

RUSA

4/16/2017

Chris Kay, Parliamentarian

Question: Are the President, Vice-President, and Treasurer of RUSA entitled to voting rights in the General Assembly?

Findings: The Constitution defines voting members in Section 5.02. In this section representatives from the Campus Councils, Professional School Councils, Residential College Councils, University Senators, Cultural Umbrella Organizations, and Special Populations are mentioned. It's important to note that these are the only representatives mentioned under Section 5.02. This has an important impact on the voting rights of the top three members of RUSA, the President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. These three members are not noted in 5.02 as voting members. Instead their roles, duties, and rights are defined in Section 2.01.2. In that section there is no mention of the members of the Executive Committee having voting rights in the Assembly. What this means is that the President, Vice-President, and Treasurer are not entitled to voting rights in the General Assembly. However any member of the Executive Committee who was initially elected to a seat noted in section 5.02 and then subsequently made a member of the Executive Committee is still entitled to voting rights in the General Assembly. So the Secretary and Committee Chairs would still retain voting rights. It should be noted that this goes against the historic precedents of RUSA which have allowed the President, Vice-President, and Treasurer voting rights in the Assembly. But the Constitution is clear on this. It should also be noted that the President, as presiding officer of the General Assembly, still retains a tie-breaking vote in the General Assembly.