



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

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Budget and Finance Committee reaffirms Sean McCabe as the Controller of the Navajo Nation



Division of Human Resources Director Reycita Toddy (left) told the Committee that she had not received any formal documentation regarding the removal of Controller Sean McCabe.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Wednesday, the Budget and Finance Committee issued a memorandum directing the Office of the Controller and the Office of Management & Budget to recognize Sean McCabe as the Controller of the Navajo Nation, following President Buu Nygren's unlawful attempt to terminate McCabe's employment.

During the meeting, McCabe addressed concerns over the President's actions, describing the situation as an unprecedented and unlawful attempt to seize control of the Nation's financial operations.

"The Office of the President and Vice President has illegally installed an illegal controller, attempting to reverse the financial safeguards I've established," Controller McCabe said. "These are bullying tactics by the Executive Branch. What is happening is dangerous. It's dangerous to the Navajo people and to the integrity of our government. I've only tried to hold our money accountable and ensure transparency. With 30 years of experience as a CPA, my goal has always been to protect the Nation's funds, no matter who is in office. This is an egregious attack on my staff, our policies, and the Navajo Nation. We're better than this."

He also informed the Committee that employees within the Office of the Controller are fearful of the work environment and that some fear retaliation from the Executive Branch for voicing their concerns publicly.

The Committee voiced strong concerns over the manner in which President Nygren has attempted to appoint an “interim” controller, citing a clear breach of law.

In accordance with 12 N.N.C. § 202(B)(2) of Navajo Nation Code, the Controller serves at the pleasure of the Navajo Nation Council. The Office of the Controller’s statutory plan of operation states, “President of the Navajo Nation, with the consent of the Budget and Finance Committee, may appoint an Acting Controller to serve during vacancies of the Controller pending formal action by the Navajo Nation Council.”

Division of Human Resources Director Reycita Toddy informed the Committee that she had not received any formal documentation regarding the removal of Controller McCabe or the appointment of an “interim” controller. She explained that although she was verbally notified of an intended termination, no official personnel action forms (PAFs) were submitted.

Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty recommended that Director Toddy develop an action plan to address the hostile environment created by the unlawful appointment of an interim controller.

The Committee directed Toddy to implement policies within the Personnel Policies Manual to protect the employees from any harassment resulting from the illegal action.

Among several factors, Council members insist that President Nygren’s attempt to terminate Controller McCabe was done in retaliation for the Office of the Controller’s role in providing financial documents related to OPVP’s reallocation of funds from missing persons services to cover President Nygren’s travel and operational expenses.

The Budget and Finance Committee voted unanimously, with three in favor and none opposed, to issue the directive to the Office of the Controller and the Office of Management and Budget.

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