

Sean Friend

Jul 24 (9 days ago)

to Andrea, Paul, edward.l.bodily, Joy, Kristin, Morgen, John, Rita, tamaryager, craig.thorsen, jsutter, hhart, cyndi, david, steeringcom

Dear GPUS Accreditation Committee,

We were confronted by a disturbing email correspondence on July 23 2017, between chair Holly Hart and Judy Harrington of Colorado, in which it appeared that Dr. Hart was negotiating a subsequent response to the Green Party of Colorado on behalf of the grievants of the "Restore Green Values" faction, without having had official contact with our party first.

We consider such an action to be highly irregular and a violation of our common key value of decentralization. It demonstrates a prejudiced posture in favor of the grievants, and we object to the lack of impartiality that this committee seems keen to demonstrate to us, an affiliate with near-permanent ballot access of the Green Party of the United States.

This grievance was out of line and can be considered a clear violation of the rules for this committee, which requires grievants to first exhaust all possibility of resolution within the normal democratic process of the state party. We believe that this posture has contributed to the anti-democratic behavior of the grievants. Your non-binding recommendations have created a new situation where a member who worked against her local in secret, for months, now feels entitled to be able to relocate to a new local and face no consequences for her disruption and subversion of the democratic rules for conflict resolution.

We should point out that while the grievants sought your assistance in anti-democratically imposing a lifetime ban for some of our members in good standing, the disciplinary actions we have imposed are temporary, and we have followed basic standards of due process and have shown respect for the confidentiality of persons facing such actions. Further, they are not precluded from activity in other locals. They simply cannot participate in official state party business.

Conversely, the grievants have been empowered by this committee's actions to:

Recruit people to show up at the last Denver local meeting to confront Andrea, though she was in Newark, leaving members very shaken by their violent and aggressive behavior.

Begin conducting background checks on Andrea's family, with the intent to spread potentially harmful information over social media.

Wage an aggressive, sustained campaign of slander over social media, targeting various members of the state party.

Will the grievants be held to any standard at all? When filing this grievance, the sponsors also asked the GPUS to step in and remove the duly elected leadership of the GPCO from their positions and ban them from the GPCO for life. Disaccreditation was the third (and least preferred) item on their list of possible outcomes. Absent from that list were conflict resolution and reconciliation.

The complaint shows that the grievants have long been planning to destabilize our state party. Upon examination of the reams of pages of their submitted evidence, you will see that there are pages that were being compiled in October and November of 2016. If the intent of this group was to reconcile or resolve conflict, or even attempt to remove officers from their positions, where is the evidence that supports that claim?

Why is it that the GPCO is expected to act in good faith while the grievants are posting their grievance to public social media pages of many groups and of individuals without solicitation? They are engaging in the type of dirty politics that causes activists to defect from the major parties. Where is the expectation that the grievants act in good faith? What is the penalty if they fail to do so?

We have the right to govern our state party according to our own bylaws, and we assert the right to autonomously handle our business. If that means censuring or removing members after clear and egregious violations of our values, bylaws, and procedures, frankly, that is the prerogative of the Green Party of Colorado. We urge the GPUS Accreditation Committee to revise its statement to read as something more representative

of its own rules and charter. Because of Accreditation's extreme lack of impartiality, we request that Accreditation close their involvement in this matter. We reserve the right to present to the National Committee a proposal to compel this committee's disengagement from our internal affairs.

It is in the best interest of GPUS to work with us in good faith. Under the previous leadership of these grievants, Stein/Honkala received approximately 7,500 votes, with some 10,000 registered Greens in Colorado. However, in spite of the havoc wreaked by the grievants, who did nothing to assist the Stein campaign in 2012 or 2016, our current leadership led our state party to more than 38,000 votes for Stein/Baraka with more than 14,000 registered Greens. Our track record speaks for itself.

We hope that this committee respects our autonomy and decides to disengage from this matter.

In Solidarity,

Dave Bell
Co-chair, Green Party of Colorado

Andrea Mérida Cuéllar
Co-chair, Green Party of Colorado

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