

Grad senator seat denied to part-time student

by LAsia Brown
Contributing writer

Graduate student disqualified from SGA race due to enrollment status

When Kady-Ann Davy received the email on Sept. 1, that her application to run for a graduate student senator in Fayetteville State University's fall elections had been accepted, she thought she might have a chance to become yet another force in her community, albeit, the FSU one.

Ms. Davy purchased posters, solicited FSU friends for help, and began placing orders for fortune cookies, campaign buttons and other promotional items. She distributed her fliers around campus and started on the campaign trail to win the position.

Then, on Thursday, Sept. 8, less than a week before elections were scheduled to take place, Ms. Davy received an email from the office of student activities, stating that she had been erroneously approved to run for the position.

"It has come to our attention that you are not a full time graduate student. Therefore, you are ineligible



Davy

to run for the position of graduate senator. We apologize for any inconvenience that this may have caused you," said the email.

The cause of Ms. Davy's disqualification from the race—her status as a part-time student rather than full-time student—was stated as the determining factor. Ms. Davy sits on Fayetteville's City Council as its youngest member, over District 12. She is one of two councilwomen, in

addition to councilwoman Valencia A. Applewhite.

In FSU's student government association constitution, specific rules, regulations and requirements are outlined, that applicants must meet in order to run for positions or to just be involved with SGA. Rule number one, under section three of article V, which discusses qualifications, states that a student seeking a position within SGA must be enrolled in the university full-time.

But with the position of graduate senator being different than that of president, vice-president, treasure, etc., the requirement that a graduate student be enrolled full-time to participate, is questionable, especially considering the fact that Ms. Davy was the only applicant for the position.

There are currently no graduate senators, and with the amount of full-time graduate students being relatively low, the probability of several being interested in SGA is also low. Out the approximate 6,000 students enrolled at FSU, only about 10 percent, or 746 students are in graduate school. The percentage of full-time students versus part-time students was not

immediately available for The Voice.

"While I can't say that I've reached out or spoken personally with my SGA President or the Senate Vice President or any members of the executive board, about my approval, and subsequent disapproval, to run for SGA graduate senator, I must say that I kind of hoped for someone to reach out to me and at least ask me to be an SGA volunteer,

or empathize with my situation in any other way," said Ms. Davy.

With FSU being somewhat of a growing transitional university in the midst of a town that receives heavy military traffic, paired with the economy's less than stellar performance, and graduate students who have had to drop below full-time to accommodate families, SGA's requirements that graduate students be full-time seem outdated.

The application process, having not caught Ms. Davy's status earlier, also needs to be updated according Ms. Davy.

"I've still yet to hear from the top brass in SGA about this situation, I'm not even sure if they know about it. In short, no one has indicated to me just how, or if, they plan to streamline the election application process in order to avoid making this mistake in the future.

It has been very disheartening to know that as graduate students, there is no support or serious mechanism that allows us to make use

of our desire to be involved in our graduate alma mater, or if even on a basic level, share our experiences with our young brothers and sisters on campus," said Ms. Davy.

With enrollment dynamics at FSU, SGA may need to consider revisions to their constitution, to allow part-time graduate or even undergraduate students the opportunity to participate in election activities.

The office of student affairs did not respond to The Voice's requests for questions by press time.

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WHAT'S GOING ON?

FALL 2011 GRADUATE STUDENT FORUM

WHAT: Graduate student forum
WHEN: Tonight 5:00-6:00 p.m.
WHERE: Continuing Education Building room 125
HOSTED BY: Graduate School of FSU

EAGLE ENPOWERMENT SERIES

WHAT: What You Don't Know CAN Hurt You
WHEN: 7:00-8:00 p.m.
WHERE: Upper level of the Cook Building
HOSTED BY: NCCU & FSU

SCHOOL PREP

WHAT: Graduate School Prep Workshop
WHEN: November 3 from 2:00-3:45 p.m.
WHERE: Continuing Education Building room 125
HOSTED BY: Graduate School of FSU

BASKETBALL FRENZY

WHAT: Meet Fayetteville State's men's and women's basketball teams
When: Nov. 8 at 5:30 p.m.
Where: Capel Arena
Hosted by: Athletic Department

A SENIOR RECITAL

What: Mary J. Busch Senior Recital
When: Nov 8. at 7:00 p.m.

Where: Rosenthal Recital Hall
Hosted by: Department of Performing & Fine Arts

TURKEY TROT

What: Annual Turkey Trot
When: Nov. 17 at 2:30 p.m.
Where: Luther "Nick" Jerald's Stadium
Hosted By: Office of Student Activities

FSU THEATRE STUDENTS PERFORM A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

WHAT: The FSU Theatre Students at FSU perform a classic by Shakespeare
WHEN: November 17-20, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Sunday
WHERE: FSU Butler Theatre
MORE INFO: 910-672-2574; www.uncfsu.edu/theatre

The Voice would like to let our reading audience know that our last issue of 2011 will be published on December 2. If you're interested in submitting campus photos and calendar events, the deadline for publication consideration is November 22. Contact the Voice office at 672-2210.