

# Changing the structure of the Academic Representation Network meetings

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## Union Notes

1. The Education and Representation Board (ERB) is the current Union-wide forum for the discussions of academic-related issues among academic representatives.
2. The ERB as a subcommittee of Council is responsible for voting on academic related Policies and Motions. Currently, the majority of ERB members are non-voting members (i.e. Dep Reps).
3. The ERB is often used by the Union and College to gather student feedback on College-wide plans and strategies, such as the I-Explore modules or refurbishments of student spaces.
4. The majority of ERB discussion points in the past have been relevant mostly or solely to UG students
5. The ERB has historically been attended mostly by UG Reps.
6. Most Dep Reps (especially PG reps) do not regularly attend ERB meetings.
7. Meetings between the UG and/or PG Faculty Reps and the DPE, as a collective, are currently limited

## Union Believes

1. Many academic issues are similar across departments, and encouraging cross-departmental communication improves the parity of student experience and strengthens the position of academic reps.
2. The Union should encourage the Dep Reps to attend meetings with other Dep Reps.
3. Reducing the number of meetings the Dep Reps are expected to attend should improve their attendance of these meetings.
4. UG and PGR academic issues are usually very different in nature and it is therefore not time efficient to discuss all of them in one meeting.
5. UG and PGT academic issues are often related and it is therefore useful to include PGT reps in discussions of UG issues.
6. PGT students often feel a part of the PG community rather than the UG community.
7. Both UG and PG issues should be given equal weight and attention from the Union.
8. Establishing separate Discussion Forums for UG and PG issues would improve the efficiency of the meetings and increase the emphasis on PG issues, which are currently underrepresented.
9. Faculty Reps should meet regularly with the Deputy President (Education) and with each other to update each other on their progress and discuss their plans and potential problems, and to allow the DPE to support the Faculty Reps in their roles effectively and efficiently. The ERB meetings in their current format are not sufficient to provide this level of support.

## Union Resolves

1. To reduce the membership of the **ERB** to the UG and PG Faculty Reps and the Deputy President (Education), with the PGT and PGR reps for a given faculty sharing a vote.
2. To establish **Taught Academic Representation Forum**, which shall meet once a term. The members of this Forum shall be the Deputy President (Education) (chair), UG Faculty Reps, UG Dep Reps, PGT Faculty Reps and PGT Dep Reps.

Invited to this Forum shall also be the Officer Trustees, the Constituent Union Presidents and the GSU Vice President (Representation).

3. To establish **Research Academic Representation Forum**, which shall meet once a term. The members of this Forum shall be the Deputy President Education (chair), PGR Faculty Reps, PGR Dep Reps.

Invited to this Forum shall also be the PGT Faculty Reps, PGT Dep Reps, Officer Trustees, the GSU President and the GSU Vice President (Representation).

4. To amend the Standing Orders of the Union to reflect Resolves 1, effective from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020
  - a. Remove items 3b and 3c from the ERB membership
5. To mandate the ERB to amend the Representation Policy to reflect Resolves 2, 3 and 4