

BLUE DEVILS' ADVOCATE



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Turmoil Engulfs ASMC

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The recalls of the Associated Students of Merced College president and treasurer died due to a lack of a second to approve it at the April 28 meeting. However, the man behind the recall, Steve Hand, is not giving up. Hand, the representative for the anthropology club, is attempting a general recall by gaining 274 student signatures.

The reasons for recalling ASMC President Jessica Gutierrez and treasurer Anita Gutierrez her mother, include: lack of meetings, money issues dealing with the club funds, and the student to student book sale. Add in a slander issue, a resigned vice president, and a whole bunch of "he said/she said" into the mix and the ASMC issue is well laid out.

According to Hand, there has not been a meeting for the last seven weeks. Because the last three meetings have been canceled without a posted reason, freezing up legislation.

One of the money issues is that \$3,000 was voted to go towards bringing in a leadership speaker. The total amount for the event ended up at \$2,628.04. Then ASMC added \$300 that would go towards an event that hadn't been voted on the same account. At the ASMC meeting April 28, Gutierrez said that the \$300 was approved by Merced College President Ben Duran, but the validity of that tapement remains up in the air.

According to the ASMC President Gutierrez, her mother, is going to resign, but has not yet put her resignation in writing as of press time. She also claims that she has been doing all the work by herself without any help from anyone and there is only so much one person can do.

Student Activities say that they and others have helped without so much as a simple thank you. Student Activities director Norma Lamb says of her staff, "They work very hard, they're students, they're working full time in the office with the hours they're granted, plus some of them are full time parents and they also come in and volunteer a tremendous amount of hours. I just want my staff to get the credit that is due for their hard work. They have swallowed it many times, the comments and the rudeness, and I want to give credit where credit is due. Not only to the staff, but we also have the SSS team (and student club members), student supporting student staff that come in, and had it not been for them, Student Activities would not have been able to physically move."

Gutierrez has said in recent meetings that she is busy being a trustee, lobbying the government, and she doesn't have time to be the student body president. She further claims that she has had no advisor to show her what to do.

Bob Lenz, the ASMC advisor, says, "Early in the fall I set up a regular meeting with Jessica Gutierrez half-hour before each general meeting, which would be a half-hour every other week and she showed for the first two or three meetings and then just quit showing up. That's frequently been the pattern. I've gone over to the workroom at the scheduled time for their executive board meetings and there's been no one there. Any time they have asked for a meeting I have been more than willing to schedule them. I meet with Jessica impromptu."

Vice president Cole Strickland resigned because he felt that he was treated in an inferior manner while he was trying to do his job to the best of his ability. After helping coordinate the student-to-student book sales, secretary to the president Francisco Bugarin was told that his services were no longer necessary. According to Hand, "At that

