



**General Counsel Opinion  
GC 2025–003  
April 3, 2025**

**QUESTION PRESENTED**

Concerns about Legislative advice and consent for search committee and other committee positions were brought to the General Counsel’s attention. Additional concerns included transparency on the appointment process. Parties compromised and drafted a proposed procedure for selection and advice and consent. Accordingly, the question presented is:

- I. Does the General Counsel approve of the proposed procedure for selecting search and other committee members?

**BACKGROUND**

This opinion represents a compromise. It is not a traditional opinion, rather, it reflects the GC’s endorsement of a proposed plan to balance transparency, accountability, and efficiency. The proposed plan is in the section below, along with an endorsement and disclaimer from the GC’s Office. The plan reflects changes added by the GC. If the Legislature finds this policy agreeable, it should be codified in the SGACA, amended as the Legislature sees fit with additions such as procedural steps, definitions, and other guidance.

**RECOMMENDATION, ENDORSEMENT, AND DISCLAIMER**

**Suggested Procedure for Search Committee Appointments:**

At the beginning or end of each school year, the SGA Executive Branch will release a general application open to all students, allowing students to apply to be a candidate for their respective college’s search committee or other qualified committee should need for such committee arise.

Following the application period, the Executive Branch may select candidates via the applications alone or through an additional interview process at their discretion. Once candidates are selected by the Executive Branch, they will be submitted to the Legislative Branch for their advice and consent. Once approved, all candidates will be listed on the SGA website for transparency.

These candidates will be called upon as needed. Candidate terms will last until graduation or resignation.

No more than two students from each college may hold a search committee candidate position at

any time, and the Executive Branch shall ensure that the two positions for each college are occupied at all times.

**General Counsel Endorsement and Disclaimer:**

This plan reflects compromise between respecting the Legislative Branch's powers of advice and consent, while also addressing the unique circumstances surrounding committee appointments. Having a pool of potential committee members, already selected by the Executive Branch and approved by the Legislative Branch, seems to be the most efficient compromise that will serve the student body and colleges in their search committee and other committee efforts. Additionally, this compromise promotes transparency in both pre- and post-candidate selection.

However, this suggestion is proactive and should in no circumstances be applied retroactively. In no circumstances should any officer's failure to comply with this proposed policy before it is enacted be used against them. Only after this policy is enacted may the relevant officials be held to its standards, and only for their actions after it is enacted.

**This is the opinion of the General Counsel.**



---

Maddie Taylor  
SGA General Counsel