



**Music Industry Background paper**

**Committee Name:** Music Industry

**Topic:** Protecting Artistic Integrity: Regulating Influence of Commercial Interests on Grammy Nominations and Awards.

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**Disclaimer:** An audience will be displayed in the committee, delegates or in this case artists, should remain realistic and relevant, and not be hated by their fans. The audience will give feedback and delegates will receive a warning or be deducted points if they get cancelled by their audience, or if they mention very sensitive material stated in certain terms. Delegates must maintain gullibility and respect for other artists, as they will be punished by their chairs if they do not follow the guidelines.

### **Letter to Artists:**

Welcome artists to the Music Industry! My name is Ana Paula Garza Lizárraga, and I'm going to be your moderator. Angel Zúñiga Garza will be your director. We will be your chair for this SPISMUN 2026. Also, we are really excited and grateful to have you as part of our committee, it will be an honor to be your chair. Our goal is to see you improve on this committee by looking at your debating skills. We are very excited to have you on this committee, where your voices, and how you argue will be the primary thing guiding our work. We are here to empower you to be respectful and question the elaborate significant improvement of the global music industry.

In this committee, your role as artists will be to address and regulate the influence of commercial interests on the Grammy Awards, a topic that has great importance in today's music industry. As artists, you will be asked to balance creativity with marketing. Through our sessions, we expect you not only to debate and defend your arguments, collaborate, and think critically. The skills you will develop here are abilities that will serve you far beyond MUN. We hope that this subject will encourage you to think about how recognition and morality, authenticity and fairness still shape the world of music today. Just keep in mind, as artists your voice is a powerful catalyst for productive change and progress in our industry. Let's build insightful, respectful and passionate discussions about the music we love.

Good Luck Artists!

### **Committee overview**

Music Industry includes all record companies and artists involved in producing, making, and delivering music, producers, writers, artists, and managers. This committee addresses global concerns that are industry-oriented, cultural identity, artists rights, and matters in a competitive market. Its goal is to promote creativity, fairness, and integrity so that music can be a genuine expression and not just commercialized interests. Delegates who examine these topics will develop an insight into how music and the music industry shapes communities across the globe. You'll be inspired on how to protect artistic freedom without becoming prey in any realm.

In the end, we aim at building a community in which creativity and responsibility are intertwined and drive music forward into an ever more inclusive and honest foundation. As the music business goes on to progress, it is important to come up with a way to balance creativity and being profitable. Most of the time, all of the focus is placed on what will sell most without anyone noticing that special and different music gets a backseat. Such behavior takes away from the whole idea of being creative, which music is all about. By protecting the rights of artists and making their work acceptable for its real value, we can have an industry that is more fair in which artists can be successful and innovative. With this, music will continue to grow while still being what it was originally intended for, which is to relate stories and bring people together.

## **Background**

The Grammy Awards, created in 1959 by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS), were originally intended to honor artistic excellence rather than commercial success. The Latin GRAMMYs were established in 2000 by the Latin Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (LARAS) to recognize outstanding work in Latin music. While the mission of both institutions was to distinguish creativity from financial performance, increasing commercial pressures, such as streaming numbers, sales, endorsements, and label influence, have made it difficult for the Grammys to remain focused on artistic merit.

Over time, the awards have faced persistent criticism for lack of transparency and fairness in the voting process. Genres like hip-hop and rap, despite widespread cultural influence and global popularity, have often been limited to their own categories and rarely win major awards like Album of the Year. Critics, including Jay-Z, Kanye West, Nicki Minaj, and Drake, argue that Black artists are consistently overlooked in general categories, revealing deeper systemic issues within the Academy's voting practices. Similar concerns extend to gender inequality. The Grammys have historically been male-dominated, and comments made in 2018 by then-President Neil Portnow suggesting women needed to "step up" intensified debates about gender parity. In response, initiatives such as "Women in the Mix" were launched to increase female representation in production, leadership, and voting roles.

Controversies have further damaged public trust in the institution. In 2020, former CEO Deborah Dugan alleged that the Academy manipulated nominations, favored certain artists through insider relationships, and operated with significant conflicts of interest. High-profile incidents, such as The Weeknd receiving no nominations for his critically acclaimed album *After Hours*, prompted artists and public figures to boycott the awards and question the integrity of the selection process. These controversies highlight widespread concerns that political and commercial considerations heavily influence Grammy outcomes.

Although more than 12,000 Recording Academy members participate in the voting system, longstanding issues involving past nomination committees, industry lobbying, and popularity-driven decision-making have contributed to uncertainty about the awards' fairness. As the Grammys increasingly reward mainstream commercial success, innovative and experimental artists receive less recognition. This shift undermines the institution's founding mission to honor genuine artistic talent and limits the diversity and creativity essential for the global evolution of music.

## Current Situation

Currently, Grammy Awards have generated a lot of controversies and impact. Artists have received more fame after winning the Grammy Awards, a lot of artists have experienced that after the Grammys their fame has doubled after winning the prize.

The Grammy have shifted to curb commercial influence, primarily by eliminating secretive Nomination Review Committees in 2022 and imposing stricter voter behavior rules, including bans against voting blocs and vote trading.

They came into effect following earlier claims of a lack of transparency and conflict of interest. The recording Academy's efforts to modernize and add more rules, being sure that fairness is applied. The Grammy awards are still in favor of major labels and veteran artists, some critics have said that even though they have tried to level the Grammys field, it is difficult for independent artists to have more popularity and fame. Despite all these polemics, The Grammys are still a globally recognized awards.

## Key Players

1. **Beyoncé:** Beyonce gained controversy with her known political and social remarks, which occasionally drew criticism for being viewed as culturally insensitive, anti-American, or anti-police. Examples include backlash against a shirt she wore during the Cowboy Carter tour that contained anti-Indigenous language, criticism of her performance at the 2016 Super Bowl, and an ableist slur in her song "Heated" on Renaissance. She has also been accused of cultural appropriation and criticized for her activism, including performing in Dubai when LGBTQ+ rights are restricted in that country.
2. **Kanye West:** Beginning in 2018, West advocated for gun rights and gay marriage while opposing welfare, abortion, and the death penalty. After his divorce from Kim Kardashian, his opinions became increasingly radical. In an interview with Alex Jones's Infowars in December 2022, West claimed to have admired Adolf Hitler, openly denied the Holocaust, and was identified as a Nazi. [2] [3] In a tirade on Twitter in February 2025, West defended rapper Sean "Diddy" Combs from accusations of sexual abuse, made antisemitic remarks, and praised Hitler.
3. **Taylor Swift:** Taylor Swift is in the news for a lot of different reasons. Her public image is one of them, as is her business dealings, like the fight over the masters with Scooter Braun. People are also upset about her use of private jets because of environmental concerns. People have also criticized her for things like her past relationships, her changing musical style, her lack of political activity in the past, and a scene in a music video that some people thought was fat-shaming.
4. **4.Diddy:** Sean Combs was charged with sex trafficking by force, racketeering conspiracy, fraud or coercion, and transporting for prostitution on September 17. This came after he had been sued multiple times in recent months for sexual assault and other crimes. Marc Agnifilo,

Combs' lawyer, said it was an "unjust prosecution" and that his client is "an innocent man with nothing to hide."

5. **D4vd:** Sean Combs was charged with sex trafficking by force, racketeering conspiracy, fraud or coercion, and transporting for prostitution on September 17. He had been sued multiple times in the past few months for sexual assault and other crimes. Marc Agnifilo, Combs' lawyer, called it an "unjust prosecution" and said that his client is "an innocent man with nothing to hide."

## **Conclusion:**

In conclusion, it's critical to keep in mind what matters most in the music business. Staying true to their identity and their desired message is a sign of artist integrity. Their art should be driven by passion and inventiveness rather than just what will generate the most revenue.

There also needs to be transparency and fairness in the way awards like the Grammys work. The voting and nominations should be honest and equal for everyone, so that the artists who truly deserve it are recognized for their talent and effort, not for their fame.

The long-term cultural impact of music is huge. Music has the power to bring people together, share stories, and inspire change. When artists are respected and free to create, their work can continue to influence future generations in a positive way.

Lastly, diversity and representation should always be valued. The music industry should include people from all backgrounds, styles, and genders. When everyone has a voice, music becomes more meaningful and real for everyone around the world.

If we keep these ideas in mind, the music industry can become a fairer, more creative, and more inspiring place for all artists and listeners.

## **Guiding Questions**

1. How can the Grammys make sure that the voting process is fair and not controlled by big companies or money?
2. What can be done to make sure that creativity and real talent are valued more than popularity or profit?
3. How can independent and new artists have the same chance to be nominated as famous ones?
4. Why is it important to have diversity in the Grammys, including different genders, music styles, and cultures?
5. How can the Recording Academy fix its image and make artists and fans trust the Grammys again?
6. What can artists do to stay true to their art while still being successful in the business?

7.What responsibilities do producers, record labels, and artists have to protect real and honest music?

8.How can the Grammys change with the times while still keeping their focus on artistic integrity?

## **Closing statement**

Any artist, whether famous or not, should have an equal opportunity to be recognized for their talents and hard work at the Grammys, and their process should be more transparent and fair. We can only create a better music industry if diversity, honesty, and creativity are in focus.

Grammys should be fair and transparent, giving each artist, be they mainstream or not, a chance to be recognized for their hard work and talent. If we really listen to creativity, honesty, and diversity, we can make the music industry a better place for everyone.

Music has the power to change the world, and it's our job to make sure that it stays real and meaningful. Together, we can help create an industry that respects all voices and celebrates true artistry.

**Let's keep music honest, fair, and inspiring for everyone who listens.**

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## **Quorum**

1. A\$AP Rocky
2. Ariana Grande
3. Bad Bunny
4. Beyonce
5. Bruno Mars
6. D4vd
7. Doja Cat
8. Drake
9. Harry Styles
10. Kanye West
11. Kendrick Lamar
12. Lady Gaga
13. Puff Daddy
14. Rosalia
15. Sabrina Carpenter
16. Taylor Swift

## Bibliography

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