

OFFICE OF THE STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

CEDRIC K. BANDO

Speaker Agudelo,

After much consideration, I have decided to veto SGAB-50001: SGA Bill to Amend the Bylaws to Restore Mandatory Committee Review of Legislation.

First, let me be clear, I fully support the essence of the bill and believe that when legislation is further debated within the standing committees of the Senate, it results in stronger and more meaningful legislation. My veto is in response to how the bill is written and its impact on the rest of the bylaws. Parts of the bill create redundancy and inconsistencies in relation to the rest of the bylaws and I outline them below:

The first “Whereas” statement reads: “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; furthermore, the fifth “Whereas” statement reads: 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.” These statements are incorrect, as Title I, Article 7, Section 2, Clause 1 of the bylaws states that ***“in order to assist the Senate in all aspects of analysis, administration, and execution of legislation to be enacted, each standing committee SHALL review all legislation, when its subject matter is within the jurisdiction of that committee.”***

Second, the proposed Section 4, Clause 2 of this bill in my opinion is unnecessary. There is no need to vote to refer legislation from standing committee to standing committee because regardless of what committee the Speaker sends a piece of legislation to, any member of the Senate and/or student body may attend and participate in the debate, discussion, and dialogue regarding the contents of the legislation, since all committee and regularly scheduled Senate meetings are open to the public.

Third, the proposed Section 4, Clause 3 & 4 of this bill in my opinion is misplaced because the standing committees of the Senate have no authority to hold a piece of legislation from being considered by the full Senate. Furthermore, through Robert’s Rules of Order (the parliamentary procedure that we default to and govern ourselves by) provides a procedure that allows the Senate to suspend the rules if it wishes to take action on legislation that has just been introduced.

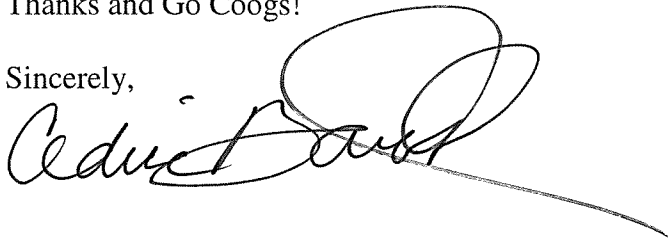
My recommendation for a revised bill are as follows:

- Add a clause after Title I, Article 7, Section 2, Clause 1 that requires the standing committees of the Senate that review legislation to outline their objections and/or comments on the legislation and present them to the Speaker and the Senate before said legislation is voted on.
- Explicitly state that it shall be the duty of the Speaker to assign legislation to a standing committee(s) after they have been introduced.

I commend the Senate Committee on Internal Affairs, et. al., on their efforts. Like I mentioned above I fully support legislation going to standing committees of the Senate for further consideration; however, if we are going to amend the bylaws, we must do so in an organized and efficient manner in order to avoid redundancies and contradictions within the bylaws as a whole.

Thanks and Go Coogs!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cedric Belfrage". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "C" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.