

Resolution 9: Extending Voting Membership to Standing Committee Chairpersons

Abstract: The GPSA grants voting rights only to a subset of its members, the composition of which is proportional to the Assembly constituent divisions. This resolution amends the GPSA Charter to grant *ex officio* Voting Membership to the chairpersons of the GPSA standing committees, provided that the Chairpersons are democratically elected, and that no future amendment allows Chairpersonship to be granted without a general election.

Sponsored by: David Dunham, President

Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 12/02/2020

Whereas, the GPSA Charter §4.04.B sets the number of Voting Members at 27 and states the composition thereof; and

Whereas, these Voting Members have the power to elect Officers and standing committee chairs, as well as the exclusive right to vote on the adoption of resolutions (§4.04.A.iii); and

Whereas, the concept of a limited Voting Membership is an unconventional construction that withholds a power rightfully reserved to all members, thereby creating a democratic deficit in the GPSA; and

Whereas, the current composition has led to undesirably low attendance due to the frequent vacating of Voting Member positions, and this tendency has led to difficulties in disposing of regular business; and

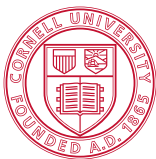
Whereas, the standing committee chairs have shown the most consistent attendance at our meetings, the most informed involvement in our affairs, and the highest level of professionalism; and

Whereas, the standing committee chairs are often unrewarded in their tireless efforts to support the mission of the GPSA; and

Whereas, GPSA members already elect the chairpersons of the standing committees;

Be it therefore resolved, that the GPSA Charter §4.04.B (line 187) be amended to be “There shall be thirty-six (36) Voting Members, composed as follows:”; and

Be it further resolved, that the GPSA Charter §4.04.B be amended to insert the following subsection §4.04.B.iv after §4.04.B.iii (line 204):



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- iv. “*Ex officio* Voting Membership shall be granted to the Chairpersons of the following GPSA standing committees, provided that the committee chair is either an elected Officer or a member appointed through an election by a majority of all members:
1. Executive Committee (Bylaws §3.02)
 2. Operations and Staffing Committee (Bylaws §3.03)
 3. Appropriations Committee (Bylaws §3.05)
 4. Communications Committee (Bylaws §3.06)
 5. Finance Commission (Bylaws §3.07)
 6. Student Advocacy Committee (Bylaws §3.08)
 7. Graduate and Professional Student Programming Board (Bylaws §3.09)
 8. Faculty Teaching, Advising, and Mentorship Award Committee (Bylaws §3.10)
 9. Diversity & International Students Committee (Bylaws §3.11)

Be it further resolved, that the following §4.04.D be inserted after line 206:

- D. Voting members shall be limited to one vote, even if that member holds multiple *ex officio* voting member positions.

Be it finally resolved, that the GPSA urges the President of the University to approve this amendment, pursuant to the President’s authority under Charter §10.04.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Dunham

President of the Graduate & Professional Student Assembly