

James quits Council in protest of censure

By Lauren Pashayan
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Student Council Rep. Fob James resigned last night following a 13-6 Council vote to censure him for refusing to discuss with Gay Student Union (GSU) members public statements he made concerning former GSU President Bob Elkins.

Elkins' position on the Resident Staff recently was sanctioned by an ad hoc committee named by University President Frank L. Hereford Jr. to advise him on the possibility of a conflict of interest between Elkins' presidency of the GSU and his duties as a Resident advisor.

According to Council President Steve Mahan, the censure means Council believes James was negligent in his duties as a Council member and Council disapproves of his action.

GSU President Peter Brehm brought the matter to Council. He said Elkins complained to him about James' refusal to discuss with Elkins a statement James made which was published in *The Cavalier Daily*.

In remarks cited in a news article concerning Hereford's ad hoc committee, James said Elkins should be removed from his resident advisor position.

The GSU brought the complaint to Council in hopes Council would move to prevent future incidents of members refusing to speak with constituents, according to Brehm.

He added the GSU also wished to advise Council "the member was sorely remiss" in his duties as a representative.

It was "not our intention" to have James resign. "This was not a personal vendetta," Brehm said.

Elkins said he requested a meeting with James so they could discuss their differing opinions concerning homosexuality.

In a note dated Oct. 13, James responded to Elkins' request, stating, "As long as you remain a homosexual activist I do not wish to converse with you on any subject."

James told Council he did "not see homosexual activists as my constituents"

adding he ran for a Council seat on a platform against homosexual activism.

He said he "represents the GSU in the same sense that (President) Gerald Ford represents Communist Americans."

Brehm said that the "GSU is not disputing James' opinions" but "We feel that as students in the College he has a responsibility as our representative to give

us a "fair and equal hearing."

In the discussion prior to the vote, College Rep. Paul Cohn said Council was "not voting for personal opinion but for the refusal (by James) to meet with someone to discuss" a situation.

Elkins said he wanted to talk with James since *The Cavalier Daily* identified
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