

Summary of proposed GSS Bylaw changes: Sept. 7, 2006

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Major changes:

Change	Comment
III.H.1.d Stricken: regards “removal of senators for illegal activities”	University Policies and Regulations already cover the penalty for illegal activities
IV.A.2.c Stricken: regards “Executive funds”	Under the previous policy, the executive committee may allot up to \$400 per meeting for undefined expenses, without change to the budget
IV.B.1.c Removed “Vice president may not be chair of [Activities] committee.”	This will allow the VP to chair the committee, which may be necessary when no other senators sit on said committee.
VI.A Increasing the activity fee	The executive committee has proposed to double the GSS budget by raising the activity fee to .85% the cost of a single credit. (1 credit = \$1171 in 2006/07, the fee would thus be \$10/semester). Additional funds are to be disbursed through increased V-fund awards and activities.
VII.G.2 Changing timetable for student group funding requests	The old policy did not allow sufficient time for a student group to be recognized and apply for funding. The new policy allows funding requests nearly the whole academic year, until Apr. 1.
IX Stricken: hiring outside positions/consultants, gifts to senators and executives	This article allowed for the GSS to bankroll assistants, as well as grant themselves up to \$200 in honoraria using budget surplus. It has been removed, for reasons that should be obvious.
X (old article XI): regarding V-fund administration	V-fund administration is being placed in the hands of the V-fund committee. As we hope to increase awards and number of recipients, we are removing extraneous restrictions, including eligibility, application timetable, and the lottery scheme, on the administration to allow the committee to form new policy.

Minor changes:

Change	Comment
Removed all hyperlinks.	Maintenance is a nightmare.
Corrected various spelling and grammar errors.	
Renumbered sections following any that have been stricken.	

Change	Comment
III.H.2 added “with voting rights”.	Senator can be removed with 2/3 vote.
IV.C.1.b Removed restriction on Diekhoff committee members being from eligible cost center	There is no reason to exclude senators who are from cost centers to which the Diekhoff award is to be awarded. If anything, such senators should have the opportunity to meet outstanding faculty from similar disciplines, and we can expect these senators to conduct themselves professionally.
IV.D.3.a removed requirement of Organizations and Allocations committee to create a V-fund sub-committee	Removal of this allows the O&A committee can choose to oversee the V-fund as a whole, or they may create a sub-committee to do so, as is in the power of any GSS committee.
IV.G.2 removed restriction preventing proxy voting in a committee, added “according to the rules of that committee”	This allows a committee to allow or not allow proxy voting, based on what they believe to be in the best interests of the committee's purpose.
V.C.1 Stricken: restricts calling a meeting without quorum	In the event quorum is not met, the assembled body is not permitted to pass any resolutions. However, they should not be denied calling a meeting to order to discuss issues or disseminate information.
V.C.2 (old V.C.3) Simple majority has been redefined as strictly greater than 50% of votes.	You can't go to Case and not appreciate that someone will point at that “50% + 1” votes is a half if there are an odd number of votes.
V.H.2 Changed timetable for submission of proposals and resolutions to 24 hours before the executive meeting preceding a general meeting.	Previously, the timetable was one week, and is not one week and one day. This allows the executive committee a chance to review a proposal before adding it to the agenda, shortening the time it takes to get to the general body. New business can always be conducted in a meeting, should this deadline not be appropriate.
V.H.4 Changed to allow for new business.	The old policy required a vote to suspend the 1-week deadline to conduct new business. The new wording allows for new business to be conducted immediately.
VII.G.7 Undergraduates in recognized groups.	Mirroring the undergraduate funding policy, the GSS will not count undergraduates as members of a group when allowing for funding.
IX.A (old X.A) Allow changes to the bylaws to be proposed by members of the Executive committee .	As the executive committee reviews the bylaws repeatedly, they are very familiar with them and in an excellent position to make positive suggestions for revision.