



Quill Nook Farm

Proposed for H.I.: A Bill of Rights for Ethics Respondents

"We don't appreciate what we have until it's gone. Freedom is like that. It's like air. When you have it, you don't notice it." – Boris Yeltsin

1. The right to independent investigation of a case, over and above the subjective social judgement of five State Representatives appointed by one Speaker (one who in my direct experience lacks management training and acumen).
2. The right to not be discriminated against. There shall be no abrogation of the House Discrimination Prevention Policy for anyone, as I was by the Representative from Dover.
3. The right to do policy work and to fulfill the oath of office¹.
4. To right to restorative process, and default to this process in all cases unless there is a compelling reason to us the typical (let's call it what it is) punitive process.
5. The right to the presumption of innocence and to nonretaliation.
6. The right to face a falsifiable accusation.
7. The right to a confidential proceeding.
8. The right to appeal to reason. E.g., No response from the Panel when asked by me why it was declining to undertake my requested review of its conduct when its Chittenden County members were overheard openly disparaging me solely based on my gender.
9. The right to a "second look" and an expungement for Panel overreach.
10. The right to be angry when one is denied these rights. (The Speaker made her complaint to the Ethics Panel about me not for any misconduct, but because in her words, I "asked a lot of questions" about process. Which is true, like I asked "Can I talk to H.R. alone?" and was denied that, no reason given. But being angry while male is bad "optics," as I have been told by Panel members and the Speaker.)
11. The right to apologize and to meaningfully make things right.
12. The right to call out subjectivity and historic bias inherent in unwritten rules like those enforced under vague standards of "integrity."

Respectfully submitted to the Senate Government Operations Committee,

Tristan Roberts

¹ L'il reminder: Vermont Constitution: "...In all things, conduct yourself as a faithful, honest Representative and guardian of the people, **according to the best of your judgment and ability.**" Emphasis added

