



March 7, 2020

To the UOSU Board of Directors,

I am writing this letter to inform you that, effective immediately, I am resigning as Advocacy Commissioner.

On Tuesday, March 3rd, the executive committee voted on the appointment of a Director of Services. There were two candidates being considered, one of whom I deemed to be very qualified for the position. They had ample experience, a great interview, and seemed to be a great fit with the workplace culture that I believed the UOSU should be trying to create. The other candidate was a manager at the SFUO.

There had been a number of staff with whom I had spoken after my election as Advocacy Commissioner who had expressed concerns not only with the way that the management of the SFUO operated, but also with the way this specific manager operated. The concerns raised varied from bullying, to favouritism, to general mismanagement. Despite this, and despite the fact that these concerns had been raised at numerous executive committee meetings, the executive committee voted for the second candidate over the first.

My decision to resign was a difficult one to come to. My first instinct was to consider this a disagreement like any other, and simply go on with my responsibilities. However, upon deep consideration, I fear that my continuing as Advocacy Commissioner and as a member of the executive committee could be perceived as a tacit endorsement of the decision. At the very least, it would show that I do not see this decision as having enough gravity to merit a protest on my end.

I ran my campaign on restoring trust in the student union. Three quarters of students voted in the referendum last winter to replace the SFUO with the UOSU. They did this for a number of reasons, not least of which was that the SFUO had been known to have a toxic work environment that was rife with favouritism and mismanagement. I feel as though continuing in my role would be a betrayal to the students who elected me, and to the staff who have treated me so well.

I have a tremendous amount of respect for all four of my colleagues on the executive committee. The work that they do is exceptional, and I would hope for nothing more than their success. However, I cannot stand behind the decision that was made.

Take care,
Sam Schroeder