

To the Members of the Association for Student Conduct Administration and other attendees:

It has been announced to you that former President-Elect Jason Casares resigned his position. Some of you will conclude that he did so for medical reasons. I wish to set the record straight, though I have no idea if his health indeed played a part in that decision. Jason was given the chance to resign by the Association amidst impeachment proceedings, and he opted to do so. I know this because I initiated those proceedings.

I have been instructed by the Association to maintain confidentiality of the impeachment proceedings, and I will do so, since I was not informed of their outcome. I can only presume that Jason was informed that he faced impeachment if he did not resign, and that he then chose to do so. I don't know this for sure, because I can't disclose what I don't know.

What I will not maintain confidentiality about is my own story, and what happened to me. I will not remain silent, either, about the ways that our Association has failed to live up to the ideals for which I hoped – and I know that you expect – it would embody.

At the AFA convention in Fort Worth, TX in December, I made the mistake of letting my guard down while socializing with Jason about Association business. Jason took advantage of me after I had had too much to drink. I filed a criminal complaint with the police in Texas, and then decided that I felt unsafe in ASCA. I also could not stand the hypocrisy of Jason parading his expertise on Title IX, knowing how he had behaved with me. While I knew it could blow up in my face, and that I had nothing to gain but my own sense of safety, I asked ASCA to impeach Jason.

When Jason resigned, I was shocked to learn that he was still planning to attend the conference, and was still planning to present his sessions on Title IX, though several of his co-presenters have backed out of co-presenting with him. He is under criminal investigation for a sex offense, and ASCA is still allowing him to present. I needed a safe space, and to be able to attend this conference free of the hostile environment that his presence creates for me. ASCA has failed to protect me.

I asked for his sessions to be canceled, and the Association refused. This is not something the Association can afford to be ambivalent about. We cannot claim national leadership in addressing sexual misconduct, only to fail miserably in our first test within our own Association. In the process to resolve the impeachment, Jason had all the rights, and I was placed on involuntary suspension. I was repeatedly told that this isn't a Title IX matter, and while I understand that, I am speaking my truth to make sure that our Association takes a hard look in the mirror before it claims national leadership on sexual misconduct. I don't want to hurt the Association by speaking out, I want to strengthen it, cause us introspection that this can happen even within our own profession, and challenge us to walk our talk not just on our campuses, but in all phases of our professional engagement.

For those of you who will doubt me, or be swayed by Jason's implausible stories to explain himself, I did not consent to sexual contact with Jason. A verified, contemporaneous text message to this effect was submitted by me as evidence during the impeachment process. Now, I am risking my career, my role as a future President of ASCA, my professional and personal reputation, and the respect of my peers by putting this out there, knowing you will judge me for it.

I wish it had not come to this, but ASCA has not had my back, every step of the way, and it may take action against me for writing this. So may Jason. But, truth is truth. Right is right. My true friends are my true friends. My story is my own, and I hope you use it to demand that ASCA live up to its ideals. I have a right to participate here. You elected me, and I want to be able to give my service to this Association without experiencing a hostile environment throughout the rest of my term and for as many years as I continue to be an active and dedicated member. If you see me during the conference, don't avoid me. I may be upset, I may look defeated, I may even be crying, but I need your strength and support. I am here. I am not leaving. I can be both a survivor and your President-Elect. I declined to take on the role of president right away, though the bylaws permitted it, as I still need time to heal, and to become more seasoned as a leader. I have taken a leave of absence from my role on the board and will remain on leave until I am ready to resume my duties. You will have my service as you have elected me to give, but there is no reason why Jason should be able to continue in this Association or this field in any way. I'll be making that abundantly clear to the Board in the coming days, and I hope you will, too.

Sincerely,

Jill L. Creighton, Elected for President-Elect, ASCA 2016-2017

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