

# Council recommends Reclassification of GSU For fund eligibility

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and Kevin LaCroix

Student Council recommended Tuesday night that the Board of Visitors reconsider its classification of the Gay Student Union (GSU) as a political and social organization and restore GSU eligibility to receive funds.

Council decided the GSU, which this year revamped its structure, can be considered a service organization.

While confirming the GSU is a "legitimate, recognized student organization," Council acknowledged its own lack of authority to overturn a previous decision by the Board, however.

The Board ruled in 1973 the GSU was both a social and political organization. Under Board guidelines, such organizations are ineligible for Student Activities Funds monies.

Separate appeals to the Appropriations Committee decision were made by a group of five independent students, Law School representative Ray Martin and the Council Appropriations Committee itself.

The committee appealed its own decision to force a final Board guideline ruling on funding the GSU, according to Appropriations Committee member Stefan Underhill.

Explaining the GSU advocates a particular sexual lifestyle, the group of five students opposed the funding of the GSU on the grounds that it is a social and political organization.

In addition, the GSU should be considered a

religious group because it supports a particular side of a moral issue, William H. Hurd, spokesman for the group, said.

"The GSU neither cultivates nor advocates any style of sexual life," GSU Secretary-Treasurer Russell C. Williams said, adding, "our purposes and activities are related to the educational purposes of the University and any funds granted to us shall be used for purposes beneficial to the University."

"Homosexuality is not a religion," Williams said.

The Council motion, introduced by Vice President Ann Sowder, Education School representative Jim Lanham and Underhill, called for the reconsideration of the GSU's status by the Board.

The motion also requested the Board to accept the Appropriation Committee's established "just need" figure of \$485 for the GSU.

The motion passed with twelve affirmative and six negative votes, and three abstentions.

A substitute motion, proposed by College representative Steve Colucciello, asserting Council's authority to decide funding of any eligible organization, failed for lack of a second.

Another substitute motion asking the GSU be allocated no money was defeated overwhelmingly.

The motion that passed was the most "expedient" method of assuring a Board review of the GSU's status as a student organization, Council President Paul Freeman said.

The group of five students plan to appeal the decision to the Board, according to Hurd. "We place our confidence in the appeal process," Hurd said.