

Dear Judicial Review Committee,

In response to the grievance that Aaron Castaneda (ASI Vice President for Finance) filed, I will break down how the situation occurred, and the steps that have already been taken to resolve this issue. During the Budget Priorities process, I used funds from the ASI President's Programming Budget to pay for an expenditure for the API Food Justice Garden Proposal as the proposal was being reviewed by the Finance Committee. My reasoning for doing so was to cover the initial costs of buying lumber so that the class that created the proposal can begin construction on the garden during the Fall as opposed to waiting until Spring (The term of the class ended in Fall Semester, so that's where the feeling of urgency came from). By buying supplies for a proposal that was currently under review by the Finance Committee, I created a situation where I supported a project with ASI funds that was currently pending ASI support. It was disrespectful to the committee to use my funds in that manner. In addition to that, it was also inappropriate to use funding from my programming budget for an external organization's proposal. I believe I rectified the issue by reimbursing the organization the full amount soon after the issue was brought to my attention. In terms of policy violations, Policy 214 no longer reflects the current practice of ASI and should be amended to better reflect current practices. The reason why I say that this policy is out-of-date is because both the Staff members and I use our cards to purchase supplies for programming on a regular basis and not just for traveling. Even though I do not use my card like this often, I still have the ability to purchase items on behalf of the organization as long as a specific line item is identified and it matches the criteria of that line item. In this case specifically, an external organization's proposal did not fit into the criteria of the ASI President's budget of programming, so I reimbursed the organization for an inappropriate expenditure. My recommendation is for the JRC to drop this grievance because I did not violate the policies I am accused of violating.

Signed,

David Zitser