

STANDING RULES OF THE STUDENT SENATE OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS  
Approved by Senate on 01/18/2011

**Article I. Organization**

**Section 1. Executive Committee**

- A. The President and the Vice President will announce the availability of the remaining positions on the Executive Committee (EC) for two weeks prior to the election of said positions.
- B. The President and the Vice President may each give one applicant per position their recommendations before the full senate.
- C. Applicants will be disposed to answer questions.
  - 1. The list of applicants will be read one position at a time. All named applicants will then leave the room.
  - 2. The applicants will be brought in one at a time to answer questions from the President and/or the Vice President.
  - 3. The President may then open the floor for questions from senators.
  - 4. After all questions are concluded and the last applicant again leaves the room, the President and the Vice President may then, if they choose, make their recommendations.
  - 5. The floor will then be opened for debate. Debate will be limited to ten minutes per EC position.
  - 6. After debate has ended, a vote will be taken and the applicant receiving the most votes will be the chair of the specified committee.
  - 7. The applicants are then brought back into the room, the results are announced, and the process repeats itself until all EC positions are filled.
  - 8. Any grievance regarding this process will be directed to the President and Vice President, in writing, within five days of the occurrence of the offense.

**Section 2. Committees**

- A. The President and the Vice President will oversee all committee chairs. The President may appoint, at will, chairs for temporary, or Ad-hoc committees.

**Section 3. Absentee Policy**

- A. Any senator who does not attend at least ninety minutes, or until business is concluded, of a senate meeting or is more than fifteen minutes late will be considered absent. Their absence can be excused by the President or, in the absence of the President, the Vice President only.
- B. Office staff may not excuse absences. Messages may be taken by the office staff to be returned by the President or Vice President before the meeting.
- C. Absences to be excused after the meeting must be done within 24 hours of the meeting.
- D. The President may declare a maximum of four events a semester to be mandatory, with two weeks' notice before the event. Any absence from these events will count as an unexcused absence unless an excuse is given to the President before the event or within 24 hours after the event.

#### **Section 4. Senator Voting Record**

- A. Roll call vote can be taken by the decision of the chair on any vote requiring two-thirds majority without a request for roll call.
- B. A voting member of the senate can call for a roll call on any motion, amendment and/or resolution if there is:
  - 1. A second to the roll call motion.
  - 2. A majority vote in favor of a roll call.

#### **Section 5. Debate Limitations**

- A. Debate length on any motion will be limited to ten minutes and thirty minutes for constitutional, bylaws or standing rule amendment without a successful motion to extend the limits of debate.
  - 1. Only a voting member who is not the acting Chair or the sponsor of the issue being debated can request an extension.
  - 2. The Executive Committee shall have the power to change the length of debate time on any motion to be brought before the senate, during an Executive Committee meeting, with a simple majority vote.

#### **Article II. Conferences**

In the event the President or Vice President cannot attend a leadership conference or workshop:

- A. The President will ask for applicants from the current Senate membership who are interested in attending the workshop.
- B. The application process will be completed at least one week before the event to allow applicants to make the necessary arrangement in their schedule in the event that they are chosen to represent SG at the workshop.
- C. The Executive Committee shall review the applicants and select the representative(s).
- D. The Committee will consider:
  - 1. Past and future commitment to SG.
  - 2. Overall contribution the Senator can make to the Senate by attending the workshop.

#### **Article III. Election Debates**

- A. The Election Board will schedule and publicize one debate between willing/opposing Presidential/Vice Presidential candidates.

#### **Article IV. Filling Empty Seats**

- A. In the event there are empty senate seats after the regular senate elections, students may be nominated to the empty seats, excluding the seven seats for freshman senators, to fill the term of such vacancies.
  - 1. Prior to the election of the Executive Committee, losing candidates in the most recent election may be nominated for an empty senate seat by any senator and shall be subject to confirmation by a three-fourths (3/4) vote.
  - 2. The president will take applications for empty seats and will recommend students to the Executive Committee. Recommendations brought to the Executive Committee shall be reviewed only if the application has been e-mailed to the Executive Committee within a reasonable amount of time, as determined by the

Executive Committee, and shall be subject to confirmation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

3. The Executive Committee shall then bring all confirmed appointment recommendations to the senate where the Executive Committee shall have the opportunity to speak on the qualifications and rationale for each recommendation shall be appointments confirmed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the senate.
  4. All applications shall be made available at the request of any senator.
- B. Seats shall be filled by students who have attended at least one meeting prior to their nomination.
- C. A majority of filled senate seats, excluding the seven freshman seats, shall be held by elected senators or those who served a prior term.

#### **Article V. Senator of the Year**

- A. Senator of the Year shall be selected prior to the Leadership Reception.
- B. Nominations shall be announced and accepted for one week prior to voting.
- C. Voting shall be done by secret ballot in the SG office and shall be open for a five-day period.
1. A member of the office staff shall be responsible for recording votes.
  2. One senator, one vote.
  3. The vote shall be counted by the Executive Committee and announced at the Leadership Reception.

#### **Article VI. Senator of the Month**

- A. Senator of the Month shall be selected prior to the first full senate meeting of each month.
- B. Nominations shall be submitted by all members of the Executive Committee at the last Executive Committee meeting of each month.
- C. The President shall select the Senator of the Month from the list submitted by the Executive Committee, or a member of the Executive Committee.
- D. The Senator of the Month shall be recognized at the first full senate meeting of each month.

#### **Article VII. Freshman Senator of the Year**

- A. Freshman Senator of the year shall be selected prior to the Student Government Banquet.
- B. Nominations shall be submitted by members of the Senate at the last meeting prior to the Student Government Banquet.
1. A member of the office staff shall be responsible for recording votes.
  2. One senator, one vote.
  3. The vote shall be counted by the Executive Committee and announced at the Student Government Banquet.

#### **Article VIII. Committee of the Year**

- A. Committee of the Year shall be selected prior to the Student Government Banquet.
- B. Committee of the Year shall be selected by the President of Student Government.

#### **Article IX. Senate Service Awards**

- A. The President and Vice President of Student Government shall be excluded from consideration for this award.

B. Service Excellence Award

1. As recognition of outstanding service to the Student Government an appropriate financial award shall be presented to the senator receiving the Service Excellence Award. This award shall be presented at the last meeting of the semester or the Awards Banquet.

**Article X. Friendly Amendments**

- A. After debate has opened on any given motion, friendly amendments to the resolution are permitted.
  1. A friendly amendment is defined as an amendment to a motion under debate that is perceived by all parties as a non-substantive clarification to the original motion.
- B. The sponsor of the resolution has the responsibility to accept or reject the friendly amendment.
- C. If the sponsor accepts the resolution the friendly amendment is incorporated into the resolution without a vote.

**Article XI. Guidelines for Funding Allocations**

- A. No motions shall be heard for the reimbursement of monies directed at non-Student Government projects.
- B. The Senate may, with the assent of its advisor, allocate funding for the direct purchase of event materials for non-Student Government projects when:
  1. The hosting organizations is University-affiliated and not eligible for SOF funding, and
  2. The event is free and open to the entire student body, and
  3. Must advertise Student Government as a co-sponsor.

**Article XII. Amending the Standing Rules**

- A. Any amendments to the Standing Rules must be submitted to the President who will submit the changes to the full senate. To amend the Standing Rules, the Senate must approve it by two-thirds majority vote of the current membership.
- B. Upon approval of the Senate, the Standing Rules will then be presented to the Administration for approval according to Section 5, Subsection 5.1, Subdivision 5.12 of Regents' Rules and Regulations.