

## University of Chicago Undergraduate Student Government

### Emergency College Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 7th, 2025

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*Attendance of Voting Members: [(P) Present; (A) absent; (L) late arrival; (E) left early]*

Chair: Alex Fuentes (P)							
Class of 2025		Class of 2026		Class of 2027		Class of 2028	
Chad Coen	P	Simi Edeki	P	Anthony Buchfuhrer	P	Joseph Ayalew	P
Alex Weiss	P	Maya McWilliams	A	Kevin Guo	P	Destiny Samare	P
Odunayo (Ayo) Akinade	P	Ben Fica	P	Demetrius Daniel	P	Esther Ma	P
Soyoon/Sadie Moon	P			Vaani Kapoor	P	Grace Beatty	A
Christopher Phillips	P					Aidan Keesler	P
<b>Other Participants</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elijah Jenkins - USG President</li><li>• Timothy Lu - USG Executive Vice President</li><li>• Andrea Pita Mendez - USG Vice President of Advocacy</li><li>• Other members of the Current Cabinet with the exclusion of Nevin Hall Acting Vice President of Student Organizations (Not all names listed as no speech was made)</li><li>• Several USG Committee Chairs and members</li><li>• Multiple Members of the public</li><li>• Sang Yoon (Fred) Lee - USG Communications Manager (Secretary)</li></ul>							

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*Emergency Meeting called to order, 7:06 pm*

*Motion to approve the preset agenda by unanimous consent was passed.*

*College Council moved to USG Presidential and Executive Vice President Statements*

Elijah: Thank you all for being here. I want to take a moment to clarify before we begin. On Monday, Nevin Hall was asked to resign from the Elections & Rules Committee. That night, College Council Representative Kevin Guo informed him that if he didn't also resign from his role as VPSO, grounds for impeachment would be raised. Over the next day, members of USG, including Cabinet, were blocked from accessing key budgetary documents from the CAT and PCC committees, and all E&R election materials were removed from the USG website. Then, on Tuesday, I was informed — along with EVP Timothy Lu — that E&R had scheduled a hearing

for Thursday, May 8. That hearing included two items: a review of budget submissions and a motion to nullify the Spring 2025 election results. The complaints behind this motion came from within E&R: Evan Spear, Ayla Eichler, and Aidan Long, naming Nevin Hall as the defendant. However, this morning E&R rescheduled to today, after obtaining knowledge of their impending impeachment. They argued that his dual role as E&R Chair and VPSO was a conflict of interest, grounds to nullify the recent elections. Let me be clear: the nullification E&R has claimed is procedurally and substantively invalid under the E&R House Rules. First, the hearing was not publicly announced online, violating Title II, Section D. Second, the defendant(s) and affected parties scheduled in this hearing were not properly notified of the new hearing time — a clear due process issue under Title IV. Third, the complaints originated from within E&R against its own Chair, raising major concerns about neutrality. Finally, E&R members misrepresented CLI staff input, stating they believed Nevin to be impartial during Spring Elections. CLI has since confirmed they only spoke to the potential conflict of interests of Nevin in future elections not of current conflict of interests this past election. There is no provision in the Election Code or House Rules that permits nullifying an election based solely on internal disputes or perceived conflicts that did not alter electoral outcomes. For all these reasons, I am stating unequivocally: the hearing scheduled for May 8 and any resulting decision to nullify the Spring election is not valid and will not be recognized by this body.

Timothy: I want to now clarify why this emergency College Council session is both constitutionally valid and procedurally necessary. Under Article IV, Section 1 of our Constitution, the President is tasked with faithfully executing the office and ensuring the continued function of the Undergraduate Student Government. In this case, multiple factors made that function impossible through normal channels: budgetary access was restricted, election records were removed from public access, a procedurally invalid hearing was scheduled to nullify the Spring elections. In light of these circumstances, I interpreted, and continue to interpret, the President's Article IV responsibility as authorizing College Council's request to convene this emergency session. While we acknowledge that the typical expectation is 48 hours' notice, our governing rules also allow extraordinary meetings to be called by the Council Chair or by a petition of five members. This session aligns with those emergency provisions. Importantly, this meeting deals with internal governance matters, including potential impeachment. These issues are not under E&R jurisdiction and thus do not require the consent of the E&R Chair. This emergency session is a constitutionally sound response to a serious breakdown in our internal structure. It is the correct action to restore accountability, transparency, and trust in our government.

*College Council moved to revisioning the By-Laws*

Alex: We will only be taking comments from current CC members due to time constraints. Kevin, do you want to present the proposed revisions?

Kevin: Yes, thank you. I'd like to go into further detail about the situation involving Nevin Hall. On three separate occasions, Nevin materially altered our bylaws without providing appropriate notification or transparency. Specifically, he made changes designed to prevent members of the Elections and Rules (E&R) committee from being subject to impeachment. It is crucial that we revert certain powers improperly assigned to the E&R committee due to Nevin's unilateral actions. To correct this, we propose returning to the original bylaws as they stood in Fall 2025, as initially introduced by Alex. The only amendments we will maintain are those clearly indicated in red lines. This measure ensures full transparency and accountability, providing the College Council with complete visibility and clarity regarding any and all modifications to our governance documents.

*College Council moved to accept Q&A.*

Christopher: Are the changes marked in red represented in the document implemented by Nevin?

Alex: No, they are made by Kevin. This is the new proposed bylaws that revert the improper bylaw changes Nevin implemented.

Kevin: To clarify further, this specific change was introduced on November 13th during the Fall semester. You'll notice the strikethrough indicating the removal of previously implemented immunity from impeachment. Our objective in revamping the bylaws is to enhance efficiency, address urgent issues promptly, and clearly define emergency procedures within the bylaws.

Anthony: I believe the top of the document is incorrect.

Kevin: I will change it right now.

Ben: If you look at the current bylaws Article 6 title 3 section 5 last page, are we keeping this in? It is not indicated in red. This article is saying the impeachment process has to be chaired by Elections and Rules. Does this mean this meeting has to be chaired by Nevin? Can we procedurally remove this?

Kevin: Sorry, yes, I did not catch this when I was proposing the revisions. It would not invalidate our impeachment motion because we can actually amend the bylaws before we actually impeach Nevin.

Ben: Then I move to amend the proposed bylaw changes by Kevin to remove Article 6 title 3 section 5 as well by unanimous approval.

Esther: Seconded.

Alex: Any objections or abstentions?

*There is none.*

*Motion was passed with unanimous approval.*

Chad: Entitled to page 18. End of Title 2 item 5: it says in the absence of the chair, the VPSO shall fulfil duties while acting as chair the. I don't think VPSO should not have a vote on a finance committee.

Kevin: We would limit it. This has been enforced for a long time.

Chad: It has never been enforced.

Kevin: motion to amend the proposed bylaw changes to remove title 2 item 5 as well by unanimous consent.

Simi: Seconded.

Alex: Any objections or abstentions?

*There is none.*

*Motion was passed with unanimous approval.*

Destiny: motion to approve the amended proposed bylaw by unanimous consent.

Simi: seconded.

Alex: Any objections or abstentions?

*There is none.*

*Motion was passed with unanimous approval.*

*College Council moved to the Impeachment Proceedings*

*Kevin was called by the College Council Chair to start presenting on the rationale for impeachment motion.*

Kevin: I appreciate everyone's time and engagement today. It's reassuring to see how deeply people care about the integrity of our Student Government. I'd like to address several critical points. Firstly, I intended to discuss the Elections and Rules (E&R) committee's plans to nullify the Spring 2025 elections, but they have already proceeded with that nullification. Nevin Hall's fitness to serve has been a continuing concern. I explicitly requested his resignation, but he has not responded. Nevin has restricted access to documents essential for governing USG, significantly hindering our ability to function effectively. Due to these actions and others detailed extensively in the impeachment resolution, I am formally introducing this motion for impeachment. Nevin has deliberately misled this governing body to increase his personal authority, abusing his position across multiple committees he chairs. He has openly stated that E&R committee members are primarily his personal friends who do his bidding. The resolution includes eight separate accounts of misconduct. Notably, on March 7, 2025, Nevin altered bylaws specifically to increase his power, repeating similar actions on April 28, 2025. These actions clearly constitute violations of public trust, representing an alarming centralization and abuse of power. His conduct demonstrates chilling indifference and a concerning lack of transparency. Moreover, there was a significant complaint involving the CAT committee, which Nevin has openly boasted demonstrates his control over USG. Exhibits A, B, and C outline his problematic conduct within the committees he is the chair. Notably, Nevin attempted to manipulate a constitutional referendum supported by 87% of voters, pushing E&R to invalidate this decision. Additionally, Nevin removed essential resources, including shared drives from CAT and PCC, and critical documents such as E&R rules, past election results, bylaws, and election codes. Given these serious breaches, I formally move to impeach Nevin Hall from the following positions:

1. Chair of Elections and Rules Committee
2. Secretary of Elections and Rules Committee
3. Chair of Program Coordinating Council
4. Chair of Committee on Academic Teams
5. Acting Undergraduate Student Government Vice President of Student Organizations for 2024-2025 academic year
6. Incoming Undergraduate Student Government Vice President of Student Organizations for 2025-2026 academic year.

Kevin: I also propose impeachment proceedings against the following E&R members:

1. Aiden Long
2. Ayla Eichler
3. Evan Spear

Kevin: This impeachment is necessary to restore trust and transparency in our student government.

*Link for the Impeachment Exhibits Mentioned:* <https://tinyurl.com/usgimpeachment>

*The College Council Chair invited College Council representatives to participate in the discussion.*

Simi: If we impeach Nevin, how will all those committees Nevin have been chairing continue to function?

Elijah: CAT is completely done on funding. Finished all the appeals process. PCC just requires a few appeal processes to be finished. Therefore, it wouldn't be disastrous to remove him from these committees.

Simi: What happens with the Elections and Rules Committee if we remove 4 members.

Elijah: Oliver will be the acting chair. We would need new members for E&R.

Kevin: Point of Order. I want to clarify that originally before Nevin made these deceiving changes to the Bylaw the USG President would appoint E&R members in case of vacancies. However, Nevin changed the bylaws so he could appoint members as he wants if there are vacancies.

Chad: I want to make a statement regarding the removal of access to important documents. The recent election for the next VPSO was administered by Nevin Hall, who was serving as the Acting VPSO. Initially, we received a spreadsheet containing candidate applications. However, when I attempted to access this document a few days ago after the call for his resignation from E&R, I discovered that my access had been revoked, and the document deleted. One of the chairs who participated in the voting process for VPSO had a saved record of Nevin's application, in which Nevin explicitly stated, "I'm currently VPSO and I've chaired finance committees of various quantities for the previous two years. I also chair E&R, which I would step back from if elected VPSO again after I train a replacement". This promise of absolving conflicting interest was something that the voting chairs stated Nevin emphasized, and a key reason I agreed to vote for him in the first place. He had not fulfilled that promise as of last meeting. This situation recalls events from last Spring during the College Council session concerning the Judicial Council Referendum. At that time, Nevin addressed the Council directly, suggesting dramatically, "If you do not trust E&R, I would implore you to impeach all of us right now." Initially, this seemed like an excessive reaction, possibly reflecting only Kevin's individual concerns. However, given Nevin's recent actions, there is clear evidence that raises serious

questions about whether the E&R committee has genuinely operated impartially and prioritized student interests.

Ben: “To build may have to be the slow and laborious task of years. To destroy can be the thoughtless act of a single day.” This quote comes from Nevin’s personal Idol, Sir Winston Churchill. That’s why it was shocking to me when I found out that over the past few days, Nevin had deleted and restricted access to just about every document he had control over. He had thoughtlessly destroyed the work of countless people over the course of the years. For Nevin, his USG work was never about helping our peers. It was never about improving the student experience for our peers. It was about holding power over them. And he proved to us that it was about power when the second his power was threatened, he deleted everything he had control over. I’ll end this rant by just saying Jobs, bro, jobs. Nevin has better things to be doing right now and so do we. I support impeachment.

Elijah: I didn’t originally support Nevin Hall’s impeachment. However, after Kevin gave Nevin the choice to resign or go through the impeachment process, Nevin responded by radically removing access to all essential documents.

Demetrius: I would like to clarify something important. No one here questions Nevin’s work ethic or dedication over his tenure. Our concerns lie specifically with recent actions that have significantly disrupted governance and transparency. These particular actions are the basis of our current discussions regarding impeachment.

Vaani: What would happen to these committees and the VPSO role if Nevin is not removed?

Elijah: The chairs would remain compromised. Jian was scheduled to graduate early, which would leave Nevin with control over both the VPSO and E&R roles simultaneously. We would then need to move forward with impeachment proceedings.

Vaani: I thought someone mentioned Nevin had formally resigned from E&R.

Alex: He appointed himself as the secretary of E&R after supposedly resigning. This clearly indicates that E&R intended to consult him regardless. Moreover, more than half of the E&R members are his close associates, amplifying his influence. The primary reason for seeking his removal is precisely due to this excessive influence, which could lead to unjustified actions, such as invalidating the entire election without any valid basis.

Vaani: Does this motion remove him from Secretary of E&R as well?

Kevin: Yes.

Vanni: Has anyone reached out to him regarding these concerns?

Elijah: We met with him with these complaints first received. However, since Monday night, I have not had direct contact. He refused to attend this hearing and began forwarding USG correspondence to me early today.

Chad: Regarding the issue of power consolidation, I want to reiterate a point I previously raised during our executive session that was not available for the public. As the current Student Government Finance Committee Chair, I've been involved in discussions about the future leadership of SGFC. Decisions regarding the SGFC chair are made jointly by the VPSO and the President of USG. Whenever I brought this topic forward, Nevin Hall specifically emphasized Connor Pool as his preferred candidate for SGFC Chair next year. Connor is a new member of SGFC, having been appointed only a few weeks ago. During the last application round for SGFC, Nevin presented Connor's candidacy to me as if he were the sole applicant. It quickly became clear to me that multiple candidates had expressed interest in the position but had been turned away by Nevin. Additionally, I learned that Nevin explicitly encouraged Connor to apply for a SGFC position and that they are friends, something he failed to mention at all. Nevin deliberately concealed information about other applicants, preventing a fair evaluation process. To that end, I do not support Connor's suggested appointment as Chair, as there are other candidates who have served on the committee for multiple years which provides strong, necessary institutional knowledge. When asked about why he wanted Connor to be Chair of SGFC next year, Nevin said he wanted a Chair who would do what he asks them to do.

Andrea: What measures are we implementing to ensure this kind of situation doesn't happen again in the future? This clearly indicates a structural issue within our system. Having this much concentrated power is problematic. Are we taking any steps to address this?

Elijah: The primary issue was that many students aren't actively engaged with student government. However, this year, we had 59 members, and out of everyone who was eligible to reapply, 51 did reapply. The main issue was that this year, we've seen strong participation mainly from first-year students, with fewer returning upperclassmen. Therefore, many leadership positions lacked applicants who had enough qualifying experience to chair committees. We are fortunate to have active and committed members, but we recognize the need for improved recruitment strategies next year. By broadening our outreach and engagement efforts, we aim to significantly increase member involvement. Our ultimate goal is to strengthen USG and make our student government more robust and inclusive for the future.

Ben: I am prepared to announce publicly the introduction of the Notification of Changes Act. This proposal will ensure transparency in the future by requiring all bylaw amendments to include a red-line version clearly marking any changes. This measure aims to prevent any further consolidation of power and ensure accountability.

Chad: To further emphasize Ben's point, Nevin purposefully concealed these changes. Initially, we trusted him to handle edits transparently, but clearly, that trust has been violated. He would present to the College Council the quote-on-quote "only" changes he had made by highlighting, bolding, or pointing them out, but in reality, deceived the College Council by not including all the changes he made. Additionally, acting in good faith, once I became aware of concerns regarding PCC and CAT, I urgently downloaded all available SGFC documents to ensure they

weren't deleted entirely. Chairs should never have to operate under this anxiety of radical behavior and the gross misuse of privileges.

Ayo: I understand there's a motion to impeach certain members. Are these the same individuals who voted to nullify the recent decisions?

Kevin: Yes, the members of the E&R committee involved are precisely those who initiated the complaint and subsequently voted for nullification of the recent spring elections. Additionally, Nevin explicitly identified these individuals as his personal friends on the E&R committee.

Andrea: Is there a structural way we can limit overlaps in roles within student government? I clearly see the issue with excessive intersection of responsibilities. Perhaps we should consider explicitly addressing this in our bylaws to prevent such a concentration of power.

Alex: We're actively working towards a comprehensive revision of the bylaws in the near future.

Andrea: How did this situation come about? Specifically, how did Nevin become the VPSO?

Elijah: Jian was initially slated to graduate on time and had been serving as VPSO. However, he graduated early, leaving the seat vacant. Unfortunately, no other members were willing to assume leadership roles in this role, resulting in Nevin taking on multiple responsibilities. It is clear we need thorough revisions in our bylaws to ensure a situation like this doesn't recur. We're currently open to suggestions and feedback on necessary bylaw changes.

Chris: In terms of why 3 ER members were included it's because they are part of Nevin's friend or because they voted to nullify the election.

Kevin: We can impeach on the basis that they have violated public trust. They have not followed their own election code.

Elijah: They were supposed to notify Demetrius. This is not available to the public anymore. This should be null and void. That kind of behavior is unacceptable.

Tim: This is exactly why they tried to nullify the spring election.

Chris: Why are the two other members of E&R not included in the impeachment motion?

Elijah: Sarah was on a Study Abroad program when this happened. Oliver was not supposed to be there. It was also very clear that Nevin did not want him to be there.

Kevin: These 3 members of E&R "sued" Nevin of the validity of the election by filing a complaint. They then subsequently voted to nullify the spring election.

Simi: Oliver. In my first meeting, it was very clear that Nevin did not like Oliver. I think Oliver tried to introduce ranked choice voting, then Nevin brought a convoluted 20-page document on things to consider if we started ranked choice voting.

Kevin: He also ordered that we order him to implement ranked choice voting if it was going to happen.

Andrea: I want to clarify that we are pursuing impeachment based on specific grounds—primarily, the attempt to nullify the recent election and Nevin’s demonstrated bias toward certain RSOs. His actions put particular RSOs at a disadvantage, such as removing support from WPH.

*Council members talk over each other about not mentioning WPH. Inaudible speech.*

*Andrea continued with the speech*

Andrea: Beyond our internal concerns within USG, Nevin’s decisions have had tangible and negative impacts on the broader student body. This broader student impact is exactly why we need to concentrate on addressing these grievances seriously.

Simi: Looking at the initial complaints, it’s clear that there is dissatisfaction among students regarding Nevin’s interactions with specific RSOs. For instance, CHOMUN and Blaze Robotics have notably raised significant concerns and complaints about his conduct.

Alex: I would now like to take a motion to impeach.

Kevin: Motion to impeach Nevin Hall from Chair of Elections and Rules Committee, Secretary of Elections and Rules Committee, Chair of Program Coordinating Council, Chair of Committee on Academic Teams, Acting Undergraduate Student Government Vice President of Student Organizations for 2024-2025 academic year, and Incoming Undergraduate Student Government Vice President of Student Organizations for 2025-2026 academic year and to impeach the following E&R members: Aiden Long, Ayla Eichler, and Evan Spear

Ben: Seconded.

Alex: We will now conduct a roll call vote.

*Roll Call Vote: [(Y) For; (N) Against; (A) Abstaining; () Absent and Can not Vote]*

Chair: Alex Fuentes (Non-voting Member)							
Class of 2025		Class of 2026		Class of 2027		Class of 2028	
Chad Coen	Y	Simi Edeki	Y	Anthony Buchfuhrer	A	Joseph Ayalew	Y
Alex Weiss	Y	Maya McWilliams		Kevin Guo	Y	Destiny Samare	Y
Odunayo (Ayo) Akinade	Y	Ben Fica	Y	Demetrius Daniel	Y	Esther Ma	Y
Soyoon/Sadie Moon	Y			Vaani Kapoor	Y	Grace Beatty	
Christopher Phillips	A					Aidan Keesler	Y
<b>Vote Summary:</b>							
For: 13							
Against: 0							
Abstaining: 2							
<i>This Motion passes with more than <math>\frac{2}{3}</math> majority</i>							

Alex: People will be informed of impeachment

Fred: Can I just confirm if this motion is to impeach the 3 E&R members from their E&R positions and not from all of USG for the purpose of minutes?

Kevin: I believe these members do not hold any other USG positions.

*Multiple individuals claimed that the aforementioned individuals hold multiple positions.*

Kevin: To clarify, the motion is to then impeach Nevin Hall, Aiden Long, Ayla Eichler, and Evan Spear from all their current positions in Undergraduate Student Government and all future positions they may hold in Undergraduate Student Government.

Demetrius: Seconded.

Alex: Does anyone want to change the vote?

*No one wished to change their voting preferences.*

*Motion passes with more than  $\frac{2}{3}$  Majority*

*The College Council moved to nominate the Program Coordinating Council Chair*

Elijah: We're currently tasked with selecting a chair for the next few weeks, specifically determining who will chair the PCC for the upcoming three meetings. We are in somewhat of a sticky situation because no individual has applied for the role. We can either move forward by confirming someone internally from within the PCC, or we have the option to designate the current Vice Chair to temporarily fill this role. However, there is no Vice Chair designated in PCC. For clarity, the potential candidates from within PCC include Gabriel, Addison Marshal, Demetrius Daniel, Connor Pool, and Louis Demonica. We can also ask an outsider to chair this committee temporarily. Please provide your feedback and any additional context on these candidates. As a reminder, nominations must formally come through the VPSO.

Demetrius: Grace would be a good pick. I support Grace. She made good contributions.

Alex: Any motions to approve Grace to the Chair given she accepts

Kevin: Motion to approve Grace Beatty as the Chair of PCC given that she accepts this nomination with unanimous consent.

Destiny: seconded.

Alex: Any objections or abstentions?

*There is none.*

*Motion was passed with unanimous approval.*

*Emergency Meeting was adjourned 8:20 PM*

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*I certify that these meeting minutes have been transcribed accurately to the best of my ability and incorporate participant-reviewed clarifications as well as my own additions for coherence (such as filling in subjects or sentence structure). In my view, these clarifications and additions have not altered the integrity or accuracy of the transcription as presented.*



May 7th, 2025

Sang Yoon (Fred) Lee

USG Communications Manager (Secretary)