FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Voting on Proposed Constitution Amendment to take place at Sunday’s Assembly Meeting

Greencastle, IN
2 March 2014

This Sunday, April 6, 2014, the DePauw Student Government (DSG) Student Assembly will vote on the proposed Constitution Amendment.

On Sunday, March 9, 2014, the DSG Executive Board presented a proposal for major structural changes for DSG. The most recent developments to this proposal are a direct product of DSG’s efforts to provide a space for crucial communication among student groups, to create an effective structure that strengthens that student voice, and to improve the lines of communications between the student body, administration, faculty, and DSG. The proposed structural changes introduce the following Constitutional amendments:

Categories of Recognition for Student Organizations & Student Forum Requirements

DSG acknowledges that DePauw University hosts a variety of student organizations that have varying interests and needs. The current DSG Constitution provides a single category for all student organizations, entitled Recognized Student Organizations (DSG Constitution VII.2, Bylaws III). Furthermore, all Recognized Student Organizations are Student Assembly Organizations, and are thus required to attend monthly assembly meetings.

DSG maintains that all student organizations must (1) possess a written constitution including a mission statement, (2) maintain a faculty adviser, and (3) maintain compliance with the DePauw University Student Handbook. However, DSG proposes that student organizations instead be recognized as one of three categories: Application Recognized Organization (ARO), Forum Organization (FO), or Chamber Organization (CO).

AROs consist of student organizations that require no funding from the Allocations Board and do not participate in DSG chambers.
FOs consist of student organizations that receive funding from the Allocations Board, are required to attend monthly Student Forums, and are not required or do not wish to participate in Representative Chamber.

COs consist of student organizations who either voluntarily or by requirement provide a single representative to serve on the Representatives Chamber. All student organizations who identify as pertaining to student life are required to provide a single representative. These organizations are equipped with full voting rights and legislative ability.

In the past, a successful cabinet-style chamber provided a space in DSG that required the voices of a small group of diverse organizations discussing important issues such as event collaboration and student concern. DSG proposes these changes in order to once again provide a critical space for conversation as well as to accommodate diverse organizational needs.

The Student Forum will take the place of Student Assembly Meetings, and will require the attendance of the Executive Board, Senate Chamber, Representatives Chamber, COs, and FOs. The Student Forum will remain open to the public.

**Five Standing Senate Committees**

The current DSG Constitution requires two permanent Senate Committees—a Student Concerns Committee, which handles student concerns, facilities, and campus climate, and an Academic Affairs Committee, which handles academic programming and operations as well as faculty quality assurance and academic advising. The purpose of the Student Senate is “to represent the needs, desires, and voice of the student body to the greater campus community and public, and to propose and enact programs, procedures, and legislation to fulfill those needs and desires,” (DSG Constitution VI.1).

Whence DSG's proposal aims to provide the Student Senate with the reasonable means to fulfill their duties by establishing five distinct and relevant standing committees, including a Student Life Committee, Academic Affairs Committee, Auxiliary Services Committee, Sustainability Committee, and a Professional Development Committee.

With these defined standing committees, senators will be able to better focus and collaborate their efforts toward specific programs, procedures and legislation. Moreover, the DePauw student body, faculty, and administration can direct specific issues and concerns to the appropriate committee who is dedicated to the cause.

DSG has proposed these changes in accordance to the Constitution's mission:

“...to act as the chief advocate for the students of DePauw University, to implement any and all things possible to improve the quality of the DePauw University experience, and to affect positive change through encouraged
involvement and communication with the student body, administration, and the faculty.”

All of the DePauw community is encouraged to attend the Assembly Meeting this Sunday, April 6th. This is the DePauw community’s opportunity to voice your consent, dissent, concerns, and suggestions concerning the Constitution amendments ensued by DSG’s proposed structural changes. The conversation will culminate in a final vote led by Parliamentarian Marjorie Daily.

To review the current Constitution, click here. To review the press release, DSG Proposes Major Structural Changes, click here. To review the infographic outlining the proposed major structural changes, click here.

For updates, please check out website at http://www.depauw.edu/orgs/dsg/updates, follow DePauw Student Government on Twitter, on Instagram, and on Facebook, or view DePauw Student Government’s video updates on Vimeo.

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