

Nicholas Taylor, Speaker of the Senate Statement

First, let me say that I am sad that we have assembled here today for this purpose of impeachment. It is clear that I am a work in progress which is why we come to college – to learn, grow and become better people. If I have fallen short in my communication style, that is part of my learning process which I need to and will improve.

I have dedicated nearly 100 percent of my free time since I started at ASLMU last year for the benefit of the ASLMU Senate and all the students we represent. I ran for Speaker on a campaign that promised to bring change to the Senate and to promote transparency in its works on behalf of the Student Body. But, change is never easy and is rarely ever “welcome.” Nonetheless, that is what I was elected to do in my position as Speaker of the Senate. To that end, I put together an agenda, which is set out in the “Project ASLMU” document you have all seen. In that document, I set a Mission for the Fall of 2025 that says:

During the Fall semester I hope to increase student attendance at Senate meetings by 50%. I will encourage all the Senators to reach out a minimum of three (3) registered student organizations (RSO). The purpose of reaching out is to speak at the RSO meetings to advertise Senate as a place for students to advocate for themselves and for others. I also plan on presenting multiple bylaw changes to change the structure of ASLMU’s processes to better tailor toward Students.

Part of that mission was to implement Bylaw changes so the structure of ASLMU could be changed to better serve the students. As I previously stated, change is never easy and resistance to those changes was clear in how they were misconstrued to be targeting and not valuing LT member positions. Additionally, as shown in some of the evidence provided to you, there were cropped images that are taken out of context. I have added context and depth to those screenshots. This manipulation of conversation is clear that they wanted the evidence to appear as if I wasn’t seeking input from others on Bylaws changes where I clearly was. The question to ask here is WHY? Why would the evidence from the complainant not highlight the full picture? The answer is very simple – Retaliation.

As Speaker of the Senate, I saw Bylaws being violated and pointed this out. As Speaker of the Senate, I saw a CFO promise funds to student organizations in excess of what had been approved – and then provide that extra funding – only to come to the Senate who saw no other option then to approve what she had already done. I filed a complaint with the judicial committee, who investigated the matter and determined that the CFO’s actions violated the bylaws and warranted a formal written warning. I am not downplaying that this caused her distress. This was a mistake, whether on purpose or not and I held her accountable to the ASLMU Bylaws. The complainants own evidence shows how in the middle of a text conversation, members of LT would

be talking about going to lunch or coffee and seconds later state that they would “resign if Nick sends me one more” email. The false hope of the team I work on led me to believe that our working relationship had improved. I sought guidance from Sam, the ASLMU Advisor, D’Anthony, and Frank. Furthermore, Text exchanges show that we were working well together while covertly exchanging with other ASLMU members that showed otherwise.

The impeachment of a Speaker – or any Senator – should be based upon misconduct. My evidence presented shows that some aspects of the impeachment complaint were exaggerated, mischaracterized, or just not true. What has occurred and proven to be true is the misconduct from the CFO, that was handled in a quiet manner, and with an appropriate consequence via a written warning letter. I did not publicly shame her and blast her name across campus. Additionally, many members of ASLMU, up until the evidence was being gathered, didn’t know that the complaint was made, or the end result. What has occurred is a resistance to the change I want to bring by shining a light on the Senate and to revise and uphold our bylaws. As elected officials, we have to hold ourselves to a higher standard and be accountable for our actions. Accountability is the foundation of progress. If I have offended anyone, in any manner, while speaking to ASLMU members, I am accountable for that and will work to improve it.

In closing, I need to learn to better understand how words are interpreted by the listener. Going forward, I will do just that. But, even so, the joy I felt from working in the Senate is gone. With that, I am resigning my seat as Speaker of the Senate effective immediately.

Thank you.