

Holly Hart <hhart11@gmail.com>

Jul 24 (9 days ago)

to Sean, Andrea, Paul, edward.l.bodily, Joy, Kristin, Morgen, John, Rita, tamaryager, Craig, Jeff, hhart, Cyndi, david, steeringcom

Dear Dean:

As I have already explained, my response to Judy Harrington was by way of a follow-up with both the complainants and yourselves regarding the recommendations made by the Accreditation Committee. What Andrea saw was a re-iteration of recommendations from our report, nothing involving additional measures,

You correctly point out that the complainants did not pursue their grievances via an internal state party process. The AC is aware of this (and so are the complainants); however, committee members felt that some of the concerns raised indicated need for measures to be put in place that could help prevent problems (essentially "best practices" measures such as having more than one administrator for a listserv or forum), and felt that the offer of dispute resolution from outside the state might be amenable to all parties under these circumstances.

The AC had planned to follow up after the GPUS national meeting, to contact both parties to see what recommendations might be adopted, help with dispute resolution if desired, etc. We had planned to contact both the complainants and yourselves, but the message from Judy Harrington yesterday required a response right away before the committee had a chance to come up with a plan for a joint teleconference or some other measure for further discussion.

Given the recommendation that all potential GPCO membership bans be avoided, it was disappointing to learn yesterday that GPCO has gone ahead with a ban before any other solutions could be discussed and pursued.

You wrote: "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."

None of the above actions were ever suggested, endorsed or advocated by any member of the Accreditation Committee. AC members have also respected confidentiality; if others have publicized the complaints, your response or our report, however, we have no means to prevent that.

Further, the AC noted in its report that GPCO members on all sides of these disputes have stated they are willing to work in good faith to build the party, and we believe that is actually possible, given the chance to discuss and try to work things out. The AC's recommendations were meant to provide a way for both parties to move forward in a more neutral environment and help avoid further recriminations.

You wrote: "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. "

Yes; as stated, we hope to help provide a means for those working in good faith to do so. While not always easy, and not always a quick fix, this is one way to find out who is really willing to work in good faith and who isn't.

The AC made clear from the start that there would be no question of removing any member of the party; and, that options for intervention are limited, given that the basis for actual disaffiliation is lacking. My own sense (and I think shared by the rest of the AC) is that the complainants wanted a way to address certain issues they felt had no chance of getting a real hearing in CO.

I hope this lends some clarification to yesterday's response. You can also feel free to call me at [...](#) or we can set up another conference call, which i think might allay a lot of your concerns.