



MEMO

From the Office of the...
Vice-President (Administration)

TO: Members of the Student Representative Assembly (SRA)
FROM: Adam F. El-Kadi, Vice-President (Administration)
SUBJECT: Amendment to Bylaw 3 – Student Representative Assembly
DATE: October 19th, 2023

Members of the Student Representative Assembly,

I hope this memo finds you well and I hope the first month of classes went smoothly.

I am writing on behalf of myself and the Internal Governance Committee to propose an **amendment to Bylaw 3 – Student Representative Assembly**. Namely, to clarify and more accurately reflect the diverse programs and specializations offered to students, who, in the current bylaw, are at risk of losing their seats and/or reserving a seat for an academic division that is not aligned with the academic division they are a part of due to the current wording of the Bylaw.

Background

As some of you may remember this discussion was raised during the Committee of the Whole at SRA 23F. With this in mind, many of the propositions made herein are congruent with, and in some cases directly taken from, the sentiments and ideas expressed at that meeting.

Currently, the following specializations are some of interdisciplinary programs between faculties that graduate with a Bachelor of Health Sciences and may be currently misrepresented on the SRA:

- Honours Biochemistry
- Biomedical Discovery and Commercialization
- Integrated Biomedical Engineering and Health Sciences program (iBioMed))

Proposal

After multiple rounds of discussion and taking in feedback from the 23F meeting, conducting research, and consulting with an Academic advisor from the program of Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences, the Internal Governance Committee and I are proposing bylaw changes to define which seats students should run for based on the **culture** and **content** of their specializations/programs, rather than

the **name** of a degree. Culture is defined by the student's first-year program, specifically if it is a gateway program, such as Life Sciences.

For instance, considering the Honours Biochemistry specialization. Though its students ultimately earn a Bachelor of Health Sciences degree, many of them initially enrolled as Life Sciences students (though some may transfer from other programs). When examining the course content, it becomes evident that **they share very few courses in common with students in the direct-entry Bachelor of Health Sciences program**. Instead, their course content aligns more closely with that of science students. Therefore, it would be more fitting for them to be represented within the Science caucus. This logic is continued for the other specializations listed above.

An important clarification to note is in the case of students transferring between programs, like from Commerce to Social Sciences. In such cases, a student would no longer be aligned with the academic division that initially elected them. Consequently, would need to vacate their seat, requiring them to run in the next election.

Changes

The following changes were made to the Bylaw, provided with commentary. These can also be seen in the tracked changes document as well:

| Section | Current | Proposed | Rationale |
|---------|---|--|---|
| 4.1.3 | Retain requirements for full MSU membership ... in the academic division in which they were elected to the SRA and relinquish their seat if they fail to do so; | Retain requirements for full MSU membership ... in the academic division in which they were elected to the SRA (as defined by section 9.1) and relinquish their seat if they fail to do so; | To enhance clarity, it would be beneficial to include a reference to the specific section that defines the academic divisions. This reference will help navigate the reader to the relevant section where they can find a detailed breakdown and locate information related to their program. |
| 8.1.1 | Be composed of all SRA members from a particular academic division; | Be composed of all SRA members from a particular academic division as defined by section 9.1 ; | Ibid. |

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|-------|---|--|---|
| 9.1.3 | Faculty of Engineering; | Faculty of Engineering (including the Integrated Biomedical Engineering and Health Sciences program (iBioMed)) ; | Specifying the specialization/program that falls under the academic division. |
| 9.1.8 | Faculty of Science (excluding the Department of Kinesiology); | Faculty of Science (excluding the Department of Kinesiology; including the Honours Biochemistry & Biomedical Discovery and Commercialization specializations); | ibid. |

Sincerely,



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