



Executive Action Sheet for Senate Legislation

Senate Bill 329-

Resolution 329-

I, Meghana Boojala, President of the Student Assembly of William & Mary do hereby:

Approve

Veto

The Student Assembly Senate Legislation:



Meghana Boojala

President, 329th Student Assembly (21-22)

DATE:

329th Student Assembly
Senate Bill 329-044

A Bill

To reform the Student Assembly Senate's committee structure

The Senate Committees Reform Act

An Act of the 329th Student Assembly of William & Mary,

Sponsored by Chair of the Senate Owen Williams ('23)

Co-Sponsored by Class President Conor Sokolowsky ('23)

Supported by Student Assembly President Meghana Boojala ('22), Student Assembly Vice President Zenobia Goodman ('22), Student Assembly Chief of Staff John Cho ('23), Senator Taylor Fox ('24),
Senator Maheen Saeed ('23)

WHEREAS, Section II Clause V of the Constitution of the Student Assembly gives the Senate the power to “create standing committees as it sees fit;”

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Student Assembly Senate to represent and act in the best interests of students, and to reform our operating procedures when it becomes apparent that we could be performing our duties more efficiently and effectively;

WHEREAS, the current format of the Senate's five standing committees does not sufficiently distinguish their unique roles and responsibilities;

WHEREAS, Senate committees frequently have trouble creating and executing projects for the betterment of the Assembly and the student body;

WHEREAS, Senate committees are often unable to embrace the individual role of their committee when considering the legislation assigned to them;

WHEREAS, the recently passed SB 329-034: The Student Assembly Financial Procedures and Oversight Act grants significant new responsibilities to the Senate Finance Committee, and will demand a larger weekly time commitment from its members;

WHEREAS, shifting to a model of three standing committees from the current five would more equally distribute the duties and responsibilities of committee membership;

WHEREAS, assigning all Senators to one committee instead of two would help to alleviate some concerns over a high attendance threshold for Senate membership, and would better help Senators develop an area of expertise within Student Assembly;

WHEREAS, reducing the number of Senate committees would serve to reduce the number of structured weekly time commitments of Senators, better allowing them to dedicate time to individual projects and meet the various demands of Senate service;

WHEREAS, the current Public Affairs and Policy committees frequently overlap on questions of the broader impacts and implications of Student Assembly initiatives;

WHEREAS, the current Student Life and Outreach committees overlap on questions of student experience, well-being and engagement;

WHEREAS, an adjustment in graduate senator absence policy would make service in the Student Assembly Senate a more equitable and attractive opportunity for the graduate student community;

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Student Assembly of William & Mary:

Makes the following changes to the Code of the Student Assembly, effective with the beginning of the 330th Session of the Student Assembly:

1. Amends §2.1-4.1.1 to read as:

1. There shall be ~~ten~~ **eight** standing committees: Finance, **Policy & Student Rights, Student Experience** ~~Policy, Student Life, Public Affairs, Outreach~~, the committee of each class, and a graduate committee. The Senate may also commission investigative bodies, outside of the standing committees, on its own, so long as the life and purpose of the Commission is specified by the Senate.

2. Amends §2.1-4.1.3 to read as:

3. ~~Each~~ **The committees on Finance, Policy & Student Rights, and Student Experience** ~~except for the graduate committee must~~ **shall** have a membership ~~of four or more Senators generally equal in number. The Committee on Finance shall be composed of eight Senators, and have graduate and undergraduate senators assigned as proportionally to the graduate students who pay the Student Activities Fee and undergraduate student population of the College, as possible.~~ Senators shall express their committee preference to the Chair of the Senate, who will then make the committee assignments. Senators who join the Senate in the middle of a session shall be equally distributed amongst all committees. **Senators must serve on exactly one committee in addition to their social class committee; with the exception of membership on the Executive Committee, as outlined in §2.1-4.5.** ~~In addition to their social class committee, undergraduate senators must sit on two committees, but not more than two, with the exception of the Executive Committee, as outlined in §2.1-4.5, and graduate senators, who need only to sit on one committee, in addition to the Graduate Committee. Senators cannot be relieved of the duty to serve on a Committees. No Senator may hold the~~

~~position of Chair of more than one committee. The Finance Committee shall be comprised of eight senators, and have graduate and undergraduate senators assigned as proportionally to the graduate students who pay into the activity fee and undergraduate student population of the College, as possible. Senators may serve as Chair of one committee and Secretary of another. Senators may serve as Secretary of two committees. Members of the College outside of the Senate may participate in committee projects.~~

3. Amends §2.1-2.2. **Attendance** to read as:

1. Should an ~~Undergraduate~~ Senator miss a Senate-wide meeting, or some Senate-wide initiative which the Chair deems mandatory, it shall count as 1 absence, regardless of it being excused or not. Should an ~~Undergraduate~~ Senator miss a committee meeting, each committee absence shall count as 1/2 absence, regardless of it being excused or not. ~~Should a Graduate Senator miss a Senate-wide or committee meeting, it shall count as 1 absence, regardless of it being excused or not.~~

4. Amends §2.1-4.2.1 to read as:

1. Chair

a. The Finance, **Policy & Student Rights, Student Experience**, ~~Policy, Student Life, Public Affairs, Outreach~~, and Graduate **C**ommittees shall elect one of its members to serve as Chair during its first meeting. Each Class President shall automatically serve as the Chair of their class committee. The proceedings of these elections shall be determined by Robert's Rules of Order. The Chair of the Senate shall determine who will conduct this election. A majority of committee members must be present in order to elect a Chair.

5. Amends §3.7-3. to read as:

The Department of Outreach is charged with reaching out to any and all student clubs and organizations in an effort to have the Assembly better serve their needs. Additionally, the Department shall be charged with planning and executing outreach programming, reaching out to students on an individual basis to ensure that the Assembly is best representing the student body, and collaborating with the Senate Committee on Student **Experience Outreach** to compose the Assembly's quarterly reports. In addition, these quarterly reports shall be submitted to local Williamsburg publications as well as the City Government of Williamsburg in cooperation with the department of Public Affairs in order to keep the broader Williamsburg community informed about the current undertakings of the William & ~~and~~ Mary Student Assembly.

6. Amends §2.1-3.1. **Information** to read as:

1. The Senate ~~Outreach~~ Committee **on Student Experience**, in conjunction with the Executive Outreach Department, shall compose quarterly reports detailing the activities of the Assembly. These reports shall include all legislation considered by the Senate in that quarter, with a brief summary of each. The Executive Committee, as outlined in §2.1-4.5, shall approve and finalize these reports and then the President shall send them out to all students at least four times an academic year.