WHEREAS, Finance Commission Bylaws divide organized activities into three categories: Campus Media, Supplemental Services, and Student Organizations; and

WHEREAS, Finance Commission, during its yearly budgetary process, allocates a funding range to the Student Organizations Fund; and

WHEREAS, Organizations Commission hears budget presentations from organized activities in the Student Organizations category, decides on funding levels for each Student Organization based on total range given to the Student Organization Fund, and presents this package of recommendations to the Finance Commission to be included in the overall segregated fee budget; and

WHEREAS, due to time constraints with the early start of Finance Commission’s budgetary processes, Organizations Commission does not have
adequate time to schedule and conduct their hearings; and

WHEREAS, Organizations Commission needs more autonomy to establish its own budgetary timeline and hearings schedule for their assembly of Student Organizations Fund disbursement recommendations; and

WHEREAS, Finance’s tentative funding range to the Student Organization Fund can currently only be based on rough estimates on the number of new Student Organizations applying for funding, and increases in the requests of returning Organizations; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revisions to Finance Commission’s Bylaws (Attachment “A”) would grant Organizations Commission scheduling autonomy, and allow Finance to make more precise allocations to the Student Organizations Fund; and

WHEREAS, Student Organizations can only be recognized as an organized activity and made eligible for segregated fee support through Finance Commission; and

WHEREAS, Organizations Commission works with Student Organizations on a daily basis, and is better positioned to define the precise requirements (i.e. constitution, campus account, and updated contact information statuses) needed for Student Organizations to achieve recognition as an organized activity; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revisions to Finance Commission’s Bylaws (Attachment “A”) would require Student Organizations applying for organized activity recognition be in “Good Standing” as defined in the Organizations Commission Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, currently, it takes four years for a student to form a Student
Organization and receive segregated fee support; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revisions to Finance Commission’s Bylaws (Attachment “A”) would eliminate the requirement to have handled financial activities through the campus accounting office for one year prior to organized activity recognition, while maintaining the requirement that organized activities handle financial activities through this office for record keeping purposes; and

WHEREAS, this broadens opportunities for Student Organizations to apply for funding, eliminating arbitrary hurdles designed to slow potential growth in the Student Organizations Fund while ensuring Finance Commission’s ability to provide responsible budgetary oversight; and

WHEREAS, Finance Commission voted 8-0-1 in favor of these Bylaw revisions, with the Director abstaining;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that Student Senate approves the Finance Commission Bylaw changes as shown in Attachment “A,” with strikethroughs indicating portions to be eliminated, and highlighted material to be inserted; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that upon passage, President Rynish transmit a copy of this bill to Dr. Brian Levin-Stankevich, Chancellor; Dr. Patricia Kleine, Provost/Vice Chancellor; Dr. Beth Hellwig, Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs; Dr. Brian Carlisle, Dean of Students; Dr. Susan Harrison, Chair, University Senate; Dave Gessner, Assistant Chancellor, Budget & Finance; Mark Reeves, Director, Business Services; Dr. Michael Wick, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs; and Robert Knight, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs Undergraduate Studies.