

Resolution on Student Representation on Graduate Council, Its Committees, and Ad-Hoc Governance Committees for New Programs

Passed Unanimously April 22, 2011

WHEREAS, the Graduate Council Committee on Structure has approved changes to the Bylaws of Graduate Council that explicitly restrict students' eligibility from running for Secretary of Graduate Council;

WHEREAS, the Committee on Structure continues to consider proposals to prohibit students from chairing the committees of Graduate Council and to reduce student representation on those committees and on ad-hoc governance committees for new programs; and

Plenary	
Steering Committee	WHEREAS, prohibiting student nominations for Secretary and committee chairs arbitrarily restricts their rights as equal voting members of committees and perverts the egalitarian intent of <i>Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised</i> , which governs meetings of Graduate Council and its committees;
Constitution and Bylaws	
Media Board	WHEREAS, various students have successfully chaired several committees in recent years, with the frequent commendation of the President at meetings of Graduate Council; and
Health Issues	
Cultural Affairs	WHEREAS, the Self-Study Report prepared for the Graduate Center's 2010 Middle States Reaccreditation approvingly cites student chairs as "sign[s] of...engagement in leadership and governance of graduate students at the Graduate School" (p. 39) and prohibition of student chairs immediately following reaccreditation would be an abusive and dishonest change;
Professional Development	

WHEREAS, fair representation is a fundamental and longstanding right of all students;

WHEREAS, equal representation of faculty and students ensures fair and balanced decisions that represent the interests of all constituencies and thus the Graduate School as a whole;

WHEREAS, the importance of equal representation continues to be reflected in the composition of the Committee on Committees, which oversees elections for all other committees;

WHEREAS, many Graduate School students are faculty members themselves throughout other CUNY campuses, with all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto;

WHEREAS, committee service, particularly chairing committees, provides important professional development and enhances candidates' portfolios on the job market;

WHEREAS, the Doctoral and Graduate Students' Council (DSC) is the official body representing all doctoral and masters students registered at the Graduate School; and

WHEREAS, the DSC is charged with "securing voting participation in the decision-making entities that impact Graduate Center students" (Article II.f); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the DSC opposes prohibiting students from running for Secretary of or chairing committees of Graduate Council; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the DSC reaffirms its commitment to equal participation of students in governance structures.