questions we all ought to answer as public servants in our service. One of those questions that come in mind, and a very important one is asking ourselves if our actions will benefit the whole Cabrillo College student populations. In the case of supporting the Cabrillo Leading Out Club, most of us will argue vehemently that it does as it broadens the core perspective of diversity that we wholeheartedly embrace; one that I strongly share; one that I have no doubt that all of us on the ASCC senate board shares. Having answered the question of our support for the Cabrillo Leading Out club, let’s tackle the main subject of the proposed event: Prom. How will this event benefit the student population of Cabrillo College? If my opinion is valid, I do not see how this event effectively benefits the entire student population of Cabrillo. This event is more of a social event. Given the fastest pace at which we are currently spending our funds, the amount approved by the ASCC Senate is more than we should be investing in this event, especially at this critical time of budgets cuts in every corner of our vital programs and departments.

The second reason I want to emphasize on is double dipping. It was confirmed to me by the Inter Club Council chair, Mr. Joseph Gomez, that the ICC approved a total sum of $1000 to the Cabrillo Leading Out club for the same event. Let it be known that the funds given to the ICC are funds from the ASCC Student Senate. Thus, the Cabrillo Leading Out Club coming back to us after being funded by the ICC is double dipping. Again, this goes towards being fiscally responsible.

Last but not the least, the vote of a member of the ASCC senate who is also a member of the Cabrillo Leading Out Club. Although there is no rule / law restricting the vote of any member of the board, it is usually an ethical issue to abstain if you belong to an organization involved in the discussion.

Having given these reasons, please let me elaborate on what this veto is NOT. This veto is nothing personal against Ms. Habarra as I know there’s been some sort of insinuation that I hold some grudge against her. I STRONGLY assure of this! It does me no good, nor does it serve the office of the president, the entire senate, and the entire college well if my past disagreement with Ms. Habarra should be the basis of this veto. It is both ethically, and morally wrong. So, let it be known that I share none of those views. Furthermore, let it be known that this veto is by no
means antigay sentiments. I am a strong proponent of gay right and as some of you may know, I have fought and continue to fight vividly, tirelessly, and vigorously for the LGBTQ community and I always will until their rights become a core right and a major principle of civil rights too.

To end, I urge the budget committee to give a thorough review and reconsider other means of funding this event, then recommend it to the entire senate.