



June 21, 2019

The following is a statement regarding the recent removal of Michael Walsh, the 6th District Representative for the College Republican Federation of Virginia.

In light of the recent removal of Michael Walsh from his position as the 6th District Representative for the College Republican Federation of Virginia, we, the undersigned members of the JMU College Republicans, felt it necessary to shed light on what we believe to be a character assassination against a member and former Chairman of the James Madison University College Republicans. We feel this has been a clandestine process that has ambiguously brought into question Michael's integrity and devotion to the Republican party.

While Chairman of the JMU College Republicans, Michael demonstrated persistent devotion to party and club. During his tenure, Michael diligently advocated for the Republican cause by increasing both membership and participation of the JMU College Republicans. Because of his selfless decisions that have profoundly benefited our members, we feel that his removal threatens not only our success in November but also his reputation and political career.

We have expressed these concerns to Chairwoman Britt in an effort to prevent the appearance of division within the CRFV and to protect Michael's reputation. Her and her team have been given ample time to correct these mischaracterizations, however, we have been refused an explanation. Without further communication, we feel the Executive Board of the CRFV is exhibiting unprofessional and incompetent behavior, hindering our efforts at maintaining majorities this November. To promote transparency, we will be providing transcripts of the correspondence between our current chairman, Alex Rodriguez, and the CRFV Executive Board.

It is the goal of the JMU College Republicans to promote the Republican message on and near campus, and we will continue to do so. However, without a meaningful change in the conduct of the CRFV Executive Board or vindication of Michael's character, we feel that the CRFV is deviating from its Mission Statement and threatening the Federation's future success.

Sincerely,

Alex Rodriguez
Chairman, JMU CRs

James August
Second Vice-Chair, JMU CRs

Caitlin Lederer
Secretary, JMU CRs

Thomas Callaghan
Member, JMU CRs

Kyle Ford
Member, JMU CRs

Gianluca Grignoli
Member, JMU CRs

Brandon Robison
Member, JMU CRs

Frank Smith
Member, JMU CRs

Duncan Demarsh
First Vice-Chair, JMU CRs

Caroline Lindsay
Treasurer, JMU CRs

Hope Breeden
Member, JMU CRs

Ivo Dudely
Member, JMU CRs

Chris Gothard
Member, JMU CRs

Trevor Rickert
Member, JMU CRs

Noah Salvato
Member, JMU CRs

Brandon Stanley
Member, JMU CRs

From: Courtney Britt

Thu, Jun 20,
12:39 PM

To: Alex Rodriguez & Jennifer Weigle

Alex,

Thank you for reaching out by email and for your concern for the best for your chapter, the district and CRFV. We certainly would come to you if there was a question of integrity for your chapter. This was an administrative decision made by the executive committee. There will not be any further discussion.

Best,

Courtney Britt
Chairwoman
College Republican Federation of Virginia

From: Alex Rodriguez

Jun 19, 2019,
2:30 PM

To: Courtney Britt (Chairwoman CRFV) & Jennifer Weigel (Vice-Chair CRFV)

Courtney and Jennifer,

I hope you both are having a great summer so far. I am emailing you regarding the recent change of the 6th District CR Representative.

While it is my understanding that this decision was made in private by the CRFV leadership team, with information only being disclosed to those directly affected; I was hoping to get a reasoning behind Michael's departure from the position. The way in which the change was brought to my attention and the ambiguous language used to describe it, is extremely unnerving to me as Michael is a member of my chapter. As the chair of the JMU College Republicans it is my responsibility to uphold the integrity of my chapter. If there was wrongdoing done by Michael, I would very much like to know of it as we have a process to revoke membership of those the chapter deems appropriate.

I look forward to working with Brandon Kaiser as he finds his footing in his new position to ensure we hold the majorities in November.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Alex Rodriguez
Chairman of the JMU CRs

From: Alex Rodriguez

Jun 20, 2019,
1:22 PM

To: Courtney Britt & Jennifer Weigle

Courtney,

Thanks for responding. While I now understand your decision in keeping the reasoning for Michael's departure confidential, I feel that the way it was brought to most of the members of the 6th district is doing a disservice to Michael's character and reputation. If there would be a way that either you or Jennifer could clarify this in the new 6th district GroupMe, as well as pass it along to the chapters left out of the group (Christendom, Sweet Briar, Randolph-Macon and anymore I missed) so that the reason behind the transition can be clearer. Without such a clarification, I fear the ambiguity given to the group will result in chapters jumping to the wrong conclusion and therefore creating a character assassination. Such an issue might spread the 6th District Congressional Committee divisions into College Republican chapters in the 6th; something that we both know we don't need.

Thanks,

Alex

COLLEGE REPUBLICANS *at the*
UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA 

Chairwoman Britt,

On behalf of the College Republican chapter at the University of Virginia,

I am writing to you concerning the recent action by the College Republican Federation of Virginia Executive Board to remove Michael Walsh as the Sixth Congressional District Committee Representative.

In all of my dealings with Michael, he has proven to be an outstanding individual. Ever since the CRFV leadership conference in April, we have maintained a regular dialogue. During this time, he has continually expressed his willingness to aid chapters across the state, including my own, in a number of endeavors. You would be hard pressed to find an individual more devoted to the Republican cause than Michael.

Even more concerning than his dismissal, however, is the lack of reason for said action. I believe that a proper explanation would promote transparency and mitigate disunity across the Federation. As we swiftly approach November, the chapters of this Federation deserve an answer. We will not keep our majorities by withholding information from each other.

I am certain that you will uphold the values of a true conservative leader and respond with a proper justification for the executive board's decision.

Sincerely,



Matthew Nalls
President of College Republicans at UVA

LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY COLLEGE REPUBLICANS



Chairwoman Britt,

We are contacting you in regards to the recent removal of Michael Walsh of JMU from the position of 6th district representative.

We strongly disagree with the manner in which this has been handled. The lack of transparency in this has been alarming. We recognize the right of the CRFV Executive Board to make this decision, however, the way in which this has been carried out is largely defamatory to Michael's character.

Michael has an impressive drive in promoting the Republican cause in this state. We should feel pride in having such a professional, hard-working, and humble human on our side. With major elections coming up in the near future, we need as many people like him as possible.

We believe as a conservative ideal that transparency is key in all interactions. We believe Michael Walsh deserves an explanation as to why he has been removed from his position. We do not agree with the process of how this change has been brought about. The way in which this has occurred is extremely unprofessional and not up to the standard of how the federation should run.

We wish the best for the federation and for each individual in the Commonwealth of Virginia working to promoting a Republican majority in this upcoming election. We protest counter-productive actions within our organization that may cause disunity. Lastly, we encourage transparency and reason on every action in order to promote unity across the state.

Regards,

The Executive Board of the Longwood University College Republicans



College Republican Federation of Virginia

June 24, 2019
Richmond, Virginia

Good afternoon,

I would like to address the recent posts regarding the appointment of Brandon Kaiser to the 6th Congressional District Committee Representative position.

The Congressional District Representatives are appointed by and serve at the will of the Chair of the Federation. They are expected to help carry out the goals and projects of the of the Federation in their districts and represent the interests of the Federation to the congressional district Republican committees. They all sign a contract which acknowledges their responsibilities and that they can be removed at any time without cause. No one is entitled to obtaining or retaining the position.

The executive committee voted unanimously to replace Michael Walsh with Brandon Kaiser for a number of reasons and had hoped to do so quietly as to prevent from portraying Michael Walsh in a poor light or furthering disunity. In all my correspondences (as you can see from some posted below), I declined from providing any detailed reasoning specifically because I did not want to call anyone's character into question. I'm disappointed by the accusations of me and the CRFV executive committee suggesting otherwise.

Because those making this inquiry believe that his character has already been called into question and my reason for not providing further information was largely to avoid that, there seems to be only one other reason not to provide an explanation which is for the sake of unity. This, too, seems to have not been spared.

Seeing no further reason to keep this matter private, here are just some of the reasons for our decision. The executive committee felt that Michael Walsh was not carrying out the goals of the CRFV in earnest and because one of our tenets is the development of new, young leaders, we are always seeking ways to get more students involved in leadership. Brandon Kaiser, as a student at Randolph College, has great potential but limited upward mobility within his chapter. He attends a very small school in a town with several other schools, making any sort of chapter recognition very hard to come by. In contrast, as many of you have recognized, Michael Walsh is quite active in the party serving on the executive board of his local committee and working for a state senate race. He attends a much larger school and not only has more opportunities but has quite successfully used those opportunities. The opportunities that the CRFV can provide someone in Michael Walsh's position may be less than that which he has already attained and are certainly far less than those which it can provide someone like Brandon Kaiser.

It is my hope that this squashes any rumors and allows us to move forward unified to keep Virginia red this November.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Courtney Britt', with a stylized, cursive script.

Courtney Britt

Chairwoman

College Republican Federation of Virginia

**From the desk of John Massoud, Vice Chairman of the 6th Congressional District
Republican Committee**

5 messages

sjohnmassoud@aol.com <sjohnmassoud@aol.com>
To: crfvteam@gmail.com, walsh2mj@dukes.jmu.edu

Tue, Jun 25, 2019 at 6:26 AM

Dear Ms. Britt:

Attached is a letter signed by the overwhelming majority of the 6th Congressional District Committee. Regarding the removal of Michael Walsh. We hope to hear back from you regarding this incident with all possible haste. I am familiar with a public statement you issued yesterday regarding the dismissal of Mr. Walsh. Most of the signers of this letter who I have spoken regarding your public statement find it to be lacking in several areas. We hope to hear back from you regarding this incident with the real reasons that Mr. Walsh was dismissed.

I remain

your servant

S John Massoud
Vice Chairman
6th Congressional District Republican Committee

 **Courtney Britt Letter.docx**
14K

College Republican Federation of Virginia <crfvteam@gmail.com>
To: sjohnmassoud@aol.com
Cc: "Walsh, Michael James - walsh2mj" <walsh2mj@dukes.jmu.edu>

Tue, Jun 25, 2019 at 10:22 AM

Mr. Massoud,

Please find my response attached.

Best,

Courtney Britt
Chairwoman
College Republican Federation of Virginia

[Quoted text hidden]

 **Letter to the 6th Congressional District Republican Committee 6.25.19.pdf**
279K

sjohnmassoud@aol.com <sjohnmassoud@aol.com>
To: crfvteam@gmail.com
Cc: walsh2mj@dukes.jmu.edu

Tue, Jun 25, 2019 at 10:50 AM

Dear Courtney

Thanks for your email. Most of the signers (maybe not all but most) are aware of your statement and found it disingenuous at best.

yours

JM
[Quoted text hidden]

College Republican Federation of Virginia <crfvteam@gmail.com>
To: sjohnmassoud@aol.com
Cc: "Walsh, Michael James - walsh2mj" <walsh2mj@dukes.jmu.edu>

Wed, Jun 26, 2019 at 12:33 PM

Mr. Massoud,

Please find my response attached.

Best,

Courtney Britt
Chairwoman
College Republican Federation of Virginia

[Quoted text hidden]

 **Letter to the 6th Congressional District Republican Committee 06.26.19.pdf**
153K

June 21, 2019

Ms. Courtney Britt, Chairwoman
Virginia Federation of College Republicans
1500 K Street
Suite 325
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Britt:

This letter comes to you from the overwhelming majority of the Sixth Congressional District Republican Committee. We believe it is our right to know why Michael Walsh was removed as the College Republican's Sixth District Representative.

Mr. Walsh has become a well-known and respected Republican in the Northern Region of the District. He has served in the capacity of JMU CR Chair, and is currently the Vice Chairman of the Harrisonburg Republican Unit Committee. Additionally, he is the political director of Senator Mark Obenshain, the Joint Chair of the Virginia State Legislature Conservative Caucus. These credentials provide him with an excellent position from which to serve Sixth District College Republicans.

Mr. Walsh has, during his brief tenure on the District Committee, represented the CR's very well and has gained the respect of the vast majority of Committee members. Despite being both the youngest and newest member at our last meeting, which was remarkably contentious, Mr. Walsh voted his conscience and presented well founded and thoughtful rationales for his votes in a mature, level-headed manner. His conduct at the meeting earned for Mr. Walsh the admiration and approval of the Committee and among the onlookers, many of whom complimented him after the meeting for his steady manner and demeanor.

Normally the Committee would handle something like this in a special meeting, but this is a time sensitive matter. Our bylaws require a fourteen-day notice to call for a special meeting, and our Chair, Jennifer Brown, is out of town for the next couple of weeks. Therefore, the undersigned Committee members (who constitute a huge majority of the thirty-one voting members) have agreed that this letter is the best way to address this situation.

The Republican Party is in serious danger of losing our majority in Richmond in both houses. We cannot afford to have any of our volunteers or significant players distracted by internal politics as we go into this election season. The future of our Commonwealth depends on us working together at this point in history. It is the hope of everyone who signed this letter below, that you will either agree it is in the best interest of both the CR's and the Sixth District Committee to place Mr. Walsh back in his post, or explain to the Committee the reasons for his dismissal. If there are good reasons for his dismissal, we as the governing body of the Party in the region have a right to know these reasons.

Page 2

Letter to Chairwoman Courtney Britt

We also would like to know whether fundamental fairness was observed in the process, including for example, whether you provided him with a list of charges against him, if any, and also provided him with an adequate opportunity to defend himself against such charges.

We the undersigned look forward to hearing back from you regarding Mr. Walsh's dismissal.

Sincerely,

John Massoud (Vice Chair)

Karen Kwiatkowski (Secretary)

Donna Moser (Treasurer)

Jonathan Comer (Northern Region Vice Chair)

Craig Storrs (Central Region Vice Chair)

Steve Richards (Southern Region Vice Chair)

Randy Gilbert (Shenandoah County Chair)

Steve Kurtz (Warren County GOP Chair)

Bryan Cave (Page County GOP Chair)

Dan Cullers (Rockingham County GOP Chair)

Jeff Mayfield (Harrisonburg GOP Chair)

Matt Fitzgerald (Staunton GOP Chair)

Ken Adams (Waynesboro GOP Chair)

Charlie Nave (Roanoke City GOP Chair)

Vance Wilkins (Amherst County GOP Chair)

Nate Boyer (Bedford County GOP Chair/SCC Rep)

Doc Troxel (SCC Representative)

Anne Fitzgerald (SCC Representative)

Larry Bandy (Highland County GOP Chair)

Donald Helms (Botetourt County GOP Chair)

Dan Webb (Roanoke County GOP Chair)

Patsy Walker (Republican Women's Chair)

Dan Johnson (YR Representative)

Michael Walsh (College Republican 6th District)

Wendell Walker (Lynchburg Chair)

Jeff Adams (SCC Member)

David Fisher (Bath County GOP Chair)



College Republican Federation of Virginia

June 25, 2019
Richmond, Virginia

Good morning Six Congressional District Republican Committee Members and others,

In the body of the email with which I receive your letter, my earlier statement was mentioned but not in the body of the letter. Given that the letter asks for reasoning that I provided in my earlier statement, I assume it has not been seen by the entire committee. I have attached it here.

Best,

Courtney Britt

Chairwoman

College Republican Federation of Virginia



College Republican Federation of Virginia

June 24, 2019
Richmond, Virginia

Good afternoon,

I would like to address the recent posts regarding the appointment of Brandon Kaiser to the 6th Congressional District Committee Representative position.

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Courtney Britt

Chairwoman

College Republican Federation of Virginia



College Republican Federation of Virginia

June 26, 2019
Richmond, Virginia

Dear Members of the Sixth District Committee,

Thank you for your interest in the College Republican Federation of Virginia and its representative on your Committee. The CRFV is honored to be represented and takes its representation seriously. I write to clarify how the CRFV operates in regard to establishing and changing representation.

The College Republican Federation of Virginia is the state organization of the College Republican National Committee (CRNC), governed by its own constitution, subject to the CRNC Constitution.

The Republican Party of Virginia, through its State Party Plan, has long provided for representatives of the Federation to serve on the State Central Committee and each of the Congressional District Committees. As with the Virginia Federation of Republican Women and the Young Republican Federation of Virginia, the method of choosing representatives to serve on RPV committees is left to the organization being represented. The appointment and removal of these individuals is conducted by their own organization in entirely separate processes and are not subject to any other governing body.

The CRFV is proud of its association with the RPV, but as an independent organization and not an official committee of the RPV.

Pursuant to the CRFV Constitution, representatives to the RPV's Congressional District Committees are appointed by the CRFV Chair, subject to confirmation by three officers (CRFV Constitution Art. VI, Sec. 2). To the extent that any ambiguity about the replacement of these appointed representatives exists in the Constitution, it has long been the custom of the CRFV that the appointees serve at the pleasure of the chair. Pursuant to our Parliamentary Authority, such custom has the authority of a rule (RONR, p. 19, ll. 2-9).

Our practice of asking each appointee to sign an acknowledgment upon taking office that they serve at the pleasure of the chair provides evidence of this well-established practice.

No individual has a right to a position as District Representative. The formal removal provisions of the CRFV Constitution apply only to elected officers, not to appointed District Representatives.

Thank you again for your interest in our representation on your Committee and your continued partnership with the CRFV in working to elect Republicans to office in the 6th Congressional District and around the Commonwealth. Both Brandon Kaiser and I look forward to continuing that partnership.

Sincerely,

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Chairwoman

College Republican Federation of Virginia



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Courtney Britt

Chairwoman

College Republican Federation of Virginia