

## **Proposed Revision to FS By-Law IV re Election of Undergraduate Student Senator**

The Undergraduate Student Government of Case Western Reserve University (the USG) is the sole democratically elected organization tasked with representing the entire undergraduate body via legislative action and by liaising with students, faculty, staff and university administration. To assist in accomplishing this goal, the USG strives to maintain a healthy and productive working relationship with CWRU's Faculty Senate and all relevant sub-committees. Per Faculty Senate bylaws, a student representative must be elected to serve on the Faculty Senate every year. In response, the USG created a Faculty Senator position in order to fulfill the Faculty Senate's requirements as well as strengthen the relationship between the two organizations. With the USG undergoing some Constitutional changes over the last few decades, the position of Faculty Senator has come to take the title of Vice President of Academic Affairs. This position name not only falls in line with the USG executive structure, it best communicates the positions breadth of responsibilities in regards to student advocacy. Although the name changed, the Vice President continued to and has continued to serve of the Faculty Senate every year. The position is still voted upon by the entire student body in the USG's yearly elections, and the position still holds the Constitutional charge of "addressing academic issues to University Administration".

The USG aims to be as efficient and transparent as possible, and a Vice President of Academic Affairs serving as the defacto Faculty Senator accomplishes this goal for students by having a clear and direct place for and academic-related student needs. In light of all of this, I recommend the Faculty Senate by-laws committee consider the revisions as written below.

### **Current FS By-law IV, Item d. Student Membership**

2) Procedures for the election of student senators shall be as follows:

a. Undergraduate. Each year, the Secretary shall request the Vice President of Student Affairs to solicit letters of undergraduate student candidacy for membership for the following year by media available to all undergraduate students in the University, to administer a referendum for the election of one of the candidates so identified, to conduct a runoff election in the event of a tie vote, and to report to the Secretary the name of the undergraduate student so elected not later than May 1.

Proposed revision:

a. Undergraduate. The Undergraduate Student Government Vice President of Academic Affairs, who is elected each year from among members of the undergraduate student body, shall serve as the student senator. The Vice President of Student Affairs will report his/her name to the Secretary of the University Faculty no later than May 1 each year.

Chippy Kennedy  
Student Body President  
Cross Country Captain  
September 10, 2015