



The Student Senate

Texas A&M University

S.B. 68-19

The Student Senate
68th Session
Texas A&M University

Author(s): Ja'Cory Clark, On Campus Caucus

Action Taken



*By unanimous voice vote
11/18/15*

Certified By:

Aaron Mitchell 11/6
Aaron Mitchell
Speaker of the Senate *11/22/15*

Judicial Court Justice Confirmation Process Bill

Special Designation: Senate Bylaw Bill

"A bill amending the Texas A&M University Student Senate Bylaws to change the process of confirmation for Judicial Court Justices."

Whereas(1): Because the Judicial Court is empowered with the duty of interpreting the Student Government Association Code and Senate Statues, it is imperative that each Justice understand these documents thoroughly, and;

Whereas(2): The confirmation process that has been utilized by the Student Senate when considering Judicial Court Justices has proven to be ineffective in allowing the senate body to fully ensure that Judicial Court Justice Nominees have a firm grasp on the Student Government Association Code and Student Senate Statues.

Therefore

Let it be

Enacted(2): That Article III, Section III, Sub-Section A, Number 3 of the Student Senate Bylaws be modified to read:

- (3) Rules & Regulations Chair
The Rules & Regulations Chair shall:
 - (i) Preside over the Rules & Regulations Committee. The Rules & Regulations Chair is responsible for facilitating ideas for the members of the committee concerning the Student Government Associations Constitution, Executive Branch By-Laws, Judicial Court By-Laws, Student Senate By-Laws, and the Election Regulations.



The Student Senate

Texas A&M University

Senate Bill S.B. 68-19 – Page 2 of 3

Further Certified By:

Aaron Mitchell '16

Aaron Mitchell
Speaker of the Senate

- The Rules and Regulations Chair acts as the chief interpreter of the Senate By-Laws, Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, and the Statutes of the Senate
- (ii) Train all Senators in meeting procedure and rules
 - (iii) Aid the Speaker Pro Tempore in vacancy development days
 - (iv) Disseminate all necessary information to members of their committee and to all Senators
 - (v) Hold regular meetings with members of the committee
 - (vi) Stay in communication with the Election Commissioner
 - (vii) Enforce the committee absence policy
 - (viii) Update the governing documents including the SGA Code
 - (IX) Appoint Judicial Court Justice Confirmation Subcommittee members when Judicial Court Justice Nominees are forwarded to him by the Student Body President or Executive Branch Designee.

Therefore

Let it be

Enacted(3): That Article X, Section II of the Student Senate Bylaws be modified to read:

- (e) Before a Judicial Court Justice Nominee shall be permitted to come to the senate floor for a vote on confirmation, they must participate in a confirmation hearing that shall be held by a Judicial Court Justice Confirmation Subcommittee. The purpose of the confirmation hearing shall be to obtain a sense of a potential justice's knowledge of the Texas A&M Student Government Association Code and Senate Statues. The Judicial Court Justice Confirmation Process shall go as follows:
 - (1) The Student Body President or Executive Branch Designee shall forward the names of Judicial Court Justice Nominees to the Speaker of the Senate and Rules and Regulations Chair three days before a general assembly meeting.
 - (2) The Rules and Regulations Chair shall appoint a Judicial Court Justice Confirmation Subcommittee within three days after the names of Judicial Court Nominees have been forwarded to them by the Student Body President or Executive Branch Designee. The Rules and Regulations Chair shall chair the Judicial Court Justice Confirmation Subcommittee.
 - (i) The subcommittee shall consist of the Rules and Regulations Chair and exactly two members of the Rules and Regulations Committee.
 - (3) The Judicial Court Justice Confirmation Subcommittee Chair shall set the date of hearings within two days after the subcommittee's appointment by



The Student Senate

Texas A&M University

Senate Bill S.B. 68-19 – Page 3 of 3

Further Certified By:

Aaron Mitchell

Aaron Mitchell
Speaker of the Senate

the Rules and Regulations Chair. The Senate Body, Executive Branch, and the Judicial Court Justice Nominee(s) that shall participate in the confirmation hearing shall be notified as soon as a hearing date is set.

(4) The Judicial Court Justice Confirmation Subcommittee shall hold confirmation hearings within ten days after its appointment by the Rules and Regulations Chair.

(5) During the Confirmation hearing, Subcommittee members shall question the Judicial Court Justice Nominee. A minimum of seven questions shall be posed; the Confirmation Subcommittee Chair shall be permitted to ask three questions, and the two other members shall be allotted to ask two questions each.

- (i) A Judicial Court Nominee shall not be questioned for longer than an hour
- (ii) Only one justice can be questioned at a time
- (iii) This hearing shall be open to the public
- (iv) This hearing shall be videotaped for the record. Recording must be made accessible to the public within a day after the hearing has concluded
- (v) This subcommittee shall not have the authority to retain a Judicial Court Nominee

(6) Within four days after the hearing, the Judicial Court Justice Confirmation Subcommittee shall make available to the Senate Body a report of the subcommittee's proceedings. This report shall include:

- (i) Date and time of hearing
- (ii) Members of the subcommittee
- (iii) Questions asked by the subcommittee members and a summary of the answers given by the nominee respectively
- (iv) Recommendation to the Senate Body on whether to confirm the Judicial Court Justice Nominee or not. Recommendation must be approved by two of the three subcommittee members for it to be considered the opinion of the subcommittee
- (v) Explanation behind the recommendation

(7) After the confirmation hearing, the nominee shall appear before the entire senate body at the following general assembly meeting and be subjected to the procedure outlined in Article X, Section II, Sub-Section B of the Senate Bylaws.