

Shared Governance Proposal to Change Existing Student Government Structure & Funding

- I. Date: February 23, 2009
- II. Sponsoring Constituent: Graduate Student Council (GSC)
- III. Statement of the Issue: While the GSC is recognized as a constituency group in the Shared Governance Process, in the student organization structure the GSC is a “Registered Student Organization” (RSO) which must compete for funding with other RSOs via an undergraduate-run Action Fund. Graduate students, who pay the same Student Activity Fee as undergraduate students, do not have an appropriate voice in determining how the fee is spent, nor do we have access to any direct funding source. Any policies or actions the GSC wishes to address through the shared governance of ASU or independent activities benefiting the graduate student community are significantly restricted by the ambiguous and contradictory student government organizational structure. This ambiguity has created a situation where the graduate student community has been unable to adequately address the needs of this growing constituency group. The GSC, and the student we represent, concludes that the current structure of student government does not effectively meet the needs of graduate students.
- IV. Proposal: The GSC proposes a revised student government structure which will incorporate the needs of graduate students. This proposal will also impact the Faculty Handbook and is presented as both a structural change and a Faculty Handbook change. The proposed changes are as follows:
 - A. Remove the GSC as a Registered Student Organization and place them in the ASU structure parallel to the Student Government Association (SGA).
 - B. Establish a student government structure so that the GSC shall be the sole voice of graduate students and SGA shall be the sole voice of undergraduate students. This structure, however, shall not prohibit the two organizations from addressing issues in tandem.
 - C. In the Faculty Handbook, change *Section 1.b.6. Students* to read:

Students are encouraged to express their views on issues of institutional policy and on matters of interest to the student body. The University seeks to ensure that students have appropriate input into the making of major policy, program, and budget decisions. The Student Government Association (SGA) serves as the collective voice of the undergraduate student body. The Graduate Student Council (GSC) serves as the collective voice of the graduate student body. Students participate in the deliberations of official decision-making bodies at the University. University committees that recommend institutional decisions should include student members from both constituency groups as deemed appropriate by the SGOC. The opinions of students are sought, heard, and considered in major decisions affecting every facet of the University.

D. Incorporate a funding scheme for the GSC, developed from the Student Activity Fee, as follows:

1. In AY 2009-2010, the GSC shall receive 20% of the total amount of student activity fees paid by the graduate student population enrolled in AY 2009-2010
2. In AY 2010-2011, the GSC shall receive 40% of the total amount of student activity fees paid by the graduate student population enrolled in AY 2010-2011
3. In AY 2011-2012, the GSC shall receive 60% of the total amount of student activity fees paid by the graduate student population enrolled in AY 2011-2012

Please see the attached research paper submitted to the University Community for review on January 21, 2009 for research supporting this proposal.