

## **Summary of Senate Bill III-AR-2:**

### **An amendment to create an ASSU for all students through effective advocacy and improved programming**

1. The proposal allows graduate and undergraduate students to represent themselves in the way that works best for each.

- It creates separate legislative bodies for each group, allowing representatives to focus their efforts on issues relevant to them.
- The Undergraduate Senate would retain the ASSU senate's existing formal structure, appropriate because it effectively manages a large institution and organizes a large number of student volunteers.
- The Graduate Student Council would represent graduate students in the same capacity that the Undergraduate Senate serves its population, but its structure would be much more open and flexible, allowing its student volunteers to use their time more efficiently and allowing the organization to adapt to its changing needs.

#### ***What it solves:***

The GSC is currently the de facto representative body for graduate students, simply due to its more effective structure. It would be further strengthened if it were brought to the same level as the senate and merged with its graduate half. This way, graduates will be represented by only one organization and it will allow all elected graduates to serve in a structure that works well for its constituents.

2. The proposal makes it easy for both legislative bodies to work together.

- It empowers the Executive Committee to coordinate the two bodies. More specifically, the committee will:
  - a. Determine relevance of specific issues and direct them to the Undergraduate Senate, the GSC, or both.
  - b. Call joint meetings when pressing or complex common issues arise.
  - c. Foster informal collaboration between bodies.

***What it solves:***

These provisions ensure that the new structure preserves the ability of graduates and undergraduates to work together that is present in the existing Senate. The Graduate Student Council currently has little interaction with the rest of the ASSU. The proposed GSC structure would combine the best features of each method of graduate representation.

3. The amendment provides for fair use of programming resources.

- It gives each legislative body responsibility to allocate funds collected from their graduate or undergraduate constituencies.
- It helps ensure that funds collected from graduates and undergraduates go to programs they actually use.
- It preserves existing programming levels.

***What it solves:***

Though graduates collectively contribute the majority of programming funds, almost all of these resources are used by undergraduate organizations which do not draw substantial graduate participation. Meanwhile, graduate students sorely need funds for community-building activities and other purposes.

This proposal has been developed over several months by a coalition of graduate and undergraduate ASSU senators, the President and Vice President of the ASSU, and the Graduate Student Council. Though it is more than 40 pages long, each point has been painstakingly debated and a consensus has been reached by all involved. If approved at the February 23 Senate meeting, this proposal will be placed on the spring election ballot for approval by the association.