



UNIVERSITY OF  
MARYLAND  
UNIVERSITY SENATE

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March 15, 2013

Zachary Sivo  
8000 Boteler Lane, Apt. 411B  
College Park, MD 20740

Dear Mr. Sivo,

The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) examined the proposal entitled, "Upholding Shared Governance: Creation of a Single-Member Constituency Representative Position for 5-Year Program Students (Senate Doc. No. 12-13-44)" at its March 13, 2013 meeting.

The SEC carefully reviewed the proposal and discussed the current eligibility criteria for all senators as stipulated in the University's Plan of Organization ([http://www.senate.umd.edu/governingdocs/Plan\\_of\\_Organization.pdf](http://www.senate.umd.edu/governingdocs/Plan_of_Organization.pdf)) and the Senate's Bylaws (<http://www.senate.umd.edu/bylaws/>). Specifically, the Plan of Organization states:

### 3.5 Other Senators

In order to provide some representation for members of the campus community who do not meet the criteria for inclusion in the Faculty, Staff or Student constituencies, the Senate, in its Bylaws, may define up to ten additional constituencies, each to be represented by one Senator, elected or appointed according to procedures to be set forth in the Bylaws.

After careful consideration, the SEC concluded that the concerns that you raise are about eligibility not representation. 5-year program students are represented by the undergraduate senators while they are undergraduates, and by graduate students in their fifth year of the joint program. The SEC agreed that our governing documents do not allow for "incoming" members of any constituency to be eligible to serve on the Senate.

In addition section 3.4.b Graduate Student Senators states:

(5) A graduate student Senator must be continuously enrolled and be certified by the Graduate School as a full-time graduate student in a graduate degree program at the University during the academic semesters served in the Senate, and shall not hold academic rank, nor an administrative or staff position, but may be a graduate assistant, graduate research assistant, or graduate fellow.

Students in the 5-year programs are allowed to serve for up to three years as undergraduate senators. However, the Graduate School cannot verify that a student in a 5-year program is a "full-time graduate student in a graduate degree program at the University during the academic semesters served in the Senate" until after that individual

has officially earned his/her bachelor's degree and the program has approved that the student has fulfilled all necessary requirements to matriculate as a graduate student.

The single-member constituencies were created to provide representation for those who are not already represented on the Senate. Over the last several years, the Senate has made strides to insure that part-time graduate students, adjunct faculty and professors of the practice, and head athletic coaches were given representation because they otherwise were not represented. However, creating a single-member constituency for 5-year program students is not necessary to ensure representation. They are already represented.

Thank you for taking the time to craft a proposal for Senate consideration. Should you have any questions about the SEC's decision, please do not hesitate to contact, Reka Montfort at 301-405-5804.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MNS', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Martha Nell Smith  
Chair

MNS/rm