

Title:

Proposal to Clarify Graduate Student Representation

Brief Description:

The change would be a clarification to make the handbook reflect the changed needs of graduate students due to explosive growth in graduate student enrollment at Arkansas State University since this section was originally written, and to reflect the effective role currently being manifested by the Graduate Student Council. The proposed change is: alter “The Student Government Association (SGA) serves as the collective voice of the student body” to “The Student Government Association (SGA) serves as the collective voice of the undergraduate student body and the Graduate Student Council (GSC) serves as the collective voice of the graduate student body, while together they represent the collective voice of the entire student body.”

Sponsoring Committee:

Graduate Student Council

Contact:

LaDesta McCann, GSC President

Tom Henry, GSC Vice-President

Statement of Proposed Action:

Proposed change in the Faculty Handbook, Section I, Part b.6, Students: p. 7.

Rationale:

After review of the current University Faculty Handbook, Section I, Part b regarding *Goals, Rights and Responsibilities at Arkansas State University-Jonesboro*, with regards to I.b.6, *Students*, this committee proposes to clarify the Handbook’s wording from “The Student Government Association (SGA) serves as the collective voice of the student body” to “The Student Government Association (SGA) serves as the collective voice of the undergraduate student body and the Graduate Student Council (GSC) serves as the collective voice of the graduate student body, while together they represent the collective voice of the entire student body.”

This clarification is needed due to the rapid and explosive growth of graduate student enrollment since this Faculty Handbook section was previously written. Since that time graduate student enrollment has nearly doubled from approximately 13% to over 25% of the overall university enrollment as listed in the official University Fact Book as distributed by the Office of Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment. Also, this change will reflect how the Graduate Student Council is currently representing the needs of ASU graduate students despite being hampered by outdated and somewhat ineffective structural limitations. As a result of this change, the GSC will also be allowed to name committee members to the last three SGOC committees that they are currently excluded from as well as to all ad hoc committees formed for purposes such as search committees for positions such as Chancellor and System President.

Additionally this change would allow the Faculty Handbook to more accurately reflect current manifestations of student representation as well as allow the GSC and the SGA to "play to their strengths" while better helping the University accomplish its goal of becoming a quality research oriented school of choice.