UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Label: SGAB-58008
Date introduced: October 10, 2021
Author(s): Senator Moeller, Senator Shajan
Sponsor(s): Senator Castilla, Senator Cheatum, Senator Dang, Senator Eagleton, Senator Hasan, Senator Hemani, Senator Imran, Senator Lopez, Senator Sanchez, Senator Shreim, Senator Teccsi
Committee: Internal Affairs
Draft: First Read

A Bill to Amend The Recall Special Election Code

Whereas, The Student Government Association's constitution designates all currently enrolled students at the University of Houston as members of the Student Government Association[1];

Whereas, the Student Government Association at the University of Houston supports student elections, student expression, student advocacy and agency through the election code[2];

Whereas, The Senate will have general legislative powers, including the following: To prescribe times, places and manners of holding elections[3];

Whereas, it is outside the powers given by the constitution to the Attorney General to prevent discussion and amendments to the Recall Special Election Code;

Whereas, acting outside of the scope of the constitution would be defined as "emergency powers";

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[1] https://www.uh.edu/sga/_files/constitution.pdf, Article 1, Section 1.02.
[2] https://www.uh.edu/sga/_files/election-code.pdf, Article 1, Section 1, Clause 2.
[3] https://www.uh.edu/sga/_files/constitution.pdf, Article 4, Section 4.07, Clause 3.

Whereas, the Student Government Association's bylaws prohibit the use of emergency powers without the proper legislation[4];

Whereas, the purpose of this recall election is to allow the students of the University of Houston the ability to duly elect their President;

Whereas, blocking campaigning and electioneering severely damages the integrity of the Student Government Association;

Whereas, the Recall Special Election Code will provide a quote of expected expenditures;

Whereas, the Speaker of the Senate, in order to promote transparency, ought to be able to approve expenditures based on the quote given to the speaker of the senate no later than 5 class days after the initiation of the process;

Whereas, The Recall Special Election Code in its current form is too specific to be used in other recall elections.

Therefore, be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

Article 1, Section 1, Clause 2 of the Recall Special Election Code be amended to read; "This document outlines that the Office of The Attorney General has original jurisdiction over any matter related to a Recall Election."

Be it further enacted, Article 2 Section 1 Clause 1 of the Recall Special Election Code be amended to read; "The Attorney General is responsible for the administration of the Student Government Association Recall Election, as well as the administration of additional events at the discretion of the Attorney General that aim to promote the Recall."

Be it further enacted, Article 4, Section 2, Clause 1 of the Recall Special Election Code be amended to read; "A member of the Student Government Association may participate in or assist an organization in campaigning on behalf of their cause."

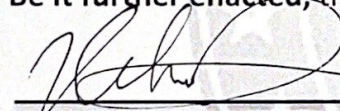[4] https://www.uh.edu/sga/_files/bylaws.pdf, Article 1, Section 2, Clause 2

Be it further enacted, Article 4, section 2 clause 2 of the Recall Special Election Code be amended to read; "The candidate and involved party will each prepare a statement, no more than 500 words, detailing their side of the matter (pro vs. against)."

Be it further enacted, Article 5, Section 3, Clause 2 of the Recall Special Election Code be amended to read; "University of Houston students, faculty, and staff members may solicit people to vote."

Be it further enacted, Article 6, Section 1, Clause 3 of the Recall Special Election Code be amended to read; "Expenses related to the Recall Election will need to be approved by the Speaker of the Senate as the funds for the management of the Recall Election will be from the senate's portion of the SGA budget."

Be it further enacted, Article 7, Section 1, Clause 1 of the Recall Special Election Code be amended to read; "This document should be used as a guide for all Recall Elections, upon review by the senate."

Be it further enacted, this document is below the bylaws and constitution

Rohit Shajan

Speaker of the Senate

Date of Senate Approval: ___3-31-2022___

Arsalan Darbin

Student Government President

Date of President's Approval: _____