

Sweet abusing power with hire

Avoiding protocol and putting John Habat into the position of administrative vice president shows a blatant abuse of power by Dr. David Sweet and university administration. Choosing to bypass a national search for the position was a display of favoritism on behalf of the administration.

In addition, bypassing the search sets a bad example for students. The administration is supposed to set an example as professionals. The students are professionals in training. When the administration breaks the rules students begin to doubt the worthiness of their education and the ethical codes of conduct that they expected to follow in their future professional careers.

The administration seems to be setting a "who you know, gets you where you want to be" example at an institution where what you learn and the effort you put forth is supposed to put you where you want to be.

If officials were to conduct a national search, it would have opened the position to all qualified candidates. This search helps to ensure that YSU hires and retains the best employees. The search provides the administration with several candidates that offer extensive and diverse experience in other geographic areas and universities.

It is also no coincidence that Habat is a long-time associate of Sweet, the person who recommended waiving the national search. If Habat were the most qualified person for the position then it would have been proven despite a national search.

Other qualified candidates deserve a chance to apply for the position but they were denied even this much. This appointment is biased and gives the impression that YSU is closed-minded to bringing in outsiders who are not "known commodities."

Furthermore, only one of the seven voting trustees on the university Board of Trustees voted against the recommendation. Dr. Hai-Shuih Wang said he wanted a national search before filling the position. The other six trustees obviously think it is permissible to bypass protocol whenever they feel like it.

Wang should not be viewed as the odd ball of the group but as the only fair trustee. Wang wanted to follow the rules of conducting the national search and not dissent from protocol because one person has "demonstrated the capabilities to do the position."

Institutions have rules about hiring to ensure fairness, to follow codes of ethics, and preserve order. Simply being the first in power does not automatically grant one the permission to make decisions regarding the best interest of the institution based on personal preference.

Since Sweet has arrived on campus he has made an on-going effort to put the people he wants in the positions he wants. Waiving this national search is just another one of Sweet's stunt to get one more comrade in his corner.