SS2021-B6 – Appointment of Temporary Senators to Unfilled Seats

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 2, Clause A of the UNT SGA Constitution mandates that “[the] Student Senate shall consist of 45 Senators”.

WHEREAS, in the Spring 2021 Senate session, 26 of the allotted Senate seats were left unfilled.

WHEREAS, in the Spring 2021 Senate session, there were at least four colleges without Student Senators before March 10.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, the following additions be made to the UNT SGA Bylaws Article I, Section 5:

A) Any candidate for appointment to the Student Senate must meet all eligibility requirements of a senator.

B) Full appointments to the Student Senate may be granted by a simple two-thirds (2/3) majority vote if the requested appointment is to the appointee’s respective school.

C) Any candidate seeking full appointment must provide 25 names and Student ID numbers EUIDs from members of their respective school, college, academy, or the Frisco campus college, school, and Frisco Campus before being eligible for full appointment.

D) A student may petition the Student Senate to fully represent a school, college, academy, or the Frisco campus College, School, or, and the Frisco Campus Academy of which they are not a member by providing a verifiable petition of 50 members of that College, School, or Academy.

E) Senators fully appointed to a seat shall be allowed to serve in that seat until the next regularly scheduled Student Senate election.

F) Temporary appointment to an empty Senate seat may be obtained as follows:
   a) Any candidate seeking temporary appointment must provide a verifiable petition of 10 members of their respective school, college, academy, or the Frisco campus.
   b) Any candidate seeking temporary appointment to represent a school, college, academy, or the Frisco campus of which they are not a member must provide a verifiable petition of 20 members of that school, college, academy, or the Frisco campus.
   c) The Speaker of the Senate may elect to accept a temporary Senate appointment candidate to fill a seat not already occupied through written notice, provided to all Senators.
d) A temporary Senator has 21 calendar days to submit a petition as required for full appointment. After this time, if such a petition has not been submitted, the temporary Senator shall lose their seat. Otherwise, a Senator temporarily appointed to a seat shall be allowed to serve in that seat until the next regularly scheduled Student Senate election.

e) A temporary Senator will not count for quorum, will not have voting rights in Senate or committee, or be eligible to hold an officer position, but will otherwise have the same procedural rights and responsibilities as any other Senator as defined in Robert’s Rules of Order and these bylaws.

G) Any Senator, temporary or otherwise, may only hold one seat in the Student Senate at any given time.

H) Every student at UNT may only be fully appointed to the Student Senate twice.

I) Senators seeking appointment to a non-TAMS Student Senate seat must have completed no fewer than twelve (12) semester credit hours at UNT.

J) Any candidate seeking appointment to the Student Senate must fill out an electronic Senate Appointment Application through SGA Orgsync. The Senate Appointment Application must be submitted one (1) week prior to the Student Senate meeting at which their appointment is being considered.

K) The Speaker of the Senate may compose, update, and change the Senate Appointment Applications as needed.

L) Upon composition, update, or amendment to the Senate Appointment Application, the Speaker of the Senate will present the Senate Appointment Application at the first Student Senate meeting of each semester, which must be approved by the Student Senate by majority (50% +1) vote.

M) Until a new Senate Appointment Application is presented and approved by the Student Senate, the existing Senate Appointment Application will hold as the official document.

N) The Speaker of the Senate will be required to notify Senate Candidates, who have run in the previous Spring’s elections, when seats within their college and other colleges become available.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the subsequent numbering be amended as necessary.

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Ted Kwee-Bintoro
Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science

Senator Andy McDowall
College of Engineering
In Witness thereof, I hereby certify the Student Senate of the University of North Texas Student Government Association has approved this document and is referred to the office of the President.

_____________________________     ________________________
Speaker of the Senate        Date

Presidential Action:
☐ Vetoed
☐ Approved

____________________________     ________________________
President of the Student Government Association      Date

____________________________     ________________________
Vice President of Student Affairs        Date

Appendix A: Flowchart Describing the Previous Appointment Process
Appendix B: Flowchart Describing the Proposed Appointment Process

PROPOSED APPOINTMENT PROCESS

Other Senator Eligibility Reqs

Petition (10) by same school
Petition (20) by diff school

Addresses constituency wants, makes it a continuation of process rather than duplication

Must complete next step within 21 calendar days

Speaker agrees

Petition (25) by same school
Petition (50) by diff school

2/3 Senate approval

Removal of add. 2/3 vote lessens burden on Senate

Time limit allows Senate to choose appointed peers

Now a Temp Senator

Now a Temp Senator

Full Senator

Could hypothetically remain temp for rest of year, but onus is on Senate