

ROWAN

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...east they should tell me why I was removed. The more openly we conduct ourselves, the less it seems we're trying to cover something up." Kibler investigated allegations of alcohol abuse, drug use and inappropriate sexual advances during the two-week Champe Fitzhugh Jr. International Honors Leadership Seminar, an MSC-affiliated program. Rowan has denied the most serious allegations, but said that on two occasions he had too much to drink. Rowan asked to address the council in open session, but his request was denied.

MSC

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...ates that any organization that receives federal funding and is classified as a government agency is required to hold open meetings for the public to attend. The A&M System general counsel instructed MSC director Jim Reynolds to keep the meeting closed under the pretense that the MSC is not part of the University and therefore is exempted from the act. However, journalism Prof. Don E. Tomlinson, a lawyer and media law expert, said the MSC was created through the University and is funded partially through student fees. The MSC should be viewed as a part of the public institution, he said. "I believe to say that the MSC is not a University entity is wrong," Tomlinson said. "I'm of the belief that meetings of this type should be held in the light, not in the dark. If the MSC is not part of the University, then what is?" This fall, each enrolled student paid \$40 for a "student center fee" as part of their fee statement, giving the MSC approxi-

"There's a real conflict of interest when two of your accusers are also voting on your removal," Rowan said. "It seems like a handful of people are driving this process." Rowan said he had tried to discuss the matter privately with individual council members, but MSC Director Jim Reynolds had pressured the members not to talk to Rowan. "We already know where he (Reynolds) stands on the issue, and he exercises a certain amount of influence. The fact that he was sharing information with Tom Fitzhugh indicates that he is not an impartial actor in this process," Rowan said. Reynolds denies acting impartially. "I have conducted myself appropriately, and have not shared

...mately \$2 million of student money. When an open records request is made to the University, it first goes to Dr. Richard Floyd, associate vice president for finance, who decides if the request is valid. If he is uncertain, the request is sent to the state attorney general's office for a and opinion and ruling. In a similar case at Sam Houston State University in 1993, members of the media requested that a student service fee advisory committee meeting be open to the public. Assistant Attorney General Loretta R. DeHay listed five prerequisites an organization must meet in order for its meetings to fall under the requirements of the Sunshine Act. "The body must be an entity within the executive or legislative department of the state," DeHay wrote in her response to Sam Houston. "The entity must be under the control of one or more elected or appointed members. The meeting must involve formal actions or deliberation between a quorum of members. The discussion or action must involve public business or pub-

...information with anyone outside this process," Reynolds said. Rowan said a delegation from the MSC executive committee, which recommended his removal Sunday night, approached him and gave him the opportunity to resign before the Council removed him, but Rowan said he refused. "I told them if I resigned, nobody will ever find out the truth and this thing will just be swept under the rug," Rowan said. Moffitt said an open application process for MSC president will begin once Southerland has ruled on Rowan's appeal. A special committee appointed by Kate Petree, MSC vice president for human resources and a senior meteorology major, will interview the applicants and make a selection.

...lic policy and the entity must have supervision or control over that public business or policy." DeHay decided that since the committee was only making suggestions, and not decisions that would be enacted, the meeting did not fall under the Sunshine Act. Tomlinson says the MSC meets all five prerequisites as a government agency. Dr. Bill Kibler, associate vice president for student affairs, submitted a report to MSC director Jim Reynolds Friday concerning Rowan's alleged misconduct last week. An executive council meeting was held Sunday, but the decision was not made until Monday's meeting. All meetings were closed, and officials have refused to release any documents. Wayne Overbeck, author of "Major Principles of Media Law," wrote in the 2001 edition of the book, "School officials have sometimes used it [FERPA] as an excuse to withhold newsworthy and non-sensitive information about students involved in athletics or other newsworthy extracurricular activities."

MSC Current Issues Awareness Presents...

The Stem Cell Forum

with special guests including: **Father Michael Olson - Saint Mary's Seminary**
Rabbi Peter Tarlow - Hillel Foundation
Prof. Geritt DeVries - Dept. of Political Science
Dr. Duane Kraemer - TAMU Vet School



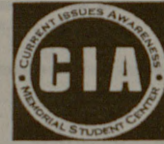
Tuesday, September 4
6:30pm- 8pm
Location: MSC 225
Free Admission

Contact Joe Williams at (979) 845-1515 for more information.

<http://cia.msc.tamu.edu>



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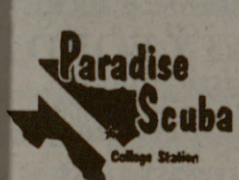
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