



GSO Senate Resolution 15.02

A Resolution to Realign and Restructure the Standing Committees and Liaisons of the Senate

Whereas, Senate Resolution 14.10 ordered the Executive Board to “examine the Senate’s committees and liaisons and issue a report to the Senate detailing possible restructuring of the same to improve the Senate’s operations and oversight with an eye toward consolidating the existing structure”; and

Whereas, the Executive Board found the existing committee structure lacks the flexibility to adapt to new developments within the university as well as new interests of the Senate and the student body while also having such specificity to risk substantial inaction from year to year; and

Whereas, the Executive Board found the existing liaison structure does not encourage proper reporting to the Senate of liaison actions or enables liaisons to determine what positions the Senate would like them to take; and

Whereas, due to the issues found in a number of different areas, the Board therefore recommends the adoption of this resolution; therefore, be it

Resolved, That

- (A) The Agenda, Family Concerns, and Library committees be shut down; and
- (B) In their place, the Academic Resources and Affairs, Diversity, and Student Life committees be created; and

Resolved, That all liaison positions be eliminated; and

Resolved, That the committees receive the following charges, replacing any charge they previously had:

- (A) Academic Resources and Affairs: The Academic Resources and Affairs Committee deals with issues regarding graduate coursework and course loads, instructional quality, access to research tools and equipment, library issues, the academic relationship between graduate students and their departments and units, and other issues impacting graduate student academic life on campus. This committee will make periodic reports to the Senate on these topics, especially making recommendations on action to be taken by the Senate and Executive Board to improve graduate student academic life at the university. This committee will coordinate with any GSO

University Senators serving on University Senate committees related to academic affairs. This committee will send two representatives to the Graduate Council. This committee will annually name one person to coordinate with Career Services.

- (B) Diversity: The Diversity Committee works on the important questions of diversity on our campus, including LGBT and women's concerns. This committee will make periodic reports to the Senate on these topics, especially making recommendations on action to be taken by the Senate and Executive Board to improve graduate student academic life at the university. This committee will coordinate with any GSO University Senators serving on University Senate committees related to diversity.
- (C) Finance: The Finance Committee advises the Senate and Executive Board on financial matters. This committee receives all Special Programming requests and constructs the Annual Budget, making recommendations on the disposition of both in accordance with the Fiscal Policy. This committee is chaired by the Comptroller, and will work with the Comptroller in making periodic reports to the Senate of the state of the GSO's finances. This committee makes periodic recommendations to the Senate of updates to the Fiscal Policy.
- (D) Graduate Employment Issues: The Graduate Employment Issues Committee is responsible for addressing issues related to graduate student employment such as stipends, benefits, workload, work type, and the work relationship between graduate students and their departments. The committee advises the GSO on employment issues and works to improve the working landscape of SU for graduate students through the study of employment issues and advocacy. This committee will make periodic reports to the Senate on these topics, especially making recommendations on action to be taken by the Senate and Executive Board to improve graduate student academic life at the university. This committee will coordinate with any GSO University Senators serving on University Senate committees related to graduate employment.
- (E) Grant: The Grant Committee manages the GSO Travel Grant Program. The committee reviews applications, makes awards, and conducts annual reviews of the program for possible improvements in accordance to the Grant Program Policy as approved by the Senate. This committee makes periodic reports to the Senate of its decisions and recommendations of updates to the Grant Program Policy.
- (F) Outreach: The Outreach Committee is charged with retaining participating members, attracting new graduate students to the GSO, and working to increase graduate student awareness of the GSO as a representative body. The Outreach Committee also advertises graduate student events funded, organized, and supported by the GSO and is responsible for overseeing the GSO's involvement in the Graduate Student Newsletter, including the regular GSO column. The Outreach Committee also works closely with the staff of the Inn Complete to address graduate student concerns and requests, to conduct promotional outreach for the Inn, and to advise on financial concerns. The Outreach Committee is chaired by the External Vice President, and will assist the External VP in planning and running events and other activities. The Committee will assist the External VP in constructing the Outreach budget request each year.
- (G) Student Life: The Student Life Committee deals with all student life concerns of graduates, including parking, bussing, DPS, student housing, commuter and off-campus affairs, family concerns, and any other student life concerns not falling under the heading of another committee. This committee will make periodic reports to the Senate on these topics, especially making recommendations on action to be taken by the Senate and Executive Board to improve

graduate student academic life at the university. This committee will coordinate with any GSO University Senators serving on University Senate committees related to student life. This committee will name two graduate students to the Student Legal Services Board of Directors. This committee will name one representative to coordinate with Parking and Transit Services and serve on needed appeal boards.

Resolved, That the Senate and Executive Board may charge these committees with appointing members to other university groups and bodies as needed and as appropriate to said committee's purpose.