



Plan of Organization Review Committee (PORC) Review of the Relationship Between the Senate and the University's Student Organizations

TO Rochelle Newman, Chair, Senate Executive Committee (SEC)

FROM Nicholas Montgomery, Chair, Elections, Representation & Governance (ERG) Committee

In the course of the ERG Committee's review of and deliberations associated with its charge on Implementation of an SGA Ex-Officio Representative on the Senate Standing Committee for Academic Procedures and Standards (APAS) ([Senate Document #21-22-16](#)), committee members agreed that the broader principle behind the relationship and engagement between the Senate and the two major student organizations at the University should be reviewed. While the scope of the ERG Committee's charge was narrowly focused on the Student Government Association's (SGA) and Graduate Student Government's (GSG) representation on the APAS Committee, a comprehensive review of representation by these organizations on whether and how it could be constructive and mutually beneficial would be very helpful and falls more clearly under the purview of a body such as PORC. As noted in the report on Senate Document #21-22-16, the ERG Committee voted to recommend to the SEC that it charge PORC with such a review.

The ERG Committee recommends that PORC's review be composed of two broad components: the principles associated with the relationship between the Senate and the student organization and the practical implications of the engagement of their representatives on Senate committees and with issues of interest to the bodies. During its final meeting of the year, on May 5, 2022, the ERG Committee discussed some additional elements associated with the two broad components that PORC could also consider as part of this review including the following:

- The principles behind student organizations, as bodies representing the student constituency, being represented on Senate bodies when the gross majority of ex-officios on committees represent an administrative office, unit head, or role;
- The principles on why or which student organizations should receive representation on any Senate bodies;
- The principles that differentiate which Senate bodies should include student organization representation, should they receive representation at all;
- The principles associated with the need to differentiate constituency-based student representation and student organization representation on Senate bodies; and

- The principles and expectations associated with communication across the constituency-based student representatives, the student organization representatives, the Senate bodies, and the Senate leadership.

The ERG Committee agreed that these are broad principal issues and concerns that should be addressed holistically and therefore respectfully request that the SEC revise PORC's charge to incorporate this critical review.