

1 September 16, 2010

2 **S.B. 1002**

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4 **Title: Amending the Constitution and Bylaws of the Senate of College Councils**

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6 **WHEREAS,** The Constitution and Bylaws of the Senate of College Councils (Senate) serve as  
7 the official governing documents for Senate; and,

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9 **WHEREAS,** The Constitution and Bylaws of Senate ought to reflect the desired current  
10 practices and policies of Senate as Senate serves students as the official student  
11 voice in academics at the University of Texas at Austin; and,

12  
13 **WHEREAS,** The Constitution and Bylaws of Senate have not been recently comprehensively  
14 reviewed and revised to ensure that they reflect the desired current practices and  
15 policies of Senate; and,

16  
17 **WHEREAS,** The Constitution and Bylaws of Senate need to be amended to reflect desired  
18 current practices, or current practices need to be changed to reflect the  
19 Constitution and Bylaws of Senate; and,

20  
21 **WHEREAS,** Senate would be best served by amending the Constitution and Bylaws to reflect  
22 desired current practices in numerous areas; therefore, be it

23  
24 **ENACTED,** That Article I of the Constitution of Senate be amended to include the following  
25 to provide clarity about the nature and purpose of Senate agencies:

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27 **“D. Senate supports a number of registered student organizations at the**  
28 **University of Texas at Austin as officially sponsored agencies. These**  
29 **agencies fulfill the academic mission of the Senate of College**  
30 **Councils and the University through the organizations’ initiatives.”;**

31  
32 and, be it further

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34 **ENACTED,** That Article II of the Constitution of Senate be amended to state the following to  
35 change the service requirements for Senate representatives on Senate standing  
36 academic committees:

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38 **“[C. The Senate representative of each council is selected as a member in**  
39 **accordance with the governing documents of the respective council. Each**  
40 **representative participates in General Assembly meetings, serves on the**  
41 **Representatives Committee, and is] eligible required [to serve on] an at**  
42 **least one [academic committee. In the event that a representative is no**

43 *longer eligible for membership, the respective council replaces the*  
44 *position.]”;*

45  
46 and, be it further

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48 **ENACTED,** That Article II of the Constitution of Senate be amended to state the following to  
49 better reflect the role of financial directors in Senate:

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51 “D. *[The financial director of each council is an ex-officio member. Each*  
52 *financial director participates in General Assembly meetings] and, [serves*  
53 *on the Financial Committee]., **and is eligible for appointment to any***  
54 ***academic committee.***”;

55  
56 and, be it further

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58 **ENACTED,** That Article II of the Constitution of Senate be amended to state the following to  
59 be grammatically correct:

60  
61 “F. *[The President of Student Government and] the [President of the*  
62 *Graduate Student Assembly are ex-officio members of Senate.]”;*

63  
64 and, be it further

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66 **ENACTED,** That Article III of the Constitution of Senate be amended to include and state the  
67 following to reflect current practice:

68  
69 “A. *[Each council has one vote] **When voting, the president of each college***  
70 ***council verbally gives the council's vote decision. If the president of***  
71 ***the college council is not present, the voting decision reverts to the***  
72 ***Senate representative, and if the Senate representative is not present,***  
73 ***the voting decision reverts to the financial director.***

74  
75 B. *[Unless otherwise determined by the council's governing documents, the*  
76 *vote decision] **given by the president, Senate representative, or***  
77 ***financial director should reflect the vote decision of the college council***  
78 ***as a whole. ~~is determined by the following: a majority vote of the~~***  
79 ***~~president, Senate representative, and financial director within each~~***  
80 ***~~council. If one or more of these members is not present, the voting~~***  
81 ***~~decision reverts to the present members. If the present member(s)~~***  
82 ***~~cannot reach a decision, the council abstains.~~***”;

83  
84 and, be it further

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86 **ENACTED,** That Article IV of the Constitution of Senate be amended to state the following to  
87 allow more individuals and groups to introduce amendments to the Constitution  
88 and Bylaws of Senate:

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“B. [The Presidents Committee is made up of the president from each council and the Senate President. The Committee addresses university issues through appointments held by the President such as advisory committees to the President of The University. The Committee also] **may originate** ~~originates~~ [amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws and] ~~may originate~~ [resolutions.]”;

and, be it further

**ENACTED,** That Article IV of the Constitution of Senate be amended to state the following to better reflect the function and role of the Representatives Committee:

“C. [The Representatives Committee is made up of the Senate representative of each council and the Vice President. The Committee serves as a forum for communication on issues and events of the councils] **and** [distributes academic issues to academic committees], ~~and acts as a provider of academic and informal programming[.]~~”;

and, be it further

**ENACTED,** That Article IV of the Constitution of Senate be amended to state the following to be grammatically correct:

“D. [The Financial Committee is made up of the financial director of each council and the Senate Financial Director. The Committee appropriates money from the Student Services Fee to registered student organizations] **and;** [acts as a forum of communication on financial matters including questions on spending, fundraising, and best practices. The Committee also advises the Executive Board on budgetary decisions regarding council allocations and is the originator of spending bills and amendments to the Internal Spending Rules. The Financial Committee shall have complete discretion on how the appropriation process will take place throughout the academic year.]”;

and, be it further

**ENACTED,** That Article V of the Constitution of Senate be amended to remove the Global Leadership Center as an agency of Senate due to the Global Leadership Center no longer being a registered student organization at the University of Texas at Austin; and, be it further

**ENACTED,** That Article V of the Constitution of Senate concerning the agencies of Senate be moved to the Bylaws to be Bylaw VIII: Agencies; and, be it further

**ENACTED,** That Bylaw II of the Bylaws of Senate be amended to include and state the following to provide clarity about the timing of discussions involving legislation

135 during General Assembly meetings at all stages:

136  
137 “E. At General Assembly meetings, a member introducing a piece of  
138 legislation may have a maximum of ten minutes to present unless that  
139 time period is extended by a vote of the General Assembly. This  
140 introduction will be immediately followed by a maximum of five  
141 minutes of question/answer unless extended by a vote of the General  
142 Assembly.

143  
144 F. [At General Assembly meetings, a member may speak up to two minutes  
145 on a] **particular piece of legislation during discussion and debate topic.**  
146 [The discussion] **and debate** [period for each topic is limited to 20  
147 minutes] **unless extended by a vote of the General Assembly.”;**

148  
149 and, be it further,

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151 **ENACTED,** That Bylaw III of the Bylaws of Senate be amended to state the following to  
152 better reflect the current desired internal reporting structure of Senate:

153  
154 “F. [The Vice President serves as the chief internal officer of Senate,  
155 overseeing the activities of all Senate committees], ~~with the exception of~~  
156 ~~the Multimedia and Publicity Committee,~~ [and acting as the liaison  
157 between the Executive Board and Senate representatives. In the absence of  
158 the President, the Vice President exercises all duties vested in the  
159 President.]”;

160  
161 and, be it further,

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163 **ENACTED,** That Bylaw III of the Bylaws of Senate be amended to state the following to  
164 promote gender equity and to fix unclear wording:

165  
166 “G. [The Policy Director is responsible for being knowledgeable about and  
167 conducting research on University policy and proposed changes. The  
168 Policy Director shall stay up to date on academic ideas and initiatives and  
169 makes regular reports about his/]her [findings to the President. The  
170 Policy Director will provide updated information on the status of pending  
171 Senate bills and resolutions, and at the request of Senate members, the]  
172 **Policy** [Director will investigate and report on prior legislative activities  
173 of the Senate]”;

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175 and, be it further,

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177 **ENACTED,** That Bylaw III of the Bylaws of Senate be amended to state the following to  
178 update the role of the Executive Director given the newly established role of the  
179 Administrative Director:  
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181 “I. The Executive Director is responsible for promoting and supporting  
182 Senate Agencies and coordinating Senate resources to serve college  
183 councils. Additionally, the Executive Director will foster  
184 communication between the Executive Board, committee chairs and  
185 college councils.”;

186  
187 and, be it further,

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189 **ENACTED,** That Bylaw III of the Bylaws of Senate be amended to include the following to  
190 describe and give information about the role of the Administrative Director in  
191 Senate:

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193 “J. The Administrative Director is in charge of compiling general meeting  
194 agendas, taking general meeting minutes, keeping the official  
195 attendance and voting records for councils, among other  
196 administrative tasks. Additionally, the Administrative Director should  
197 facilitate organization among the Senate Leadership Team and  
198 maintain the Senate office space and annex.”;

199  
200 and, be it further,

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202 **ENACTED,** That Bylaw III of the Bylaws of Senate be amended to state the following to  
203 better reflect the current desired internal reporting structure of Senate:

204  
205 “K. *[The Communications Director serves to develop communications*  
206 *between individual councils, between councils and Senate, and between*  
207 *Senate and other student governance organizations at the University. The*  
208 *Communications Director is also responsible for promoting Senate to the*  
209 *University community via press releases, the Senate newsletter, and other*  
210 *media and literature.] ~~The Communications Director is also~~*

211 ~~responsible for overseeing the Multimedia and Publicity Committee.~~”;

212  
213 and, be it further,

214  
215 **ENACTED,** That Bylaw IV of the Bylaws of Senate be amended to include the following to  
216 clarify the procedures and expectations regarding stipends given to Senate officers:

217  
218 “G. *[The President is eligible to receive an annual stipend not to exceed \$375*  
219 *per month. The Vice President is eligible to receive an annual stipend not*  
220 *to exceed \$250 per month. The Financial Director and Policy Director*  
221 *are eligible to receive annual stipends not to exceed \$125 per month.] **The***  
222 ***distribution of these stipends is contingent upon the submittal of a***  
223 ***monthly timesheet by each officer documenting the number of hours***  
224 ***spent month on Senate activities.** *[These amounts are based upon a work**  
225 *obligation of 80 hours per month.]”;*

226

227 and, be it further,

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229 **ENACTED,** That Bylaw VII of the Bylaws of Senate be amended to state the following to be  
230 grammatically correct:

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232 “A. *[The organizations listed in this section are the official councils of the*  
233 *Senate of College Councils. The Senate of College Councils may consider*  
234 *a registered student organization for official council status upon receipt of*  
235 *a letter from the college or school’s dean or] ~~an~~ *[associate dean stating*  
236 *that the council serves as a representative group for students in the*  
237 *college or school.]”**

238

239 **Authors:** David G Liu (Policy Director, Senate of College Councils)

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241 **Sponsors:** Senate Executive Board