

## E-mail conversation with Senator Wills

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From	"Fessler, Susanna" <sfessler@albany.edu>
Date	2012-01-27 15:10:24+00:00
To	Senate Executive Committee <SEC@albany.edu>
Subject	E-mail conversation with Senator Wills

SEC Colleagues,

In his e-mail of this morning, Senator Wills wrote in part:

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Please communicate to the SEC the following explanation of my actions prior to and during the last meeting:

I considered that the matter of the deactivations was something that needed to be discussed but I felt that a resolution was premature given my absence from previous meetings and not having a good sense of whether the Senate wished to take up the issue.

I understood your e-mail responses to my request to include the matter as an agenda item to be an unacceptable and obstructionist maneuver, on the basis of the substance of the questions I was raising, to preempt discussion of them, in violation of the broad terms of the Senate mandate in the Faculty By-Laws. If indeed the requirement of an actionable item has become the norm, I believe that to make that norm absolute also violates the By-Laws. There should be occasions when a discussion can take place without an actionable item. The By-Laws precisely keep that option open, and prevent the Chair or the SEC from preempting discussion, or from making a biased determination concerning the substance of a matter to be discussed.

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Because Senator Wills explicitly asked me in an e-mail on November 28<sup>th</sup> not to discuss the matter with the Executive Committee, you all have not seen my e-mail responses. However, I feel that disclosure of those e-mails to the SEC at this point is warranted, if I am to be accused of making an "unacceptable and obstructionist maneuver." Attached is that e-mail thread, and the final SEC response, which you all seen already. Please treat them as confidential. The final exchange is between myself and the parliamentarian, Joshua Bolin, after I consulted him about the proper way to proceed.

I hope this clarifies things a little. For the moment, this is not an SEC action item or a Senate action item. However, should it become one in some form, I thought some background information would be helpful.

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