

Dear Associated Students of Claremont McKenna College Executive Board and CMC students,

I am writing to inform you that I am resigning my position as ASCMC President, effective immediately.

I am doing so because I now realize that I had contributed to a system of lax financial accounting that must be corrected.

In several instances, I personally made purchases for student activities and did not save and submit receipts in a timely manner. In order to get reimbursed, I submitted receipts from unrelated, and unauthorized, transactions. My intention was always to ensure those activities for which the items were purchased were successful. I realize, however, that my intentions do not justify the circumvention of our financial standards.

ASCMC's financial management practices require substantial, systemic reform. The best thing I can do to ensure positive change is to remove myself, to ensure my presence does not interfere with the necessary reform process.

Our succession plan names the Executive Vice President as my successor. I am grateful, and ASCMC is fortunate, to have someone as capable as Maya to lead us forward.

I know this will come as a shock to many of you. I know the natural response to this will be a barrage of questions alongside a flood of emotions. However, there are a few things I want you to know first:

1. I still believe in the reasons I took this job in the first place, and that's all of you. I know you lead a double life at CMC, putting in hours upon hours to make this campus as special for every student at this college as it has been for us. I know how capable you all are as individuals and would only ask that you rise to this occasion by becoming the unit I have always seen in our future. I am resigning with the hope that it will give you all an opportunity to not look backwards, but rather look to the weeks, months, and years to build ASCMC back up in a better way as I know you can do.

2. I cannot emphasize enough what an asset Maya will be to all of you in this role. She is incredibly capable, and already has experience having led an exec board meeting last semester. However, she is stepping into a role that requires more work and energy than I could ever put into words, and it is not the role she asked for, so please support her supporting you by reflecting her character of ethics, empathy, dedication, and support back to her.

3. Although I have resigned, I am spending every free second I have for the rest of the summer making sure that Maya is set up to succeed by transferring everything from conversations we've had to projects you've started to goals you've set.

Lastly, I cannot express what a privilege it has been to work with you for these past months. You have inspired, challenged, and taught me more than I could have ever imagined. I want to thank each and every one of you for the dedication, selflessness and growth you've all shown over the past few months. I know that this is what will make this challenge into an opportunity, and I'm excited to see what you make of it.

Thank you,

Elliot Behling