



Seth Sturm <sethsturm@gmail.com>

Fwd: Planning Committee Meeting

Mary Claytor <maryannclaytor@gmail.com>

Tue, Nov 2, 2021 at 2:02 PM

To: seth sturm <sethsturm@gmail.com>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mary Claytor <[REDACTED]>
Date: September 23, 2021 at 12:19:12 PM EDT
To: rosemary ketchum <[REDACTED]>
Cc: "charlie mullins" <[REDACTED]>, Jayrd Powell <[REDACTED]>, Marilyn Monahan <[REDACTED]>, rusty williams <[REDACTED]>, Hollis Lewis <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Planning Committee Meeting

Rosemary,

Thanks for acknowledging my email. I know you are a very busy young woman. My message has been fairly consistent and about have inclusivity for everyone.

On Thu, Sep 23, 2021 at 11:15 AM rosemary ketchum <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi Mary Ann,

Thanks so much for reaching out. I appreciated your presence at our meeting last night. I will take these concerns under careful advisement.

Hope all is well,

-Rosemary

On Thu, Sep 23, 2021 at 9:44 AM Mary Claytor <[REDACTED]> wrote:

I wanted to point out something that happened yesterday for future reference because I consider you all my friends. I am not a person that disregards rules because I'm a professional. However, Selina is not. For you to design the meeting to encourage the participation of the white nonmembers, one of which does not live in West Virginia, to speak while not encouraging the black AAC member to speak is very offensive to me.

You allowing Selina, the white nonmember, to have unlimited opportunities to speak when not called on has racial undertones. One example of many is when she speculated on the outcomes of the Senior Caucus, even though she was not asked for that information. In addition, you all had discussions about the black caucus, which included Jarryd making recommendations concerning outcomes for the black caucus while ignoring the fact that the duly elected co-chair of the black caucus was present for the entire meeting.

I am sending this because I don't want anyone to view you all as racist. To reiterate, this was very offensive. If I had violated the rules the way Selina did, I would have been seen as the angry black woman disrupting the meeting. I would have gladly responded to any inquiries you had regarding the black caucus if asked. However, I didn't say anything because I wanted to honor the rules, and I chose not to give fuel to the stereotype of being a black woman.

As chair and others as members of the planning committee, I hope you all will make sure the rules are followed because it puts others of us in a sticky situation when we choose to honor those rules and you allow others to violate those rules. These types of actions are what lead to the toxicity that is associated with the AAC.

To say the least, it was disturbing to hear Harold admit he advised Selina to "outvote Seth, Mari, and others." However, his statement gives insight into what happened at the last meeting of the AAC. At that meeting, the majority of the committee agreed to pass procedural rules that disenfranchised BIPOC members in limiting their participation on subcommittees. This also seemingly violates the bylaws that require full participation in all levels of the party, including the AAC.

Why were you all outraged over Belinda submitting her plan drafted by all white people when you all are doing the same? You continue to double down on limiting participation through your acts of discrimination, ostracization, and condemnation. Being a member of this Anti-Affirmative Action Committee reminds me of Apartheid. The AAC has developed into a system of two classes; those of us who have the right to participate and those of us who don't. For example, the planning committee feeds into the stereotype that BIPOC members are untrustworthy by stating that the contact information from the survey was not released to all members because of confidentiality. However, certain nonBIPOC people have access to that information which concerns me regarding the use of that information by nonmembers. For example, Selina contacted every member of the Indigenous Caucus not named Sturm prior to their nomination meeting even though I had informed Selina that the Sturms were running for co-chair positions. I had even requested that she contact the Sturms to give them more background on the formation of the AAC. She refused.

I won't be sending this to the entire group because I decided not to send any more emails, especially since they have been ignored, but I felt this email was necessary to let you all know that your actions were offensive. I also do not want my replacement to endure what I have experienced while trying to participate. Have a blessed day, and I pray you all stay safe in your endeavors today.

Mary Ann Claytor
Co-chair of the Black Caucus