

**A REPORT**  
**TO ACCOMPANY SS1112-14**  
SUBMITTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT

To the Members of the Student Senate,

This resolution is the culmination of several weeks' worth of work by the members of the Committee on Oversight, its Subcommittee on Constitutional Reform, and various members of several Student Union organizations. As it began to shape, we held meetings with members of all the organizations affected by it and solicited their opinions, which were incorporated into this amendment. It has been discussed by the Council of Representatives, Executive Policy Board, and Senate. Although this resolution says at the top, as is customary, "Committee on Oversight," it is truly the effort of many people from various organizations throughout the Student Union.

As a result of that work and those meetings, we present an amendment to the Constitution that provides increased transparency and efficiency within the operation of the Student Union. This amendment calls for the consolidation of the Council of Representatives and the Student Senate into one body, which finally creates an organization that truly lives up to the name of Student Union. As the Senate is the primary representative organization of the Student Union, it should be composed not only of the elected Senators of the halls, but those who lead the various organizations over which the Senate has final jurisdiction through Constitutional authority. Those leaders will now have a say in the policies that often directly affect the programming initiatives that serve the students they represent. This consolidation unifies all organizations within the Student Union to foster greater efficiency and collaboration in serving as an organization that represents the will of the student body.

Not only does this amendment bring Senate in line with the ideals of the Student Union, it increases the operating efficiency of student government. No longer will Senate meetings be dominated by committee reports; rather, Senate will be free to have productive discussions, maximizing the use of its time. Additionally, members of University administration and special interest speakers will no longer be required to come to two student government meetings to express the same point or convey the same information.

Before listing the reforms enacted by this amendment, I would first encourage Senators to embrace this vision of reform. Constitutional reform is a key aspect of making student government into a true Student Union. By unifying the Student Union into one body, we can begin to act as a whole in the advancement of policy and programming for the student body. As elected officials, we must work together to best advance the interests of our constituents. I fully believe that this amendment to the Constitution will enable us to do that as effectively as possible. In conclusion, I strongly urge you to support this amendment.

Regards,

Ben Noe  
Chairman, Student Senate Committee on Oversight

REFORMS TO THE STUDENT UNION MADE BY THIS RESOLUTION:

- Members of the Council of Representatives will now sit on Student Senate, and the Council of Representatives will no longer meet.
- The Council of Representatives Collaboration Fund will now be managed by the Financial Management Board, a financial oversight body with representation from the various Student Union organizations.
- The Student Union Budget will be approved by a Committee on the Budget, comprised of the former members of the Council of Representatives and chaired by the Student Body President, ensuring equality of voting (all who have “a hand in the cookie jar” get an equal vote).
- The Judicial Council President will serve as a non-voting member of Senate, as they are the unbiased chief ethical and judicial officer of the Student Union.
- Renames “Executive Policy Board” to the “Executive Cabinet”
- Renames the committees and committee chairs as “departments” and “department directors,” respectively
- Renames Oversight to Internal Affairs, consistent with other committees like Academic Affairs, University Affairs, etc.

- Various “housekeeping” improvements, necessary to maintain consistency in the Constitution
- Parts X and XI of the resolution grant to the Oversight Chair the authority to change the various references to Council of Representatives in the Constitution, as well as the same authority as regards “committees” and “committee chairs” to “departments” and “department directors”

