General SGA By-Laws Update Bill S2018-B1

WHEREAS, The Student Senate recognizes a need for the Undergraduate Student Government Association By-Laws to undergo significant changes in order to improve the capabilities of the Student Senate to carry out its responsibilities.

WHEREAS, The Student Senate recognizes the need for more clarity within the By-Laws governing the Student Government Association of the University of North Texas.

LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT, The following changes be made to the UNT SGA By-Laws:

**Article I: Rules on the Senate**

**Section 2: Meetings**

A) The Student Senate shall convene on designated Wednesday evenings.
B) The time of the meetings must be consistent within one semester. Should the times set for the meetings be changed for any reason, it requires such change to be approved by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Senate.
C) All meetings of the Student Senate, Summer Senate, or Committees thereof shall be conducted according to the latest edition of Robert’s Rules of Order and any additions outlined in these SGA By-Laws.
D) Meetings where legislation is being considered will be deemed a Senate work session meeting.

**Section 3: Permanent Standing Committees**

The Standing Committees of the Senate are Internal, Intergovernmental, and Student Affairs.

A) The Internal Standing Committee is charged with overseeing amendments to the Senate Code of Conduct, overseeing the enforcement of the Senate Code of Conduct, and monitoring attendance of Senators at Senate and committee meetings.
B) The Intergovernmental Committee is charged with monitoring and ensuring progression of passed legislation between SGA and any other University of North Texas division, department, etc.
C) The Assignment of Senators to the standing committees shall be determined by the Student Senate during the first Senate meeting at the beginning of each term. Senators seeking committee positions must receive a simple majority vote from the Student Senate. A minimum of five elected Senators (so long as it is an odd number of committee members) shall serve on these committees for the duration of the session.

D) Should any Senator on any of the Standing Committees of the Senate resign or otherwise vacate their position, a replacement shall be chosen by the Student Senate during the next Senate Session meeting in accordance with the process outlined in this Section.

E) The Intergovernmental Senate Standing Committees shall elect from their own a member to serve as chairperson for the duration of the term or until the Chairperson resigns in which case a new chairperson will be elected.

F) The Chairperson of each committee shall either designate a member to take minutes or do it themselves.

G) The Chairperson will have the authority to call committee meetings provided that notice is given at least five (5) business days in advance.

H) In case that the Chairperson is unable to attend a committee meeting they shall be responsible for appointing another member of the committee as a temporary head before the meeting. The Chairperson is also in charge of recording and reporting attendance to the Senate Secretary within two (2) business days after each Committee Meeting.

Section 4: Regular Standing Committees

a) At the beginning of each Senate Session the Student Senate will determine a list of regular standing committees that shall endeavor to fulfill the mission of the Student Senate.

b) After determining a list of committees, the Student Senate shall vote to approve or deny the formation of each committee by a simple majority vote.

c) After the approval of committees, the Student Senate shall choose and elect from among its members a minimum of five Senators (so long as it is an odd number of committee members) through a simple majority vote to serve on each committee until the end of each session. Senators may serve on more than one committee.

d) Should any Senator on any of the regular standing committees of the Senate resign or otherwise vacate their position, a replacement shall be chosen by the Student Senate during the next Senate meeting by a simple majority vote.

ee) Each regular standing committee shall elect from their own, a member to serve as chairperson for the duration of the session or until the Chairperson resigns in which case a new chairperson is voted upon.
f) The Chairperson of each committee shall either designate a member to take minutes or do it themselves.
g) The Chairperson will have the authority to call committee meetings provided that notice is given at least five (5) business days in advance.
h) In case that the Chairperson is unable to attend a committee meeting they shall be responsible for appointing another member of the committee as a temporary head before the meeting. The Chairperson is also in charge of recording and reporting attendance to the Senate Secretary within two (2) business days after each Committee Meeting.

**Section 5: Committee Meetings**

A) Fifty percent plus one (50%+1) of any committee’s membership constitutes a quorum.
B) Each committee chairperson is responsible for keeping record of all business in the form of minutes and must file them with the Speaker of the Senate, as well as the Senate Secretary, within 5 business days of a committee meeting.
C) The Student Senate Standing Committees must meet during Senate-work session meetings to consider legislation in committee and additionally as often as is necessary to effectively conduct business.

**Section 6: Officers of the Senate**

**Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate**

A) The Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate shall assist the Speaker in directing and managing the business of the Senate.
B) The Speaker Pro-Tempore shall preside at meetings of the Senate when the Speaker is absent or when the Speaker chooses to cast a vote during a meeting that is not a tie-breaking vote.
C) The Speaker Pro Tempore shall be charged to coordinate Senate events, to represent the Senate when needed, to be a voting member of each internal Permanent Standing Committee and to perform any other duties as assigned by these Bylaws or by action of the Student Senate.

**Secretary**
A) The Secretary of the Senate shall be charged with keeping the records of Senate, to call attendance at each meeting, to assist the Speaker in counting votes and call names for all roll call votes, to keep and record accurate minutes of every meeting, to read the minutes when presented in Senate, to bring all appropriate records to meetings and to send all notices of meetings, agendas, legislation and correspondence to all members of SGA prior to each meeting within a reasonable time and to perform any other duties as assigned by these By-Laws or by action of the Student Government Association.

B) To receive and keep track of minutes and/or reports sent by Executive Directors and committee secretaries each week.

C) No Senator may hold more than one Officer position simultaneously.

D) In the event that an officer is unable to serve or is removed, a successor shall be immediately elected.

E) Shall serve as the Chairperson of the Senate Internal Standing Committee

Section 8: Ad Hoc Committees

A) The Student Senate shall be empowered to create Ad Hoc Committees to consider specific issues and/or pieces of legislation. Ad Hoc Committees may be created by a simple majority vote by the Student Senate.

B) Ad Hoc Committees shall exist until the resolution of their purpose or the end of the academic year current senate session, whichever comes first.

C) Each Ad Hoc Committee shall be comprised of a minimum of five senators (so long as it is an odd number of committee members) of the Student Senate elected by a simple majority vote of the Student Senate.

D) Each Ad Hoc Committee shall elect from their own a member to serve as chairperson for the duration of the committee’s existence or until the Chairperson resigns in which case a new member is appointed to the committee by the student senate and a new Chairperson is elected.

E) The Chairperson of each committee shall either designate a member to take minutes or do it themselves.

F) The Chairperson will have the authority to call committee meetings provided that notice is given at least five (5) business days in advance.

G) In case that the Chairperson is unable to attend a committee meeting they shall be responsible for appointing another member of the committee as a temporary head before the meeting. The Chairperson is also in charge of recording and reporting attendance to the Senate Secretary within two (2) business days after each Committee Meeting.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, should this bill be passed by the Student Senate and approved by the Student Government Association President. The changes to the University of
North Texas Student Government Association By-Laws outlined by this bill shall reflect the new numbering throughout the SGA By-Laws. After being passed standing committees shall be created and senators chosen to fill them at the next Senate Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Senator Sven Lohse
Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science

Senator Natalie Belokin
College of Education

Senator Rachel Shafer
Honors College

Senator Gabrielle Tilley
College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences Senator

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.

[Signature]
Speaker of the Senate
Presidential Action:
☐ Vetoed
☐ Approved

[Signature]
President of the Student Government Association

[Signature]
Vice President of Student Affairs

3/1/18
Date

3/20/2018
Date

4/2/18
Date