

Proposal for Senate and Allocation Process Changes:

Goal:

To introduce representation for registered student organizations (RSOs) in Student Government processes. Specifically, to create RSO representation and voting rights in the Senate and to create RSO representation and voting rights in the allocation process.

Current State:

RSOs have no representation or voting rights in the senate. RSOs have no representation or voting rights in the allocation of RSO funds.

Proposal:

Overview:

The Executive Board's proposal to attain this goal is to create Common Interest Subcommittees (CIS) that will be comprised of similar clubs. Representatives from the CIS groups will sit in the Senate and on an Allocations Board. These representatives will have voting rights in both. The Allocations Board will assume the responsibility of allocating RSO funds and reviewing RSO petitions for extra funding.

Common Interest Subcommittees:

Student Government will assign each RSO to a Common Interest Subcommittee (CIS). Each CIS will hold a common theme shared among its member RSOs. Ten themes have been identified:

- Arts
- Athletic (competitive)
- Athletic (non-competitive)
- Business and Publications
- Multicultural
- Outdoors
- Political
- Science
- Service
- Spiritual

Each CIS will be comprised of the president and treasurer from each of its member RSOs. No member of a CIS may represent more than one RSO. The members of each CIS will vote on two representatives, one treasurer and one president. The treasurer and president may not be from the same RSO.

Each of the president representatives will sit on the Senate with voting rights. This will create an additional ten votes on the Senate (one for each CIS). In the event that the president is unable to attend a Senate meeting, the treasurer representative from that CIS will act as the alternate. If neither the president nor the treasurer is able to attend a Senate meeting, then the CIS forfeits its vote.

Each of the treasurer representatives will sit on an Allocations Board with voting rights. In the event that the treasurer is unable to attend an Allocations Board meeting, then the president from that CIS will act as the alternate. In the event that neither the treasurer nor the president is able to attend an Allocations Board meeting, then the CIS forfeits its vote.

Allocations Board:

Student Government will form an Allocations Board. The Allocations Board will have one representative from each CIS, and the Student Government Executive Board Treasurer will chair it. Each CIS representative will have one vote, giving ten total votes. The Student Government Treasurer will moderate all meetings and will have a tie-breaking vote. The Student Government Advisor will also serve as a tacit member of the Allocations Board.

New Allocation Process:

Student Government will introduce a multi-step process that will involve the Allocations Board, Executive Board, and Senate. The steps will be outlined in a chronological manner:

1. Each RSO will prepare a budget for the upcoming year. This budget will outline all normal expenses anticipated during the next fiscal year. The budget will also include a projection for the RSO's closing budget for the current fiscal year. Each club budget will be submitted to the respective CIS.
2. Each CIS group will meet and combine the RSO budgets, creating one comprehensive CIS budget. Part of this process will be a moment for clubs to look for areas where they can share resources. Each CIS will submit its respective budget to the Allocations Board.
3. The Allocations Board will review each CIS budget. It will then allocate an appropriate amount to each CIS. The proposed allocations will be submitted to the Executive Board.
4. The Executive Board will review the proposed allocations and make any necessary modifications. The final proposal will be submitted to the Senate.
5. The Senate will review the final proposal and vote on its approval. Once the proposed allocations are approved, the final allocations will be submitted back to each CIS.
6. Each CIS will meet and decide how to divide its allocation among its member RSOs. Once the individual RSO allocations are created, they will be submitted to the Allocations Board.
7. The Allocations Board will create a budget for the next fiscal year, breaking down the allocations by RSO.
8. The Student Government Treasurer will submit the budget to Account Services for RSO allocations.

Other changes that will be implemented in this process include:

1. A detailed rubric will clearly state a maximum allocation for different commonly budgeted expenses (*e.g.* van rentals, trips, speakers, retreats). In order to receive maximum funding, several attributes of an RSO will be reviewed. These attributes will include, but are not limited to, the number of members, the number events, previous spending habits, and involvement in the school community. This rubric will be implemented in every level of the Allocations process.
2. A certain amount of money will be designated for capital spending each year. This money will pay for large, one time expenses that may be incurred by RSOs. These purchases will be reviewed separate from the regular RSO budget. They will be funded based on a prioritization.
3. Certain organizations would have a relatively fixed allocation. These organizations would include JAB and Student Government.

New Petition Process:

A certain amount of money will be designated each year as contingency funds. Any RSO may request a portion of these funds if they find they are in need of additional funding. Such an RSO must file a petition with the Allocations Board. The Allocations Board will review the petition and decide to approve or reject the petition. If the petition is approved is for an amount of \$200 or less, then the petition will not require Senate approval. If the petition is for more than \$200, then the Student Government Treasurer will present the petition to the Senate. The Senate will vote on its approval.