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Committee: Internal Affairs

An SGA Bill to Amend the Bylaws to Restore Mandatory Committee Review of Legislation

Whereas, during the revision and overhaul of the SGA bylaws and passage of the SGA Governance, Accountability, and Integrity Reform Act of 2012 the requirement that legislation go through a senate standing committee before being voted on was removed, and

Whereas, it is in the best interest of SGA senators and the students of the University of Houston that SGA senators have time to communicate with their constituents regarding the contents of legislation introduced in the senate, and

Whereas sending legislation to committee allows time for further research and input from many different individuals regarding the subject at hand, and

Whereas, it was a formality for the senate in the 49th SGA administration to automatically refer legislation to its respective standing senate committee after introduction and first reading, and

Whereas, there are no provisions in the 2012 bylaws outlining the process of introduction of legislation by members of the Student Government Association and no committee procedures.

Therefore be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Government Association of the University of Houston that the following changes be made to the bylaws:

Amend Title 1, Article 8 of the SGA bylaws to the following (changes bolded):

Article 8: Legislation **and Committee Procedures**

Section 1: Introduction of Legislation

Clause 1:

It shall be in order on any class day for a member to file with the Speaker of the Senate a piece of legislation for introduction. Filing shall consist of presenting a hard copy of the legislation or an electronic copy to the Speaker of the Senate.

Clause 2:

It shall also be in order for a member to rise at the appropriate time at the meeting of the Senate and introduce a piece of legislation.

Section 2: Classification of Legislation

Clause 1:

University Bills shall be passed by the Senate when the matter of consideration involves action by areas or departments of the University other than the Student Government Association; University Bills shall be passed by the Senate in order to make, on behalf of the Student Government Association, specific proposals which require approval of the President of the University of Houston; University Bills shall become law only when approved according to procedures of Article IV, Section 11, Clause 2 of the Student Government Association Constitution. University Bills shall require a simple majority vote by the Senate members present and voting, and a signature by the President, for approval.

Clause 2:

Student Government Association Bills shall be passed by the Senate on matters within the authority of the Senate and the Student Government Association, including Student Government Association laws and appropriations; Student Government Association Bills shall become law only when approved according to the procedures of Article IV, Section 11, Clause 1 of the Student Government Association Constitution. Student Government Association Bills shall require a simple majority vote by the Senate members present and voting, and a signature by the President, for approval.

Clause 3:

Student Government Association Resolutions shall be adopted by the Senate when the Senate wishes to state a fundamental of continuing policy or theory of the Student Government Association on some issue. Resolutions shall become law only when approved and according to the procedures of Article IV, Section 11 of the Constitution. Student Government Association Resolutions shall require a simple majority vote by the Senate members present and voting, and a signature by the President, for approval.

Clause 4:

Senate Resolutions shall be adopted by the Senate when the Senate wishes to express the position of those members of the Senate present and voting; Senate Resolutions shall require a simple majority vote by the Senate, present and voting, and do not need a Presidential signature for approval.

Section 2: Formalities of Enactment:

Clause 1:

The Enacting Clause of University Bills and Student Government Association Bills shall approximate the following form: "Be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Government Association of the University of Houston."

Clause 2:

The resolving clause of Student Government Association Resolutions shall approximate the following form: "Be it resolved by the Student Government Association of the University of Houston."

Clause 3:

The resolving clause of Senate Resolutions shall approximate the following form: "Be it resolved by the Senate of the Student Government Association of the University of Houston."

Section 4: Committee Procedures

Clause 1:

All legislation introduced in the Senate shall be automatically referred by the Speaker of the Senate to one of the standing committees upon first reading. Legislation must be in committee for a minimum of one week before said legislation can be voted on.

Clause 2:

Any piece of legislation may be referred from one committee to another by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting. Any piece of legislation may be committed to any committee at any stage of the proceeding on such legislation by a majority vote of those members present and voting.

Clause 3:

The Senate may, no earlier than the next regular meeting at which a piece of legislation or other measure is introduced, discharge a committee from further consideration of the measure by a two-thirds vote.

Clause 4:

In the event that the Senate considers the passage of legislation an urgent, time sensitive matter, the Senate shall have the power to discharge a committee from consideration of the measure by a three-fourths vote.

Be it finally enacted by the Senate of the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

That copies of the revised bylaws with these amendments be sent to all members of the Student Government Association and made available online on the SGA website upon passage of this bill.

VETO

Cedric K. Bandoh
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