



University Senate PROPOSAL FORM

Name:	Adam Berger, Chair, Senate Student Affairs Committee
Date:	27 September 2016
Title of Proposal:	Review of the Senate Student Affairs Committee Charge
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Unit/Department/College:	Bioengineering/Clark School of Engineering
Constituency (faculty, staff, undergraduate, graduate):	Undergraduate
Description of issue/concern/policy in question:	<p>The Senate bylaws do not currently reflect the full scope of what the Senate Student Affairs Committee (SAC) does. The current Senate Bylaws specify the committee's charge as: "formulate and continually review policies regarding all non-academic matters of student life including, but not limited to, student organizations, resident life, extracurricular activities, and student concerns in the campus community." In addition to this charge, the SAC has been doing quite a bit of work the past few years in advising other committees on policies that affect the lives of students. Although this is not codified in the Senate bylaws, this is something that has become the norm.</p> <p>The SAC is unique in that it is the only committee where a majority of its members are students rather than faculty/staff/ex-officio, as is true with the other Senate committees. Other committees may only have one or two students that can give input on policies, even when the policies directly impact the lives of students. By consulting with the SAC, committees can and have bypassed this limitation in their representation when considering certain policies. For example, last year, the SAC advised on the Student Grievance Procedures and the Policy on Excused Absence. While both of these policies were more academically focused and charged to other committees, the input provided by the SAC was critical in shaping the revised policies. At an institution of higher education such as the University of Maryland, the academic and non-academic aspects of student life are often interwoven, and this close relationship has made the SAC a valuable partner in the Senate's efforts to improve the student experience at</p>

	<p>Maryland.</p> <p>Secondly, the Student Affairs Committee has historically had difficulties achieving a quorum at its meetings. Currently, the Senate Bylaws establish quorum as 11 voting members. Last year alone, only one of the SAC meetings had a quorum of its members. Based on conversations with the Director of the Senate and Senior Coordinator, it seems that this has been an issue for many years and no good solution has been found to date.</p>
<p>Description of action/changes you would like to see implemented and why:</p>	<p>The Senate should revise the SAC's current charge to codify what has historically been one of the committee's most valuable roles: advising other committees on policies that directly affect student life, whether academic or non-academic.</p> <p>The Senate should also reconsider the committee's quorum requirements, given that achieving quorum has been a perennial problem for the SAC.</p>
<p>Suggestions for how your proposal could be put into practice:</p>	<p>Charge the Elections, Representation, & Governance Committee with reviewing the charge and quorum requirements of the Student Affairs Committee and proposing revisions to the Senate Bylaws.</p>
<p>Additional Information:</p>	

Please send your completed form and any supporting documents to senate-admin@umd.edu or University of Maryland Senate Office, 1100 Marie Mount Hall, College Park, MD 20742-7541. Thank you!