

ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT

Authored by: Chief of Staff Patrick Clemons, Senator Fiona Buchanan, Senator Dylan Rood, and Senator Zackary Daniels

Defendant: Pres. David Rhode

----- *Below for Judicial Advisor* -----

First Reading: November 21st, 2019.

1 Throughout his term, President David Rhode has exhibited many actions which should be
2 classified as Conduct Unbecoming, Abuse of Power, and Neglect of Duty.

3 During the 2019 election season, David allegedly accepted funding from the right-wing
4 organization Turning Point USA (TPUSA) to aid in his campaigning process. This is a tactic
5 practiced nationwide by TPUSA in order to promote conservatism on college campuses through
6 the control of Student Government Associations, which is veiled as the Campus Leadership
7 Project. This practice has been confirmed by an informant who is a previous employee of TPUSA
8 as well as multiple news reports. David’s campaign expenditure report strikes concern due to
9 altered receipts, false claims of the origin of purchases, and proof of tax exemption. David used
10 Rhode Group, LLC as the purchaser of buttons used during his campaign from purebuttons.com.
11 While this group is legitimate, it would not provide David with the tax-exempt status that is listed
12 on the receipt of purchase. Purebuttons.com requires documentation to prove tax-exempt status.
13 TPUSA is classified as a 501(c)(3), which could explain the tax exemption for this purchase.
14 Rhode Group, LLC, according to the Group’s 2018 Annual Report, is used for “Real Estate
15 Rentals,” which makes David’s use of Rhode Group, LLC to purchase the buttons unethical and
16 potentially illegal.

17 The Campus Leadership Project held a summit in July 2019 to train Student Body
18 Presidents and Vice Presidents on how to govern a student body while upholding the platform of
19 TPUSA. A tweet made by Congresswoman Debbie Lesko (@RepDLesko) on July 26th proves
20 that this summit occurred. While the photo does not show faces clearly, it is suspected that David
21 is in the picture. David is tagged in an Instagram post by @estherlusenge, SGA Vice President of
22 Liberty University also posted on July 26th. This photo contains other SGA Presidents and Vice
23 Presidents from other universities. David attempted to claim attending this summit as hours for
24 his contracted employment with the Student Government Association through the Department of
25 Campus Activities and was barred from doing so by many actors.

26 Since the beginning of the Fall 2019 semester, marking the beginning of the 96th session
27 of the Student Senate, David’s presence and remarks to and of the Body have been nothing short
28 of disrespectful, aggressive, and threatening. He has shown discriminatory biases to members of
29 the Body, most obviously and notably being Senator Fiona Buchanan.

30 Senator Buchanan has authored five resolutions during the Fall 2019 semester (F19-01, -
31 02, -04, -05, -08). David expressed disapproval of four out of five of these resolutions. David had
32 admitted to not signing F19-01, -04, and -05 due to supposed disagreements of the contents of the
33 resolutions and carried the assumption they would be pocket vetoed. As stated in the SGA
34 Constitution and Bylaws, the Association practices a pocket pass instead of a pocket veto. David
35 was unaware of this. When asked if he would have vetoed them if he knew the pocket pass
36 existed, he was apparently flustered regarding his answer. It has been stated that David did not



37 want to sign F19-01 because of linguistic concerns and had agreed to a meeting with Vice
38 President Dawson Spencer and the Senator but cancelled because he decided to go to the gym
39 instead. F19-08 was vetoed for the stated reason that it was not delivered to Parking and
40 Transportation Services before being presented to the Senate Floor. An email sent by David on
41 November 19, 2019 to the entirety of SGA stated that he would veto any resolution that was not
42 first sent to an external partner. During the Executive Meeting on November 21, 2019, David
43 stated that he would no longer be abiding by this claim. It was also stated that delivering F19-01
44 to the Chancellor's Office was "embarrassing." These incidences cause concern regarding
45 David's intentions regarding these resolutions and their Author. His actions lead to a reasonable
46 assumption that David has a personal grievance with this Senator and is attempting to block her
47 written legislation and deter her participation within SGA.

48 Another notable instance of David's personal bias towards Senator Buchanan manifested
49 in defamation and sexual harassment towards her. On September 27th, David called Senator
50 Buchanan's boyfriend, Chief of Staff Patrick Clemons, into his office for a private meeting.
51 During this meeting, David claimed the relationship as being a "conflict of interest" within SGA.
52 David also accused Senator Buchanan of altering Patrick's participation within SGA through
53 "sexual relations." After complaints filed by Patrick to SGA Advisors, David met with Patrick
54 and said he apologized if he had said this and blamed his behavior on the fact he had low blood
55 sugar. Senator Buchanan was never confronted or apologized to by David, despite him being
56 fully aware she was informed of the issue. This act of sexual harassment and complete disregard
57 for Senator Buchanan lead to further suspicion of his bias against her.

58 Outside of his negative treatment of Senator Buchanan, David has made sexist actions
59 throughout the semester. During Executive meetings, David has ignored or disregarded
60 statements made by female Executive members or has not acknowledged their attempts to speak.
61 He has failed to maintain consistent communication and personal meetings with all of the
62 Executive members and has shown even less interest in maintaining this relationship with the
63 female members. In a private meeting with one female Executive member, he threatened to fire
64 her if she spoke about the subjects discussed within the meeting, a power of which he does not
65 have. He had also expressed that he would not go out of his way to find a female member of SGA
66 to serve on the WCU SGA delegation at ASG meetings. He did not change this opinion until he
67 was heavily encouraged by male members of the Executive branch as well as the SGA advisors to
68 do so. He has also shown little to no interest in attempting to attend any event scheduled by a
69 female, including Roadside Cleanup, Hall-o-Ween, and Homecoming events. When addressing
70 SGA about his supposed "pride" of the organization for executing these events, he does not give
71 credit to the female members who were responsible for their creation and instead credits the
72 "Team" of SGA. The one event he has actually shown up to was an Honors College event in
73 which a male member of Senate invited SGA members to attend. David plainly expresses more
74 positive interest in the actions of male members of the Association and it seems that he considers
75 these members to be worthy of his time.



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76 While it has been noticed by many members that he does not treat the women of SGA in
77 the same fashion as the men, his abuses are not solely limited to one demographic. David has
78 exerted his power to intimidate Senators and Executive members who do not do as he asks or
79 who question his actions. These intimidation tactics have been in closed door private meetings
80 and openly during Senate and Executive meetings. Executive members who have attempted to
81 stand up for Senators or other Executive members have been met with aggression by David who
82 claims these are “personal attacks” and often refutes claims of abuse.

83 David has presented himself negatively at many occasions where he has been responsible
84 of representing the Association. For example, there are many witnesses who can affirm that he
85 has fallen asleep at a sustainability conference at Appalachian State University representing
86 WCU SGA, the dedication ceremony of Levern Hamlin Allen Hall, and at the North Carolina
87 Association of Student Governments meeting at East Carolina University.

Senate Vote:

Confirmed: Deny:

Dawson Spencer
SGA Vice-President

Date

Samantha Holmes
SGA Chief Justice

Date

