Bill to Create an Association Joint Legislative Committee on Buffer Fund Expenditure Policies
ASSU-F2014-1

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Submitted for Consideration:
May 20, 2014, to the Undergraduate Senate
May 21, 2014, to the Graduate Student Council

Action Requested:
Majority approval by the Undergraduate Senate
Majority approval by the Graduate Student Council

WHEREAS, the Constitution, Appendix I §4.E.1 states: If a Special Fee request which has met all Elections Commission deadlines is left off the ballot, then the request may be funded from the relevant population’s Special Buffer Fund by a 2/3 vote of the relevant Association legislative bodies; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Bylaws, Article VI §7.A.17 state: The Graduate Buffer Fund and Undergraduate Buffer Fund shall be administered by the relevant legislative bodies in a manner specified in their by-laws; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws of the Undergraduate Senate and Graduate Student Council do not further specify the manner of the administration of the Undergraduate Buffer Fund and the Graduate Buffer Fund; and

WHEREAS, policies for Buffer Funds expenditures will become more important as the funds continue to consistently grow in size each year; and

WHEREAS, the 16th Undergraduate Senate and the Graduate Student Council have approached the Financial Manager with questions about the appropriate use of the Buffer Funds; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Bylaws, Article II §2 states: The US and the GSC shall jointly have the power to create joint legislative committees for specific purposes, to vest in them all appropriate powers of the US and the GSC, and to designate the chair of each. All substantive actions of a joint legislative
committee shall take the form of recommendations to the US and the GSC, except as otherwise provided herein,

THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

THAT the ASSU Joint Legislative Committee on Buffer Fund Expenditure Policies is hereby created; and

THAT this Joint Legislative Committee be charged with the following purpose:

1. To review past expenditures from the Buffer Funds by both legislative bodies;
2. To evaluate the current size of the Undergraduate and Graduate Buffer Funds and annual growth trends;
3. To establish a clear purpose and rationale for the use of the Buffer Funds;
4. To establish minimum fund sizes to ensure the financial viability of the ASSU;
5. To create fiscally responsible policies that clearly define appropriate and inappropriate uses for the Buffer Funds; and
6. To codify policies for the Buffer Funds into amendments to the Joint Bylaws before January 1, 2015, and present those amendments to the Undergraduate Senate and Graduate Student Council for approval.

THAT the following parties shall be members and have equal voting rights in the Joint Legislative Committee:

   A. One member of the Undergraduate Senate, as selected by the UGS;
   B. One member of the Graduate Student Council, as selected by the GSC;
   C. The Chair of the Appropriations Committee of the Undergraduate Senate, or designee;
   D. The Chair of the Funding Committee of the Graduate Student Council, or designee;
   E. The ASSU Financial Manager, or his/her designee; and

THAT the President of the Association, or his/her designee, shall be an ex-officio member of this Committee (without vote), as will all Undergraduate Senate and Graduate Student Council members;

THAT the members of the Joint Legislative Committee shall conduct a vote to appoint their Chair.