

Ladies and Gentlemen, Mason Patriots,

Thank you for your attention on this issue. The campaign did not provide an earlier statement regarding this controversy due to recommendations that we inquire about legal and administrative action over the situation. Having done so and as such since the response for last week was delayed, the campaign sincerely wanted to inform people as quickly as we could in regard to this issue.

First and foremost, let me address several things. There is an old saying: “Hindsight is always 20/20 and you learn from your mistakes and move on.” During my run for Student Government I issued a series of remarks, a political hardball of sorts, to an individual who was, from the campaign’s perspective, hell-bent on making sure we could not serve or even have a chance to serve in the aforementioned capacity. For the first grievance, my statement was taken out of context. For endorsement I meant a majority of members and not the individual clubs. In the heat of debate, sometimes it isn’t made clear. That is what I meant, nothing more and the issue was semantics from a campaign perspective. For the second grievance, the individual continued and I made a mistake of communication, which was elevated in language but not meant as anything less than a way to call for a resolution so we both could move forward.

Quite frankly the object of the campaign was not to run for a title. It was to “Demand Results” from within Student Government, a body which I have served in for 2 years and have seen the dysfunction, the résumé-building with no regard to those that put you into office, the resignations, and the lack of coordination that severely deters the Mason students’ right to a great SG. The ticket was made up of managers to solve that problem and demand on Day 1 that the chaos and confusion that have plagued us for years must end—students absolutely deserve better. My VP candidate has served his country with honor in uniform since 1999 and would have additionally contributed to forming a better SG for us all.

That said, the results are clear and our ticket did not win even though we were not even granted the chance to exist on the ballot for a full election period. As such and in the spirit of cooperation and with honor, last session I congratulated President-elect Bowers and Vice President Yoo on a great campaign and one focused on results for our students, demanding more on the issues and on the promotion of achieving tangible results for GMU.

Students, this election was never about me or my running-mate but expecting more and trying for something greater than yourself. Over the past 2 years I have never done what was purely convenient but what was right even if it took several tries. As President John F. Kennedy once put it, over the past years one should put in the effort for these tasks not, “...because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills.” Working within SG was truly an honor of mine from those that placed me there 2 years ago during my first run and 1 year ago for my reelection. Since Spring 2009, I worked for resources for our veterans providing the first ever SG Military Liaison to our campus

vets and ROTC, fought for Comprehensive Transparency Reforms, as well as binding and tiered comprehensive spending reforms so that Mason Patriots know their money is spent wisely and placed online for results to be seen after passage. I have done so on an individual basis since I was first elected in 2009. These are the results students expect and I was honored to do my duty.

Students, I recognize a mistake when I make one. I made several. I should have never responded to the individual. Conversely, if the shoe was on the other foot, the campaign would never have taken private communiqués to the press with the intent of becoming “famous” as the saboteur’s Twitter post revealed.<sup>1</sup> Cooler heads should have prevailed on both sides.

So, in conclusion, thank you to my voters and ones that did vote for my ticket expecting results. Thank you to those who did not vote for my ticket but compared the tickets and participated in the democratic process at Mason. Thank you to our veterans that supported our campaign to “Demand Results” at Mason and to my supporters through both thick and thin in this trial.

Last session in addition to meeting with leadership over this I resigned my Ranking Member capacity across the 3 committees I serve on and with full effect at the end of the session and the end of my term in the 31<sup>st</sup> Senate, officially announced that I will no longer serve in any fashion, non-elected or future elected in Student Government. I believe that if I was to serve, I should do so with the utmost of my ability and with honor—additional service after this would only muddy those waters. I apologize to those that were offended by my remarks in any way.

In all, nevertheless, it was truly an honor to fight for results for you over the past years. As I exit, I extend the best of wishes to the new administration and for all SG members going forward. As an extended family member would have put it, “The Only Easy Day Was Yesterday.” So it was and so will be and we all will move on, in one way or another. I sincerely ask that my personal failings at this time not contribute to any further damages to personal reputations of anyone else at Mason or outside the campus as this has already been the case.

May God bless George Mason University and all of our students in their futures. As we move forward, may the Bowers-Yoo administration do great things for our school with honor, courage, and commitment to do what is best for Mason, a campus that that we all cherish and for which we all wish great things.

With Sincere Regret and In Service,

Michael DeMatteo  
Student Senator  
GMU Student Government

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.mediafire.com/imageview.php?quickkey=8v1dixfq0z6cuk9>