

June 16, 2022

22-139

CENSURE OF DIRECTOR MICHAEL SONNLEITNER FOR
INAPPROPRIATE AND DISRESPECTFUL COMMENTS TO
STUDENTS AND STAFF AT THE MAY 19, 2022, BOARD
MEETING

PREPARED BY: Jeffrey Condit, College Legal Counsel, Miller Nash

APPROVED BY: Mark Mitsui, President

REPORT: This resolution is to officially censure Director Michael Sonnleitner for inappropriate and disrespectful comments made to students and staff at the May 19, 2022 board meeting.

Board Policy BP 2356 (Governance Standard and Censure) authorizes the Board to censure one of its members for violation of law or board policy. Board Policy BP 2715 (Code of Ethics/Standards of Practice) requires Board members to “[a]ct with civility and dignity, respect diversity and differences of perspective and style on the Board and among staff, students, and the community, and promote equity & inclusion in a spirit of collaborative Board discussions and teamwork.”

The Board finds that Director Sonnleitner violated the Code of Ethics/Standards of Practice with his behavior during the May 19 board meeting. Director Sonnleitner accused student and staff presenters on the proposed changes to student governance of conducting a “coup,” questioned their expertise and experience, and questioned the credibility of their work. His accusatory rhetoric displayed a lack of respect and decorum for students and staff, and denigrated the process of student-led governance.

The Board’s findings are based upon personal attendance at the May 19 meeting and/or review of the recording and transcript of that meeting.

Prior to voting on this resolution, BP 2356 requires the Board to conduct a public hearing and consider any evidence and testimony presented by Director Sonnleitner or any other interested party.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Directors, based upon the findings and evidence described in the above report, and after considering public testimony, censure Director Michael Sonnleitner.