Dear ECAC Colleagues,

We understand and share Brad's discomfort with the referral of the COGS election to UCSA, as voted on in the ECAC meeting last Tuesday.

We do not agree, however, that ECAC in its role as the steering committee of Academic Council should never discuss the legitimacy of elections of Academic Council representatives carried out by the various governance bodies represented. At the end of this message we propose that ECAC reconsider and replace the motion passed at the last meeting -- and that this be taken up at our last meeting.

It is the standard practice in parliamentary procedure that the primary body, in this case Academic Council, has the authority to assess the credentials of representatives to that body and to resolve disputes about the legitimacy of those representatives. This power is explicit in the current governance bylaws in the following sections:

A. Academic Council:

3.2.5.6. Within the constraints of the constitutional authority of the Board of Trustees, Academic Council shall be the final authority with regard to the interpretation of these Bylaws (4.3.4.).

B. UCAG:

4.3.8. The Committee on Academic Governance shall provide guidelines for elections to Academic Council and to the Executive Committee, review challenged elections, and recommend appropriate action to Academic Council.

C. The Secretary of Academic Governance:

3.4.2. The Secretary shall supervise elections to the Academic Council, the Academic Assembly of ASMSU, COGS, and the at-large faculty of Executive Committee, with review by the Committee on Academic Governance....

Based on these bylaws, we believe that the referral of the COGS election to UCSA was inappropriate. Rather, we recommend the motion be reconsidered and replaced by the following at our next meeting:

**Motion:**

"The Secretary of Academic Governance shall review the COGS election and recommend whether review of this election by UCAG is required, as per sections 3.4.2 and 4.3.8 of the bylaws."

Please note that this same procedure would apply to any governance body whose representation on Academic Council was in question -- and is not directed at COGS because it is a student organization.

Best,

Jackie Wright
Harold Hughes
Sekhar Chivukula