



By-Laws Bill S2017-B7

WHEREAS, the Election Board is to serve as an impartial and unbiased component of the University of North Texas' Student Government Association.

WHEREAS, the Election Board exists to organize and oversee all Student Government Association elections in a manner consistent with the University of North Texas Student Code of Conduct.

WHEREAS, it is the duty of the Student Government Association to make necessary changes to the SGA By-Laws, in order to create transparency within elections.

LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, Article V: Section 2 be amended to include additional subsections that preserve impartiality throughout any election.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the following changes and additions be added to the UNT SGA By-Laws:

Article V: Section 2: Subsection H:

All members of the election board, including the Election Commissioner, shall fill out a disclosure form, submitted within 24 hours after the close of applications in the spring. The completed disclosure form shall be publicly available on the Student Government Association website.

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Jordan Villarreal

College of Arts and Sciences

Senator Alyssa Alvarado

College of Public Administration and Community Service

David Klein

Election Board Member

Senator Misaki Collins

College of Arts and Sciences

Senator Nicolet Nathan

College of Visual Arts and Design

Senator Kelly Phommachanh

College of Arts and Sciences

Senator Natalie Belokin
College of Education
Danielle Sullivan
Election Board Member

Election Board Disclosure Form

Full Name: _____

What year are you?

Have you been in SGA and if so in what capacity?

Have you been a part of any Campaign or past ticket?

Have you contributed financially to a campaign?

Have you ever served in any SGA role?

I hereby certify that all of the above is true. I understand that by failing to disclose any relevant information to any oversight body that I could be removed from my position.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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.

Janett Cole
Speaker of the Senate

May 3, 2017
Date

Presidential Action:

Vetoed
 Approved
Grant M. Hall
President of the Student Government Association

May 8, 2017
Date

Vice President of Student Affairs

Date

8 May 2017

Veto of By-Laws Bill S2017-B7

I commend the Student Senate's desire to improve the election process. While I agree with the spirit and intention of this bill, I must object to the By-Law change proposed in S2017-B7.

The stated purpose of the Bill is to ensure the impartiality and unbiased nature of the Election Board. There is no question that the Election Board should be both impartial and unbiased, but it is the character of the individuals who serve on the Election Board that will determine its impartiality and unbiased nature. Requiring a public form that discloses past participation in SGA and past support for candidates, campaigns, and/or tickets will neither ensure nor promote these qualities in the individuals who serve on the Election Board.

If it is necessary to know about an individual's past involvement with SGA, that information should be asked when the individual is vetted by the Student Senate and before a vote is taken on their confirmation. Once they are confirmed, members of the Election Board must certainly be held accountable. An appeal of a decision made by the Election Board can be made to the Supreme Court, and furthermore the Supreme Court may also hear a case about a member of the Election Board if it is believed they have not faithfully executed the responsibilities of their position. A disclosure form may seem like a useful way to ensure accountability. On the contrary, a disclosure form that is made available to the public will only invite rumors, speculation, and personal attacks. When dealing with matters that are of great importance and potentially very personal, it is best to use proper judicial proceedings and the basic assumption that people are innocent until proven guilty.

Respectfully,

Grant M. Hale

President, Student Government Association

