



UNIVERSITY SENATE

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Undergraduate Student

DESCRIPTION OF ISSUE

The University Senate provides an opportunity for enrolled undergraduate students to apply for membership on its committees. The application process is held annually in April. The timing of the application process precludes undergraduate freshman students from serving on a Senate committee until their sophomore year. As a result, the "current" freshman experience regarding university policies and the ever-changing issues is missing from committee discussions and consideration. Examples of university policies and issues that could benefit from a current freshman perspective include transportation, AlcoholEdu course, safety, equity and inclusion, and residential life housing.

DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE

This proposal identifies three University Senate committees that would greatly benefit from a current undergraduate freshman student perspective. Specifically,

1. Campus Affairs Committee
2. Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Committee
3. Student Affairs Committee

Each of the three committees would add one volunteer undergraduate student member with voting rights to represent the freshman class.

The Bylaws of the University Senate would be amended to add a mid-academic year volunteer committee member application process for enrolled undergraduate freshman students. The changes to the Bylaws could be amended as follows:

Bylaws of the University Senate at the University of Maryland

ARTICLE 5 COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE

5.5.f Terms on standing committees shall be two (2) years for faculty and staff, one (1) year for students, **with exception for an undergraduate freshman, and six months for an undergraduate freshman student.** Appointments to two-year terms shall be staggered: that is, as far as practical, half of the terms from each faculty or staff constituency shall expire each year. Terms shall begin on July 1 of the appropriate year, **with exception for an undergraduate freshman student, which shall begin on January 1.**

ARTICLE 6 STANDING COMMITTEE SPECIFICATIONS

6.2 Campus Affairs Committee:

6.2.a Membership:

- (1) The committee shall consist of an appointed presiding officer; six (6) faculty members; ~~three~~ ~~two~~ (3) ~~(2)~~ undergraduate and two (2) graduate students; two (2) staff members, with one exempt and one non-exempt to the extent of availability;

6.6 Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion Committee:

6.6.a Membership: The committee shall consist of an appointed presiding officer; five (5) faculty members; three (3) exempt staff members; two (2) non-exempt staff members; ~~three~~ ~~two~~ (3) ~~(2)~~ undergraduate and two (2) graduate students;

6.10 Student Affairs Committee:

6.10.a Membership: The committee shall consist of an appointed presiding officer; ~~nine~~ ~~eight~~ (9) ~~(8)~~ undergraduate students, of whom four (4) must be Senators; four (4) graduate students, of whom two (2) must be Senators; two (2) faculty members; two (2) staff members with one exempt and one non-exempt to the extent of availability;

SUGGESTION FOR HOW YOUR PROPOSAL WOULD BE PUT INTO PRACTICE

Using the existing online process, to volunteer to serve on a committee, the undergraduate freshman student must visit the Senate website in December and complete an online interest form. The volunteer system will ask the student to log in using his/her University Directory ID & Password before showing the form. The student will be able to pick up to two committee choices from the list on the form. Volunteer forms and statements will be reviewed by the Senate's Committee on Committees and selections made accordingly. The selected committee members will begin to serve their term in January. They will have a term of 6 months.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION