

Student Fees Advisory Committee Special Report
Council of Ethnic Organizations

As part of our annual evaluation of budget and funding for fee-funded units, the Student Fees Advisory Committee (SFAC) evaluates the mission of each unit and the relationships between the units. After hearing the unit presentation, reviewing the report documents, and much deliberation, we had several questions arise about the mission, purpose, and advisory relationship of the Council of Ethnic Organizations.

After reviewing the mission of CEO, included below, we concluded that CEO may be better served under the advisorship of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) as opposed to its current placement under Center for Student Involvement (CSI).

*“The Council of Ethnic Organizations (CEO) is the source of support and a platform for Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) to actively promote **diversity and inclusion** of all cultures and peoples to the University of Houston community.”*

We also determined that CEO's use of part of their budget to fund the activities of Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) is inappropriate, creates redundancy with the Activities Funding Board (AFB), and ultimately out of their purview. CEO is not a funding agency of SFAC, and was not given permission to act as such. RSOs that are not fee funded are asked to submit any funding requests to AFB, the appropriate and established funding agency of SFAC.

We recommend that the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Services establish a task force to address the aforementioned concerns and determine the best next steps for the structure and future of CEO. The purpose of establishing the CEO Task Force is to address the purpose and function of CEO, review its current reporting relationship within the Division of Student Affairs, and explore the possibility of reassigning CEO's advising to the Center of Diversity and Inclusion.

Suggested Membership

SFAC Representative- Farah Islam
CSI Representative- Dr. Tina Powellson
CDI Representative- Niya Blair
CEO Representative- Warda Ruhi
Student Representative
Dr. Keith Kowalka
VP DSAES Appointment

SFAC recommends that the task force begin and complete their evaluation during the Spring 2017 semester and deliver a report to the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Services and SFAC for review.