

Proposal to restructure the SUGC

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According to the Senate Manual, the Senate Undergraduate Committee (SUGC) is a standing committee of the (academic) Senate. At present, the SUGC itself has two standing committees, mandated by the Senate Manual, respectively the Academic Performance Evaluation Committee (APEC) and the Core Curriculum Committee (CCC)

This proposal is regarding the APEC. At present, the APEC is responsible for monitoring the students placed on Warning or Academic Probation by the SUGC/Senate, and prepares, each semester, the list of students who should be recommended to be placed on Warning/AP or terminated by the SUGC/Senate as well as the list of graduating students who shall be recommended to the Board of Governors for the awarding of degrees. It is also, ideally, supposed to help the DUGCs counsel their underperforming students, which is one of the reasons the Chairman, APEC or his nominee is an *ex-officio* member of both the SSAC (Senate Students' Affairs Committee) and SSPC (Senate Scholarships and Prizes Committee).

In my personal opinion as a former member of SUGC (in the academic years 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15), the APEC does not fulfil its purpose to the effect which it has been envisioned. In particular, the APEC report itself is prepared by the UG Office, and beyond the Chairperson, the committee has very little input beyond an obligatory signature/approval. Furthermore, year-by-year there is very little variation in the APEC, barring major changes such as the approval of a new ARC/APEC rules. It is also clear that a 3 member committee is not sufficient to monitor the underperforming students of UG batches exceeding 800 in size, which it is currently not doing anyway. Furthermore, once the APEC report for a given semester is accepted by the Senate, the APEC has no further role to play, including in the appeals/re-appeals process.

I thus propose one of the following:

1. **APEC be dissolved** – The duties of the APEC and its Chairman shall instead be carried out by the Associate Dean, UG Academics or shall be carried out as it is done in the SPGC, through the Chairperson, SUGC. The Chairman, APEC shall be removed from the membership of the SSPC and SSAC and replaced by the Dean, Academic Affairs.
2. **APEC be separated from the SUGC** – In this case, it is proposed that what is currently the APEC will be remodelled to become a standing committee of the (academic) Senate, and shall absorb the duties of the SUGC and SPGC that pertain to academic evaluation in the sense of Warning/AP/Termination and appeals/re-appeals. The APEC will then be solely responsible for the entire evaluation process, thus freeing up the SUGC and SPGC to take up other matters of importance. This makes a certain amount of pedagogical sense, as the members of this committee will also have more time than the Conveners of DUGCs/DPGCs to monitor the individual students of their department, and since the appeals/re-appeals process does not necessarily tie with the otherwise purely academic processes of the SUGC and SPGC. The proposed constitution of the committee is as follows:
 - Two Senate Nominees (including the ex-Chairperson)
 - Chairperson, SUGC & Chairperson, SPGC (*ex-officio*)
 - One Department Nominee per department
 - Four Students' Senate Nominees (2 UG and 2 PG)

As with other standing committees, this committee shall elect a Chairperson from amongst its faculty members, in an election conducted by the Senate Election

Committee. In this proposal, the role of the Chairman, APEC will be taken up by the Chairperson of the new committee. Thus, this will also redress the current fundamental imbalance that exists in the SSAC and SSPC where the SUGC always has a common member, but the SPGC need not.

If the Students' Senate finds this proposal acceptable it is requested to forward it to the SUGC/Senate for its consideration.