

SPECIAL ELECTION

In accordance to the Election Recall Code, parties were granted the opportunity to provide a written statement to inform students of their respective positions. Please visit www.uh.edu/sga/justice or email sgadoj@central.uh.edu for more information.



Statement in favor of the Recall - Written by Senator Abraham Sanchez:

The Student Government Association Cabinet and two-thirds of the Senate urge the Student Body to vote to remove Arsalan Darbin from the office of the President. President Darbin has inhibited SGA from actively engaging with the Student Body and from carrying out initiatives proposed by students, Senators, and Cabinet members. The President has not fulfilled his duties in a timely and professional manner in addition to fostering a hostile work environment rather than a workplace where there is collaboration, organization, and communication. These concerns have been brought to the President several times by the Speaker of the Senate, Vice President, and Chief of Staff to no avail, and President Darbin has refused to take any action to address these issues or offered any forms of apologies. Furthermore, President Darbin has made it extremely difficult for elected and appointed officials to fulfill their duties and responsibilities as illustrated during the Student Government Association's Senate meeting on Wednesday, October 6th. During this meeting, a unanimous Cabinet along with a two-third majority Senate spent 3 hours testifying to their experiences and knowledge of transphobia, sexism, threats of physical violence, and malfeasance under the presidency of Arsalan Darbin. Specifically, our list of grievances include but are not limited to: the use of transphobic and misogynist comments lobbied at members of his own cabinet; constantly overexerting his executive authority to threaten dismissal of appointed cabinet members to abide by his will; threatening physical harm against a member of his own cabinet - with such accounts have been witnessed by multiple members of Student Government. Arsalan is no longer working to fulfill the promises he campaigned on and was elected to fulfill. Furthermore, he is prohibiting his Cabinet and the Student Government organization as whole from acting efficiently and professionally. It is for these reasons that we urge the Student Body to remove the President from office so that we may have a successful 58th administration.

Statement Against the Recall - Written by President Arsalan Darbin:

This recall election was initiated without any evidence other than hearsay, no complaints filed to the Supreme Court for investigation, and consumes valuable time and resources funded through student fees. Nevertheless, I'm glad to inform the student body on the following matter.

While I was accused of "abusing [my] powers," my experience in the past 7 months was otherwise. I constantly found myself powerless when cabinet members rented golf carts and didn't return them for several days, clocked in for 40 hours while they are allowed to work for only 15 hrs/week, use the belongings of the office operator (who works at UH for 20+ years) without her permission, misuse the SGA funds to purchase air couches for their office, and write offending passive-aggressive notes for others (documents available). Can the President take appropriate disciplinary action to ensure accountability?

The testimonies heard during the recall were shocking and ironic. A member who has previously suggested administrators to "slip in additional charges to student fees," accused me of a lack of transparency in spending. Another, who has a history of making jokes about my accent and Middle Eastern origin, claimed to be discriminated against. And another, who usually finds it difficult to control his temper, accused me of threatening him with physical harm. I unequivocally deny those accusations, believe they are ad hominem attacks taken out of context, and are a projection of their own actions rather than mine.

Although I can't be sure about the motivations of those speaking against me, I cannot ignore the importance of vested interests. It's not that I have failed to perform my duties, but that I have not conformed with budgetary demands and the political agendas of certain individuals, intended for personal gains. If I have not violated any rules of the SGA Constitution and Bylaws, and there is absolutely no proof of the accusations made against me, who would be benefitting from my removal?

There has been no initiative benefiting the student body at large that I have not been supportive of. Despite that, the Legislative branch has only presented one piece of legislation in the last 7 months of this administration. This begs the question as to who is responsible for this shortcoming.

During the election, I have promised students (1) mental health (2) accountability (3) student success. I have not steered away from those objectives for a moment. This is reflected in the AFB Reform bill to allocate more funding to student organizations and the CAPS Expansion Act to improve psychological services on campus that I have initiated.

Does the student body want a President who stands up for what's right despite being unpopular? Do you support due process to investigate accusations? Do you want to keep public officials accountable for their actions? If yes, VOTE NO to the recall and uphold integrity in the Student Government.

**The Special Election will be held October 26-27th on
Get Involved.**