



# the Seahawk

"Excellence Through Truth and Dedication"



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## SGA presidential elections suspended

*Disqualifications, appeals of two candidates lead to postponement*

by ANNA C. BROOME  
Staff Writer

Student Government Association (SGA) Presidential candidates Lee Keenen and Katie Russell were disqualified from the elections last week due to campaign violations.

Keenen, currently a senator in the SGA, appealed the SGA Elections Board Committee (EBC) decision last Wednesday, and the EBC decided to suspend presidential elections until "further notice," according to EBC Chairman Yancey Gulley. Keenen had no comment about the disqualification.

According to the SGA Election manual, Keenen had three days to notify the committee about his decision to appeal. Although the reasons for his disqualification are not known, it is known that more than one complaint was filed against Keenen's campaign.

Last Tuesday, *Seahawk* Advertising Director Martin J. Smiley informed Gulley that Keenen had "placed a poster for his campaign inside a display rack for *The Seahawk*," Smiley said. Candidates are not authorized to use *Seahawk* display racks to post campaign materials.

Keenen filed a complaint against presidential and vice-presidential running mates Russell and Erica Pittelkow. He alleged they violated the Student Government election poster/painting policy, which states that "posters placed in buildings may not be larger than 20x30 inches." Keenen said last Saturday that was the only complaint he filed against Russell and Pittelkow.

Among the witnesses listed in the complaint was *Seahawk* Editor Thomas Ruyle. Ruyle's name was included in the complaint without his knowledge, and he wrote a letter to Gulley stating that he would not act as a witness.

"I'm a reporter," he said, "and seeing my name on there did raise some question as to my objectivity, which I did not appreciate. I - and this newspaper - can not and will not act on behalf of anyone's campaign."

Russell and Pittelkow were not found guilty of the charges because the posters in question had been approved by the SGA before the women placed them in the University Union.



Students vote in the SGA elections last Wednesday at Wagoner Hall. Eighteen representatives and a new vice president were elected, but the presidential election was suspended until further notice due to two disqualifications.

Russell, currently the SGA Secretary of Media, was disqualified during the election for standing too close to the Wagoner Hall polling station. President Patrick Gunn confirmed that Russell was disqualified.

She released a statement concerning the controversy: "I hope everything will be resolved soon, so the elections can continue and run smoothly," Russell said.

Russell confirmed on Sunday that she was notified of the disqualification on Friday, and has filed an appeal.

Pittelkow, who won the vice-presidency, had no comment on the situation.

A report surfaced last Saturday that Keenen's mother, an administrative intern at a Maryland elementary school, called Dean of Students Terry Curran about the situation. "Yes, she did call Dean Curran, though I am unaware of the phone call or what it was about," Keenen

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## University will award food contract to Aramark

### SGA president to lead protest

by THOMAS M. RUYLE  
Editor-In-Chief



Chancellor James Leutze told students last week that he will accept a committee's recommendation to retain Aramark as the campus food service provider. A student-led protest is planned for tomorrow at 1 p.m. at Alderman Hall.

Chancellor James Leutze announced last Tuesday at a student forum that the university will renew its food service contract with Aramark.

Over 300 students attended the forum in the Hawk's Nest to have a question and answer session with Leutze. Among the topics discussed were parking, housing, pedestrian safety, football, and Greek life. No subject, however, elicited as strong of a response from the chancellor and students as food service.

When asked about the status of the food contract competition between Aramark and Marriott, Leutze said, "ARA (Aramark) will get the contract again next year." The contract is for five years, and Aramark has held that contract for the past 15 years.

Leutze based his decision on the recommendation of the Food Service Review Board, which voted seven to three in favor of

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