

RATIONALE FOR EXECUTIVE ORDER 28-17-18
Underrepresented Student Organization Space
February 22nd 2018

Undergraduate Student Government exists to build community and enhance experience for students on our campus. We are deeply committed to ensuring all students have the opportunity to get connected to a group, invested on campus, and inspired to help our university grow. As such, last fall we were pleased to hear The University of Akron announce the designation of space on the lower level of the Student Union as pod/office space for underrepresented student organizations on our campus.

Unfortunately, within the last two weeks this decision has been reversed without comment or question from the parties involved in this planning, and has reassigned these organizations less than ideal space in the Schrank buildings in order to accommodate an “esports arena” in the Student Union. While we find the newly founded esports program to be an incredible asset to the university, we strongly believe space in the Student Union should be prioritized for student organizations as a collaborative meeting and work environment. Therefore, Vice President Barry and I ask the senate for your affirmative vote on this order to speak on behalf of the organization in advocating the decision to reassign this space be reversed.

Respectfully,

Taylor Bennington
Student Body President

Andrew Barry
Student Body Vice President

PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDER

EXEC ORDER #

EXECUTIVE ORDER 28-17-18

DATE

02/22/18

By the virtue of authority vested in me by the undergraduate student body of The University of Akron in accordance with the constitution of the Undergraduate Student Government, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. A letter shall be sent to the Office of the President of The University of Akron on behalf of Undergraduate Student Government expressing our collective desire to have the former Buchtelite office converted into space for underrepresented student organizations on campus.

So ordered,

Taylor A. Bennington
Undergraduate Student Body President
The University of Akron

Memo

2.22.2018

President Wilson,

Undergraduate Student Government exists to build community and enhance experience for students on our campus. We are deeply committed to ensuring all students have the opportunity to get connected to a group, invested on campus, and inspired to help our university grow. As such, last fall we were pleased to hear The University of Akron announce the designation of space on the lower level of the Student Union as pod/office space for underrepresented student organizations on our campus. We believe this space will be an incredible asset to these groups as they strive to build community, provide resources, and open up avenues of collaboration for all students.

However, we were disheartened to hear the original designation of what was formally the Buchtelite office as underrepresented student organization space has since been re-designated as one of the three esports venues on our campus. While we find the newly founded esports program to be an incredible asset to the university, we strongly believe space in the Student Union should be prioritized for student organizations as a collaborative meeting and work environment. Therefore, on behalf of Undergraduate Student Government we request the plans to open a underrepresented student organization center move forward in the open suite on the lower level of the Student Union and a new venue be found for the third esports venue.

Thank you for your continued commitment to student leadership on our campus, and consideration of our request.

All the best,

Taylor Bennington

Student Body President

Andrew Barry

Student Body Vice President

CC: Vice President John Messina, Director Anne Bruno, Provost Rex Ramsier

EO 27-17-18 Underrepresented Student Organization Space

Morgan Booker	In Favor
Kayla Bouchard	In Favor
Matthew Brookover	Opposed
Christian Cook	Opposed
Kevin Feezel	In Favor
Bailey Gilchrist	In Favor
Aaliyah Greek	In Favor
Noah Gresser	Opposed
Abbey Kraft	Abstain
Tyler Kraft	Abstain
Nicole Merchant	In Favor
Mark Okocha	In Favor
Suliman Pervaiz	In Favor
Jonah Pichette	Abstain
Adi Rajiv	In Favor
Kenneth Roberts	In Favor
Christopher Thomas	In Favor
Kelly Unger	In Favor
Abi Uwadiae	Abstain
Sarah Yusufi	In Favor