

Ayden Férdeline – Abstention reasons GNSO Council Consent Agenda vote – 20 December 2018

Ayden Férdeline: “I have reviewed the Standing Selection Committee mailing list to understand how they have formed their recommendation. This is in relation to motion number two. And I think it’s a stretch to say that the names they have put forward as a consensus decision with even one comment on their mailing list stating I’m slightly amused at declaring a 4/5 result a consensus decision. The comments that they have provided in justifying their position strike me as insufficient. They have noted that both candidates are extremely qualified and both candidates would be excellent candidates. The only differing comment was one from the Business Constituency that noted that the chosen candidate brings a real world business perspective to the policy discussion. But the role of the Fellowship Program Mentor is to represent the entire GNSO not just one constituency and so if this is the only differentiate between the two candidates it’s not a justification that I find overly compelling. And I think it’s also inaccurate if you look at the CV of the other candidate. I realise it’s probably not feasible for one person to represent the entire GNSO as a Fellowship Program Mentor. But the decision to allocate the GNSO just one seat here is well outside of the control of the Standing Selection Committee but what is in control of the Standing Selection Committee is to evaluate all of the candidates for the one seat and to provide a valid justification for their decision and I don’t think that happened on this occasion. There were votes that were cast in support of the main candidate with no published justification for how or why their decision was reached. We have just three comments for five votes. And the other candidate who received the remaining four votes received nearly identical comments in support of their application. So it’s for these reasons that the Standing Selection Committee’s justification for the candidate that they have recommended is lacking and that is why I am abstaining. Thank you.”