



Faculty calls Brunton an embarrassment

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tracts until a clause was included prohibiting faculty from dating students. Later, Brunton presented his views to the press on this issue and implied that the exchange of sex for grades had been a problem at Ohlone. Members of the faculty took affront at this implication and while the issue itself had died down in the intervening time, it was brought up again when faculty members aired grievances against Brunton.

Brunton was also accused of distributing personal business paraphernalia at a meeting with Chinese business and educational leaders who came to Ohlone on school time. Richard Grotegut and Walt Birke-dahl have both volunteered their accounts of Brunton's misconduct during the meeting with the delegation. "I'm wearing two hats today," Brunton reportedly said with a laugh. Brunton later defended his actions by stating that he had been naively overeager but this statement was met with much skepticism from the college community.

Brunton's presidency was of primary concern. As Board president, the college community felt that Brunton represented the sentiments of the Board as a whole and

thus when he presented derogatory statements to the press, they were not statements of personal opinion but those of the entire Board.

Legal counsel consulted by the Board as well as the administration stated that while individuals have the inalienable right to voice their opinions, it is recognized that a greater responsibility is undertaken when an individual is elected to a political office.

Brunton's actions caused a tumult among faculty and staff leading to a special College Council meeting as well as two Faculty Senate resolutions. The two resolutions, one in support of Treadway and the other condemning Brunton, have respectively collected the signatures of 117 and 116 of the 149 full-time faculty members. The resolution of no confidence against Brunton called not only for the Board to remove Brunton from the presidential office but also for Brunton to resign from the Board entirely.

Susan Meyers read the two resolutions at the Sept. 27 Board meeting and received a standing ovation. However, Meyers later had to reread the resolutions for the benefit of Brunton who was absent for much of the meeting. Spotted lurking outside, Brunton

was formally invited to join the meeting by faculty member Bob Bradshaw approximately an hour after it began. Shortly thereafter, another faculty member, Dennis Keller, gave Brunton a brief summary of the proceedings.

"All in all, in short, we want you gone," Keller announced.

Keller was not alone in these sentiments. Harry A. Avila also came forward and demanded Brunton's resignation. Avila repeatedly shouted, "Shame on you!" at the Board president and then demanded "Out!"

Board of Trustees member Garret Yee, currently serving in Iraq, submitted a letter reprimanding Brunton and requesting that if Brunton refused to resign, the rest of the Board vote him off. As the meeting progressed, Trustees Bill McMillin and Dan Archer also asked Brunton to resign from the Board. When asked point blank by audience members to officially remove himself from the Board, Brunton replied simply, "No."

Those in the audience who were hoping for the Board to act that night were to be disappointed as the only real action occurred when an ambulance was called for octogenarian Dan Archer.

The movement to postpone any action was forwarded by Trustee John Weed in an effort to preserve due process and supported by McMillin and Trustee Ruthe Foster. McMillin cited the Brown Act, reminding Board and audience members that action could only be taken on agenda items.

There was an immediate movement to place reorganization of the Board on the next agenda that was seconded and passed.

A community member then requested that the Board launch a self-evaluation targeting ethical practices as well as conflict of interests stemming from business or membership on other boards or panels.

The meeting was adjourned shortly thereafter.

When the Board next met on Oct. 11, reorganization of the Board was the first agenda item. With emphasis on the advice of legal counsel and that their actions were purely those of an administrative rather than punitive nature, the Board removed Brunton from the presidency. Brunton was again not present, despite repeated statements that he would attend via teleconference.

Directly after Brunton's removal, McMillin read a letter that Brunton

had previously submitted to the Board.

"I ask that you delay action on this item until at least until [sic] the earliest scheduled board meeting that both I can join you in person, and that all the potential due process and investigation of issues have been dealt with," Brunton's letter read.

Brunton had already been removed.

He went on to call the statements made by faculty, staff, students and community members "threats and emotional hysteria." He also stated that if the Board were to take action, they would be giving into "special interest groups." Brunton went on to question the advisability of faculty and staff groups meeting on school time to discuss these issues.

"I am concerned about the use of district time and resources spent on this matter and a full accounting should be made," recommended Brunton.

The Board has moved to create a specific procedure to be followed in the case of a violation of a code of ethics. The subcommittee includes three Board members and will be working closely with the College President. Brunton was not one of the three selected.

It's a hard knock life

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denial that everything was slipping away from me.

Fast forward about two months and I had moved out of California. Drugs, depression, insomnia, money and family were all big and constant problems in my life. I was, by a fantastic stroke of luck, able to finally reconnect with my mother who moved out to Kentucky for a job transfer. I moved into her apartment complex, which made life a lot easier.

By this time I had become addicted to the sleeping pills I took for my insomnia. I would have to take six or seven a night just to fall asleep. I started taking them during the day on days when I didn't have to work. I worked at Kroger's grocery store and was, to be honest, slowly destroying myself.

The apartment complex I lived in was about one block outside the ghetto of Lexington, Kentucky. It was certainly a step up from where I had lived before but its location made a lot of dangerous situations and substances more prevalent.

I really wanted to be able to go back to school but didn't have enough money. I made \$6.25 an hour at Kroger's but it never added up to enough. I was depressed at the thought of having to spend another semester out of school, and the acceptance letters from colleges in NYC only sent me into further desperation.

I began to make deliveries for one of the local drug dealers. I continually told myself "as long as I don't look at what is in this envelope I won't have a problem, just get in there and get out." It seemed like an easy hundred dollars but after a few jobs the stress and anxiety of what I was doing caught up with me and the money didn't look as good.

I spent the next week and a half locked inside my apartment. I quite

literally drove myself to insanity. I would sit in the dark for hours, I ate only watermelon for two weeks, getting up and taking the dog for a walk became a monstrous task.

I was so afraid to go outside, to face the consequences of my decisions that I simply confined myself to my apartment. I began to get more and more depressed. I would cry all day for reasons I couldn't articulate to anyone.

It got so bad that I actually begged my mother to help me. I told her that I wanted to hurt myself, that I felt out of control and that I needed help. I don't blame her for turning her back, she didn't know what to do, I had always been the more responsible and stable child. I'd never had problems I couldn't deal with myself and as she tells me now she simply felt overwhelmed.

That same night I took around 80 or 90 sleeping pills. It's a slow and very painful way to die, I have found. Your heart beats faster than it ever should and your whole body goes numb limb by limb.

My mother found me later that night and, with medical assistance, saved my life. I should have been more thankful than I was. I started

therapy after that and voluntarily went through a drug treatment program in an effort to get my life back on track.

I've come a long way in a short amount of time and I feel that I am very lucky to have been able to bounce back as well as I have. Through the kindness of strangers I found a place to live here in California as well as a job. I pay my rent on time, I try and focus all my energy on school, and I try to make things work.

When I look back at the past year of my life I think being homeless was really one of the smaller problems. Of course it's tough, of course it sucks, but it's manageable. In fact for many students in San Francisco it's an actual choice.

I think that if I had been a stronger person, if I had been able to face my problems head on rather than being stubborn and using drugs to numb the pain I would have had a better chance. While I've been clean for about three months now and have been able to get myself back into school I feel the effects of my actions everyday. Every day I work on repairing the life I ruined, every day I pay the consequences.



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