



BOARD OF REGENTS

SUMMARY OF ITEM FOR ACTION, INFORMATION OR DISCUSSION

TOPIC: University System of Maryland Student Council (USMSC) Constitutional Amendments

COMMITTEE: Education Policy and Student Life

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING: June 5, 2013

SUMMARY:

The USM Student Council is proposing changes to its constitution. The bylaws of the USMSC have been amended (an act which does not require Board of Regents approval), and the proposed constitutional changes correspond to the updates that have been made to the bylaws.

Proposed amendments include, but are not limited to:

- Technical and wording modifications,
- Revisions in the timing of representatives' terms to follow the fiscal year rather than the academic year, and
- Changes to officers' titles and responsibilities; these changes reflect the sometimes varying needs of undergraduate and graduate student bodies.

The proposed changes have been discussed with and approved by the Chancellor and Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. The red-lined version of the Constitution is attached.

ALTERNATIVE (S): The Committee may choose to deny the proposed amendments or may recommend edits to the proposed changes.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact associated with these amendments.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION: That the Committee on Education Policy and Student Life recommend that the Board of Regents approve the amendments to the University System of Maryland Student Council's constitution.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

DATE:

BOARD ACTION:

DATE:

SUBMITTED BY: Joann Boughman

301-445-1992

jboughman@usmd.edu

USMSC Constitutional Amendments

SECTION I: REPRESENTATION

(A) Each degree-granting institution will have two (2) representatives on the University System of Maryland Student Council ("Council"). The representatives will be selected as specified by the by-laws with the advice and consent of the institution president or Regional Center executive director.

(i) Regional Centers. University System of Maryland Regional Centers shall submit petitions for full membership to the Council. Regional Centers who wish to continue their membership with the council will submit a resolution before the Council on the last meeting of the Council's schedule. The Council must pass the resolution in order for the Regional Centers to obtain full membership in the succeeding Council year.

(B) Each degree-granting institution or Regional Center shall have one vote on the Council. Regional Centers may be granted full-voting rights upon Council approval pursuant to Section I.A.i. Only the representatives will be allowed to vote. No absentee or proxy votes will be allowed.

(C) The Student Regent will be an ex-officio member of the Council, the Executive Board, the Executive Cabinet, and all constituent committees.

(D) The representatives will serve a term from July 1st to the following June 30th.

SECTION II: OFFICERS AND DUTIES

(A) The President calls and presides at all meetings of the Council. He or she will appoint, with majority approval of all Council representative present, the Chairperson of all committees created by the Council and serves as an ex-officio member of each. The President reports to the Chancellor and the Board of Regents.

(B) The Vice-President for Undergraduate Affairs assumes the duties of the President during his or her absence or disability if the President is a graduate student. He or she will

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serve as the chairperson of the Undergraduate Affairs Committee. He or she will perform such additional duties as the President requests.

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(C) The Vice-President for Graduate Affairs assumes the duties of the President during his or her absence or disability if the President is an undergraduate student. He or she will serve as the chairperson of the Graduate Affairs Committee. He or she will perform such additional duties as the President requests.

(D) The Director of Finance and Advancement shall serve as a member of the President's Cabinet and will, among the other duties described in the by-laws, maintain financial reports for the Council, and perform such additional duties as the President may request. The Director of Finance and Advancement will formulate a semi-annual report of the financial activity of the Council, if applicable.

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(E) The Director of Communications shall serve as a member of the President's Cabinet and will, among the other duties described in the by-laws, maintain the minutes, rolls and other such records of all regular and closed meetings of the Council. He or she is responsible for distributing the minutes of the Council to its members and for sending out written notices of all regular and special meetings. He or she will perform such additional duties as the President may request.

SECTION III: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

(A) Election of officers for the succeeding Council year will be held annually, on the last day of the Council year. Vacancies that occur during the Council year will be filled by the Council.

(B) All members are eligible to run for officer positions, including Regional Center representatives upon the approval of their membership.

(C) The Student Regent will plan and execute the Council elections if the President is a candidate for any office. In the event that the President is a candidate for any office, the Student Regent will and count the votes and announce the new officers immediately after the balloting.

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(D) Voting will be by secret ballot.

(E) New officers will be determined by simple majority.