

## Time to give up the recall effort

During the summer, supporters of former Rebel Coach Jerry Tarkanian have made two attempts to dethrone Carolyn Sparks, chair of the University of Nevada System Board of Regents.

In the university hierarchy, the regents are at the top of the totem pole and subsequently are responsible for governing its operation.

When UNLV was divided over the Tarkanian-Maxson war, some suspected that Sparks' allegiance to the administration clouded her judgement. Instead of launching an indepth investigation into the event to end further discussion and controversy, she ruled that an investigation was unnecessary.

Maxson-gate, the secret videotaping of a conditioning class attended by some UNLV basketball players, violated all concepts of academic freedom and privacy, according to the opposing group.

The Citizens for Academic Freedom not only charged that Sparks failed to challenge the growing scandal stemming from the incident, but also that she acted as a puppet — and President Maxson played the role of puppeteer.

Since then Sparks has lucked out in two

recall attempts. In May, Citizens for Academic Freedom filed a notice of intent to circulate a petition advocating Sparks' recall. By June, the group had to abort their signature drive because one of the three citizens who registered the intent form did not live in Sparks' district and therefore invalidated the petition. They had to discard 7,000 signatures which had been collected.

To recall Sparks the organization had to gather 10,301 signatures from registered voters in district B. During round two, the citizen's group collected an impressive 13,996 for the recall effort.

The overzealous tactics of the recall squad did not produce enough signatures to meet the necessary requirements. However, they have not given up and have vowed to step back into the ring for round three. After all, the third times the charm.

But let's be realistic. Tarkanian is gone now and Maxson won't even think about another scheme like that for a while. UNLV has its own resident NCAA expert and the turmoil brought on by Maxson-gate has at last subsided. No one is proposing that Tarkanian supporters forgive and forget, but maybe they could channel their energy into a less futile endeavor.

They propose to replace Sparks with Danny Tarkanian, the former Rebel coach's son, in order to prevent the administration from taking advantage of the athletic department in the future. Obviously, this will result in a board of regents which is more sympathetic to athletics. But will academic proponents launch future attacks.

Sparks has been in office for eight years and the only thing said to discredit her is that she sided with the university president instead of the basketball coach. If the Citizens for Academic Freedom really advocated a free academic environment, they would stop this haphazard pursuit of Sparks and allow the regents and the university to concentrate on university business.

Time is mending fences here on campus and no one wants another scene of warring students—pro-administration vs. pro-athletics. UNLV is too small to withstand such conflict.

For the sake of UNLV, the Citizens for Academic Freedom should just throw in the towel.

The above is the opinion of The Rebel Yell. All other inclusions on the opinion page reflect the opinions of the author or artist indicated and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Rebel Yell staff.

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### TUITION

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universities belonging to the Western Interstate Compact on Higher Education (WICHE).

Kostman said he felt WICHE was the only justification given at the meeting for the increase. "I don't think it a need to raise tuition just because WICHE demands," said Kostman.

Buster Neel, vice president for finance and administration said, "Future tuition increase is inevitable it is just a matter of when.

"The economy and legislation will determine whether UNLV's tuition will keep increasing

at such a rapid rate."

"Students are not receiving less benefits for more money because they are paying for an education and the quality of that education hasn't changed," Neel said.

"From day one, Maxson made it clear that we were not to do anything to hurt the quality of education. You might have to stand in line longer or be inconvenienced in some other way but that is a small price to pay for the quality to remain the same."



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