

RUSA

4/16/2017

Chris Kay, Parliamentarian

Complainant: Viktor Krapivin, Internal Affairs Chair

Question: Article XVII, section 5 of the Standing Rules reads "Caucus Chairpersons shall be members of the Student Affairs Committee."¹ This language seems to violate the fact that the Vice President is charged with assigning RUSA members to committees. Is this language constitutional?

Findings: Campus Caucus Chairpersons are made members of the Student Affairs Committee by virtue of the office they hold i.e., their Chair. In this sense they are ex-officio members of the Student Affairs Committee. The Vice-President has the responsibility to assign members who would otherwise have no automatic right to sit on a committee. Members such as a Committee chairperson and any ex-officio members of a Committee are automatically granted their positions on Committees by virtue of their respective offices not through any appointments. So the Vice-President's duty to appoint members is not encroached upon by campus Caucus Chairs being made ex-officio members of the Student Affairs Committee since those members aren't being appointed at any point. Rather they gain their seats through the will of their respective Campus Caucuses as represented in the internal elections of the each Caucus. Therefore the Standing Rule which creates Campus Caucus Chairs as ex-officio members of the Student Affairs Committee is not unconstitutional.

¹ RUSA Standing Rules, Article XVII, Section 5