DePauw Student Government (DSG) is presently exploring avenues that will allow them to better serve the DePauw student body. In recent months, the DSG Executive Board, Representatives Chamber, and Senate Chamber have discussed ways in which to improve the structure of DSG. These structural changes will contribute to the effectiveness of the chambers, serve the needs of the varying kinds of student groups, and fill the need for clear communication with students, within DSG chambers, and to the DePauw administration, faculty, and staff. As a result, DSG would like to (1) propose the following changes to the DSG structure; and (2) open the floor so that students may contribute to the discussion on how best to improve DSG for years to come.

Assembly Meetings:

All DSG meetings are open to all DePauw students, with the exception of DSG Executive Board meetings (though scheduled guests are welcome). Assembly meetings were created in order to provide students with a forum-style atmosphere in which to discuss pressing issues students face within a large body. Assembly meetings currently require one representative from each student organization, the Representative Chamber, the Senate Chamber, and the Executive Board to be present in order to receive DSG updates/concerns and related announcements. However, DSG is concerned that Assembly has outgrown its initial purpose. Students have expressed that the required meetings are no longer relevant to their organizations, that it causes harm to their organization’s recognition status, and that it does not effectively provide a forum for DSG to hear student concerns.

DSG, therefore, proposes that Assembly meetings be replaced by “Student Forums.” Student Forums will be a space open to all students, but that only requires the attendance of the Senate Chamber, Representative Chamber, and Executive Board. These meetings will (1) allow Senators and Representatives to vote on legislation and provide both chambers and Executive Board the opportunity to present updates; (2) to act as an open forum to voice student concern and propose possible steps to address these issues.
The Senate:

The Senate Chamber will, in many ways, remain the same. It is currently made up of five senators from each class who are elected by their peers. The structural proposal calls for transitioning the internal structure of Senate committees from temporary internal committees to standing committees. Although ad hoc committees will still form as needed, the Senate predicts that standing committees (Professional Development Committee, Student Life Committee, Sustainability Committee, Intercultural Committee, Auxiliary Service Committee, and Academic Life Committee) will improve the way senators approach legislation. These changes will allow senators to have an "expertise" in their area by serving on relevant faculty-led committees and working with the same administrators on long-term issues should they be re-elected over multiple years.

The Representatives Chamber:

Representatives Chamber will undergo the most adjustment. The chamber currently consists of volunteer representatives from multiple organizations. The major concern is that student organizations have a variety of needs and desires, have difficulty collaborating with each other, and have difficulty communicating regarding organized campus events. DSG's structural proposal suggests an improved 4-part structure to be implemented in order to streamline communication across student organizations and to define how students organizations will more effectively participate within DSG:

(1) Application Recognized Organizations: Organizations that fulfill the requirement of having a faculty advisor, a certain number of members, and of abiding by the student handbook. These organizations are those who do not receive funding from DePauw Allocations Board and are not required to attend weekly Representative Chamber meetings.

(2) Monthly Check-In Organizations: Organizations that fulfill all the requirements of a Recognized Organization and receive funding from the DePauw Allocations Board. These organizations are not required to attend weekly Representative Chamber meetings, but are required to "check-in" with DSG on a monthly basis to receive updates, resources, and to affirm their continued existence on campus. One possible mode of check-in may involve an email sent by the DSG Secretary with DSG updates and an attached Google form that would allow organization representatives to submit a brief update of organization activity as well as any questions or concerns they may have.

(3) Chamber Organizations: Organizations that fulfill all the requirements of a Recognized Organization, receive funding from the DePauw Allocations Board, and wish to voice their opinion prominently in the weekly Representatives Chamber meetings and monthly Assembly meetings, though are not required to do so. As members of the Representative Chamber, these organizations will have full voting and legislative privileges, the opportunity to closely coordinate with other
organizations, as well as the opportunity to discuss student organization issues and concerns

(4) Required Chamber Organizations: Organizations that fulfill all the requirements of a Recognized Organization, receive funding from the DePauw Allocations Board, and are required to attend weekly Representative Chamber meetings and monthly Assembly meetings. These organizations are characterized by the large amount of funding they receive from the DePauw Allocations Board and the large number of members in their organization (specific numbers are yet to be determined). As members of the Representative Chamber, these organizations will have full voting and legislative privileges, the opportunity to closely coordinate with other organizations, as well as the opportunity to discuss student organization issues and concerns

**Constitution Amendments:**

The above structural changes are the primary components of DSG’s proposal, which have been discussed among the chambers and Executive Board of DSG in an effort to update and improve multiple sections of the DePauw Student Government Constitution.

For more information, please attend the next DePauw Student Government Assembly Meeting in Meharry Hall on March 9, 2014 at 7:00pm.

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