



PHILIP RAMOS
Member of Assembly
6th Assembly District

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June 16, 2004

Dr. Shirley Pippins, President
Suffolk Community College
533 College Rd
Selden, NY 11784

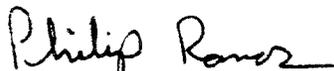
Dear Dr. Pippins,

I am writing on behalf of Ursula Monaco who resides at 29 Jackson Avenue, Brentwood to inquire about the alleged refusal of the Western Student Press' (WSP) editors to allow her to join the newspaper.

On a letter dated October 30, 2003, then Suffolk Community College President Salvatore LaLima, decided to suspend the remaining portion of the sanction period as of October 31st, 2003. According to Ms. Monaco, nonetheless the sanction was lifted and her disciplinary record expunged, there have been a series of intentional obstructions that have prevented her to return to the WSP. Enclosed please find copy of letter submitted to my office by Ms. Monaco.

Please look into this matter as your earliest convenience. I look forward to your diligent response and to an open dialogue that will keep me informed on the progress of the issue discussed. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at (631) 435-3214 or by email at ramosp@assembly.state.ny.us

Sincerely,


Philip Ramos
Member of Assembly

Enc.: Ms. Ursula Monaco's Letter

cc: Meryl Rogers, Associate Dean of Student Services
Ursula Monaco

May 13, 2004

NY State Assemblyman Philip Ramos
1010 Suffolk Avenue
Brentwood, New York 11717

Dear Mr. Ramos,

I would appreciate it if you could look into a problem that I am having with Suffolk County Community College. The problem is two-fold. First, my involvement on the Western Student Press (WSP) has been undermined and secondly there has been a problem with the Brentwood Journal.

As you know, I was unlawfully banned from the WSP for most of the Fall 2003 semester and both the Student Press Law Center (SPLC) and Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) have corresponded with SCCC. I have provided your office with said correspondence. On October 30, 2003, then president Sal LaLima in a letter to me lifted the ban, although the letter states misinformation I was to be reinstated in all student activities, including the WSP. This did not in fact happen.

The new editor-in-chief, advisor and campus activities director did not permit me to become a staff member, as I had been for many semesters. I was not told of meetings although I emailed both the advisor and EIC on numerous occasions. The entire spring semester was more of the same. Please keep in mind that as a student I pay a student fee that is for the purpose of joining campus activities. Needless to say I am outraged by this situation, and although the ban has been lifted I am unable to be part of the WSP.

I continued to email the advisor for an explanation as to why I was not being informed of meetings. On April 26, 2004 I received a response from the advisor Gregg Sarra, who is not a faculty member of SCCC. He is a sports writer at Newsday. In this email, which I have attached, he states that the EIC is satisfied with the staff she has in position and that she does not need anyone else at this time. However, the April 20th issue of the WSP has an editorial written by the EIC on page 10 in which she is asking students to

join the paper. Why is she asking students to join the WSP, when the advisor is stating that she is satisfied with her staff and doesn't need anyone?

DOES THIS MEAN ANYONE CAN JOIN BUT ME? In the email Sarra sent, he also states that he has discussed my involvement on the paper with her. What was there to discuss? I am a student in good standing; my records have been expunged by Dr. Pippins and still I am "banned" from the WSP.

Please look into this matter as soon as possible.

As for the Brentwood Journal, I have attached email correspondence between myself, Dean Rogers, Campus Activities and the Director of Security, with regard to the paper "disappearing" from the rack at the same time the WSP was placed in the exact spot.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Ursula J. Monaco
29 Jackson Avenue
Brentwood, NY 11717