

## **Full Statment of Interfraternity Council President Lee Abed**

Submitted to the Associated Students Elections Committee

April 1, 2020

*Provided Courtesy of Lee Abed*

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I am here today to clear up some false allegations given on my name. To start, I am in no way affiliated with Ashley Tejada's campaign. I have supported her for President and her campaign just like many other student leaders have endorsed candidates of their choosing. I had no intention of playing any other role in this election cycle and am disappointed that I am now part of the story. The night of Sunday March 21'st Bella Martelino dropped off beers at multiple undisclosed fraternity houses in an attempt to bribe said fraternities to vote for her.

When SDSUNow filed the complaint against Bella that Bella Martellino had bribed multiple minors with alcohol, she went on the attack.

Bella texted a member of my fraternity on Tuesday morning, and asked if they could meet in person at her apartment. He called her at 10am to notify her he was outside the building(show call log). When my fraternity brother and Bella were in her residence Bella pressured my fraternity brother to take blame and say that he had gifted the alcohol rather than it coming from a New Hope, Bella indicated that since my fraternity brother's best friend was on the New Hope slate if a New Hope was found guilty his best friend would not be able to run and since my fraternity brother is not affiliated with A New Hope if he takes the blame then his best friend will still be an eligible candidate. She then prompted my fraternity brother while they were still together to take the blame via text message so she would have proof to take to the elections committee. In this text exchange it shows clearly that Bella pushes my fraternity brother to take blame for the beers and specifically asks him to make a statement clarifying his guilt and clearing her slates name. She then even asks him to re-screenshot the groupme to again show that he was the perpetrator and not her. Nobody without any outside pressure would admit to providing alcohol to minors, Bella manipulated my fraternity brother into taking blame to protect his best friend. Bella in the elections hearing Monday stated that the groupme message had been fabricated but later in the meeting mentioned and I quote her, "and I

will say flat out I made a mistake again... I should not have given an undisclosed individual beers". This shows Bella not only gave alcohol to minors in an attempt to sway the election but she also had the audacity to pressure my fraternity brother, an innocent bystander who was only looking for election advice and help. Had this not come to my attention and had I not intervened an sdsu student would be dealing with the outcomes of a Student Rights and Responsibilities investigation for providing alcohol to minors and potentially serious penalties for a crime he didn't commit.

I never planned on involving myself in this situation. The only reason I ever stepped into this, is because I had heard that a brother in my fraternity was about to take the blame for something I knew he didn't do.

Late Tuesday night I had gotten wind that Bella had plans to frame my fraternity brother in the upcoming elections hearing the next day. Later that night and early into the mornings of Wednesday I received a call from Kole Wellenstein, a member of A New Hope, that I did not pick up. I called my fraternity brother to see if he had been framed and what information Bella had to make it look like he was the provider of alcohol. I found that Bella and her team had manipulated my fraternity brother and was furious that they were trying to frame him in the upcoming meeting. In the call with Kole I expressed my concern that my fraternity brother did no wrong and was being framed and expressed to him that I had text messages proving that their slate had provided alcohol in order to bribe multiple fraternities for their votes and not only the one questioned in the GroupMe. Bella called me that night at 2:09 am because she knew I had enough information to prove that not only did she frame my fraternity brother but that she also had provided alcohol to other fraternities as well in an attempt to bribe them in the election. She asked me "What can we do to mitigate this? Are we able to take this to a private hearing?" I expressed that my fraternity brother did no wrong and should be taken out of the picture and that she needs to acknowledge and take responsibility for her actions.

The next day I woke up and heard from members of the SDSUnow slate that Bella expressed interest in withdrawing from the election and that in return the SDSUNow team would pull their complaint from the elections committee. I understood that members of the SDSUNow team felt it was important for Bella to take responsibility for

her actions and because she bribed students with alcohol in exchange for votes, A New Hope at an unfair advantage. I learned that the SDSUNow team was willing to withdraw their complaint if Bella publicly withdrew from the election, thus saving her from a public scandal and potential repercussion with the university for her actions.

It was reported in the Daily Aztec that I said, "her shit would be over" about Bella. The reality is, I called Kole out for concern my fraternity brother getting in trouble and to convey to him that I had information that would exonerate my fraternity brother and show The New Hope's responsibility for delivering alcohol to fraternities in an attempt to garner votes. The characterization that I blackmailed or forced Bella to resign is false. I did contact the daily aztec but felt that sending the proof of bella providing alcohol to minors in an attempt to bribe them in the election would do more harm than good and made the conscious decision to end dialogue with the DA because I had no desire to ruin the public reputation of another student at SDSU.

I never blackmailed Kole or Bella but I did defend my fraternity brother because they were trying to blame this entire alcohol situation on him when he was a bystander who was given alcohol from Bella and her team which they later admitted to in the elections committee meeting. The fact that the elections committee and the Daily Aztec has entertained this narrative of me (a student with no direct ties to either campaign) blackmailing someone off of he said she said evidence without consulting me is wrong. Bella Martelino and the New Hope showed they lack integrity the moment they gave and publicly admitted to giving alcohol to minors in exchange for votes... That should be the focus of these conversations.

Thank you,  
Lee

*Attached below are call logs between my fraternity brother and Bella, the first call log shows Bella called him at 7:49 pm (when she showed up to the fraternity house with the beer) 6 minutes before the GroupMe message was sent. The second call log where my fraternity brother calls Bella to inform her he is outside her apartment (10 minutes before their "text conversation" happens).*

10:54 LTE

< Recents Edit

**BM**

**Bella Martelino**

message call FaceTime mail pay

March 21, 2021

19:49 **Incoming Call**  
33 seconds (4.6 MB)

phone RECENT  
[REDACTED]

FaceTime video call

Social profile  
[REDACTED]

Notes

Favorites **Recents** Contacts Keypad Voicemail 6

17:48 Wi-Fi

< Recents Edit

**BM**

**Bella Martelino**

message call FaceTime mail pay

March 23, 2021

10:00 **Outgoing Call**  
8 seconds (1.2 MB)

phone RECENT  
[REDACTED]

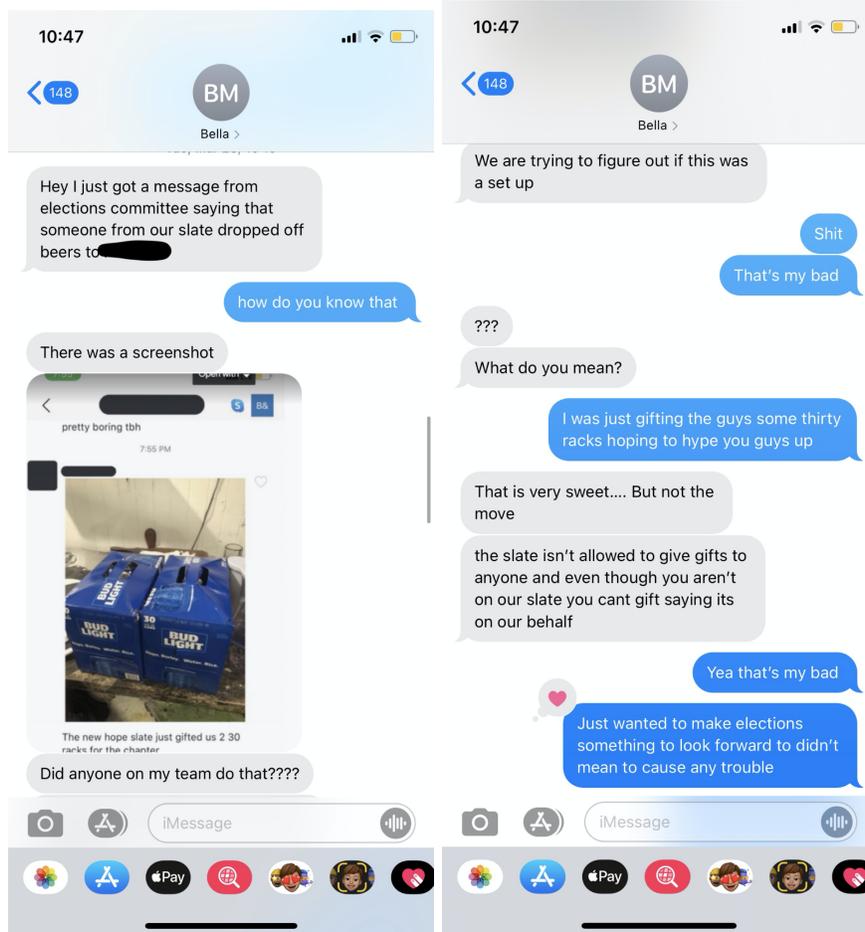
FaceTime video call

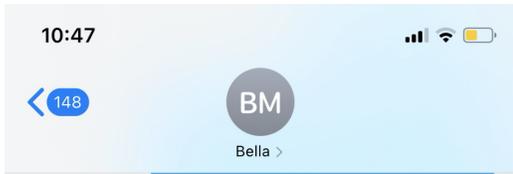
Social profile  
[REDACTED]

Notes

Favorites **Recents** Contacts Keypad Voicemail 6

Finally is the text conversation between my fraternity brother and Bella where she asks him to take the blame for the alcohol.





Do you need any help

Can you make a statement clarifying the actual situation that I can show the elations committee tomorrow morning? And then also since you live in house make sure to tell all the boys as well just to clarify our members didn't dropoff/gift that

elections\*\*

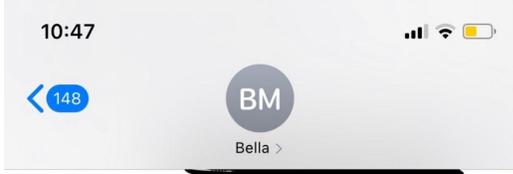
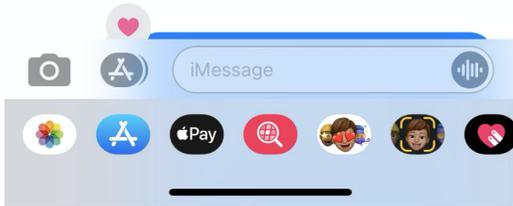
Do you want me to clarify through text

Yea and I can show them

Can you also send a screenshot of the groupie message you sent

So we can prove like its your name

Cause its blurred so we also need to make sure it matches that you were the person who said that



Bet thank u sm

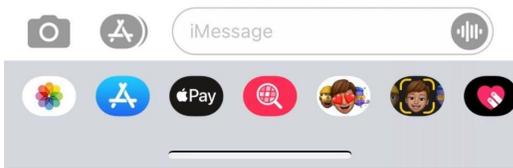
lmk if you need anything else

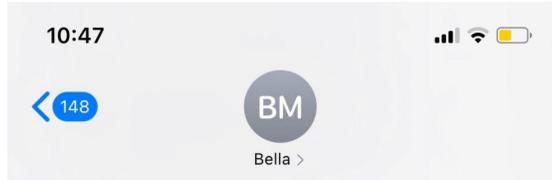
Tue, Mar 23, 23:16

Hey nate are you free?

See you at the fence thing

Sorry  
Delivered





Yea so to clarify no one from ur slate dropped off the racks, simply just wanted to make the guys look forward for elections week and perhaps put some buzz around new hope

Okay do you mind if I show them that message during elections committee Tomo morning?

Sure

and can you also send that screenshot of the groupme so we can prove its u

