

Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs
Resolution to Update CUSA Membership to Enhance Undergraduate Student
Representation
CUSA 2024-25A

Resolution Proposal Form Sent to University Council Cabinet	November 6, 2024
First Reading by the Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs	January 29, 2025
Approval by the Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs	March 5, 2025
First Reading by Undergraduate Student Senate	February 25, 2025
Approval by the Undergraduate Student Senate	March 18, 2025
Faculty Senate Comment	January 31, 2025
Staff Senate Comment	February 18, 2025
Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate Comment	February 13, 2025
Graduate and Professional Student Senate Comment	February 1, 2025
First Reading, University Council	Date
Approved, University Council	Date
Approved, President	Date
Approved, Board of Visitors	Date
Effective Date	Upon Approval

WHEREAS, Article VII Section 7 of the University Council Constitution charges the Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs (CUSA) to study formulate and recommend policies and procedures pertaining to the Undergraduate Student experience at Virginia Tech; and

WHEREAS, Article VII Part I of the University Council Bylaws defined the undergraduate student membership of the CUSA as four university-chartered student organization (UCSO) Senators elected by the Undergraduate Student Senate, four college Undergraduate Student Senators and, four at large undergraduate student senators elected by the Undergraduate Student Senate; and

WHEREAS, Article VIII Section 2 of the Undergraduate Student Senate Constitution also defined the undergraduate student membership of the CUSA as four USS at-large senators, four USS UCSO Senators, four USS college Senators; and

WHEREAS, the February 2024 update to the Undergraduate Student Senate Bylaws defined four kinds of senators as At-large, College, UCSO, and Residential; and

WHEREAS, Residential Senators (Consisting of Residential Well Being and Living Learning Program senators) would be ineligible to serve on CUSA therefore causing students in those constituencies to remain under-represented on CUSA; and

WHEREAS, CUSA has often had vacant Undergraduate Student Senator positions due to the membership definition by senator classification.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the student membership of the CUSA be amended as outlined;

And, BE IT RESOLVED that the University council bylaws be updated to include the new language shown below in red;

- University Council Bylaws Article VII Section I

Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs (CUSA)

Membership:

- Vice president for shared governance of the Undergraduate Student Senate (chair)
- Vice president for student affairs (advisor)
- Dean of the Graduate School
- Vice provost for undergraduate academic affairs
- Vice president for policy and governance
- Vice president for inclusive strategy and excellence
- Assistant Vice president for student affairs and ExperienceVT
- Two A/P faculty representatives from the Division of Student Affairs appointed by the vice president for student affairs
- One faculty senator elected by the Faculty Senate
- One staff senator elected by the Staff Senate
- One A/P faculty senator elected by the A/P Faculty Senate
- Two graduate and professional student senators elected by the Graduate and Professional Student Senate
- ~~Four at large undergraduate student senators elected by the Undergraduate Student Senate~~
- ~~Four university-chartered student organization (UCSO) senators elected by the Undergraduate Student Senate~~
- ~~Four college Undergraduate Student Senate senators~~
- 12 Undergraduate Student Senators, including at least one senator of each kind as defined by the USS by laws, as elected by the Undergraduate Student Senate

And, BE IT RESOLVED that the Undergraduate Student Senate Constitution be updated to include the new language shown below in red;

- **Section 2: Membership**

The Vice President for Shared Governance will oversee and chair CUSA. Senate representatives will be elected or appointed by their respective Senate or division head. The membership of the commission is as follows:

- A. USS Vice President for Shared Governance
- B. Vice President for Student Affairs (VPSA)
- C. Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs (VPUA)
- D. Dean of the Graduate School
- E. Vice President for Policy and Governance (VPPG)
- F. Vice President for Inclusive Strategy and Excellence (VPISE)
- G. Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and ExperienceVT (AVP)
- H. Two (2) A/P Faculty representatives from the Division of Student Affairs appointed by the Vice President for Student Affairs
- I. One (1) Faculty Senate Representative (FS)
- J. One (1) Staff Senate Representative (SS)
- K. Two (2) Graduate and Professional Student Senate Representatives (GPSS 1 & GPSS 2)
- L. One (1) A/P Faculty Senate Representative
- M. USS appointments:

~~Four (4) USS At-large Senators~~

~~• Four (4) USS UGSO Senators~~

~~• Four (4) USS College Senators~~

• 12 Undergraduate Student Senators, including at least one senator of each kind as defined by the USS by laws, as elected by the Undergraduate Student Senate



Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS)

25 Graduate Life Center (0186)

155 Otey Street

Blacksburg, Virginia 24061

Email: gpss@vt.edu

Website: gpss.vt.edu

Comment on CUSA 2024-25A:

The Graduate and Professional Student Senate has only the following comment on CUSA 2024-25A:

The changes recommended to the roster might potentially change the degree of representation of various sections of the undergraduate population. As such, we recommend that the Undergraduate Student Senate make sure that every section of the student population is represented adequately and equitably.

We have no further comments.

On behalf of the Graduate and Professional Student Senate,
Ronnie Mondal
President



Faculty Senate
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
<https://www.facultysenate.vt.edu/>

January 31, 2025

Comment on Resolution CUSA 2024-2025A

The Faculty Senate has reviewed Resolution CUSA 2024-25A and offers the following comments and suggestions.

While the resolution clearly falls within the purview of the Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs, and the Faculty Senate supports the intent of the resolution, we do not believe the resolution is consistent with the process required to propose such an amendment. The Undergraduate Student Senate does not have the authority to pass a resolution to amend the University Council Bylaws; instead, the resolution should be withdrawn and re-filed as UC 2024-25B. The resolution may originate from CUSA, and the Chair of the Commission has the ability to offer this resolution given their role as an *ex officio* member of the University Council. The University Council may subsequently consider the resolution as prescribed in Article XIII of the University Council Constitution.

The Faculty Senate fully supports the proposed changes to the bylaws, but we believe a different procedure is required to adopt these changes.

Respectfully,

Rachel Miles
Faculty Senate President

Research Impact Coordinator
Associate Professor
University Libraries



Administrative and Professional Faculty Senate

<https://governance.vt.edu/ap-faculty-senate.php>

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February 13, 2025

To: Vice President of Policy and Governance

From: A/P Faculty Senate Polices and Issues Committee

The A/P Faculty Senate Polices and Issues Committee has reviewed and approves/endorsees the Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs Resolution 2024-25A to Revise the University Council Bylaws and the USS Constitution to Amend the Membership on the Commission on Undergraduate Student Affairs.

The following comments were made:

- Discussions in the CUSA meeting on 1/29/25 indicated that we would keep the membership at 12, not 16.
- I think this makes a very large committee, but otherwise I don't see any issues.
- The language of this resolution could be clarified. There are too many acronyms and overly similar references to the types of student senators that it is hard to understand what exactly is being resolved and finalized by the current document. Suggestion would be to list these out in bullets under each 'whereas' statement rather than within the prose.
- I think this makes a very large committee, but otherwise I don't see any issues.



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ADHOC COMMITTEES

Staff Senate

<http://www.staffsenate.vt.edu/>

February 18, 2025

To: Vice President of Policy and Governance

The Staff Senate Committee on Policy and Issues has reviewed and approves CUSA Resolution 2024-25A.

We have no further comment.

**Thank you,
Amber Robinson, Chair Staff Senate Policies and
Issues Committee**