

November 7, 2017 FAS Meeting CLARK

Thank you, President Faust.

Suzannah Clark, Professor and Chair of the Department of Music.

I am speaking today not as co-chair of the USGSO Committee but in my capacity as a faculty member.

When introducing his motion last month, Professor Lewis announced in the first sentence of his remarks: **QUOTE** “This is a simple motion.” I am here to explain why it is not simple.

The aim of Professor Lewis’s motion is to negate the possibility of Options 1 and 2 in the USGSO Committee’s report becoming policy. In introducing the motion last month, Professor Lewis’s remarks focused on the USGSOs, namely the final clubs, fraternities and sororities. However, insofar as the motion refers to **QUOTE** “any lawful organization, political party or social, political or other affinity group,” it also applies to all of the 400 recognized “independent student organizations” or ISOs, which, under the wording of the Lewis motion, are also “lawful organizations”—and they include political groups and affinity groups.

The College has crafted the regulations of the ISOs around its principles of non-discrimination and inclusion. The collateral effect of the Lewis motion—should it pass—would be to strip the College of its authority to enforce the positive values of the regulations concerning the 400 ISOs.

If, however, that is not the intended effect of the Lewis motion, then one would have to ask why the students of one set of organizations

should be shielded from Harvard's regulations of non-discrimination, open membership, and local governance **while** students in another set of organizations are required to follow them. This inconsistency—and I presume unintended consequence—would perpetuate a bifurcation of Harvard's student body.

The report of the USGSO Committee makes clear that the objective is to have all students subject to the same regulations and principles—and this is why Option 1 in the ***Final Report*** includes the invitation for the USGSOs to become like the ISOs and to share in the responsibility of fostering a social scene at Harvard that is rooted in principles of inclusion and non-discrimination.

In short, Professor Lewis's motion is no simple motion. I urge you to vote it down.