



The Student Senate

Texas A&M University


S.B. 66-50

The Student Senate
66th Session
Texas A&M University

Introduced By: Senator Joseph A. Puente, Off-Campus
Senator Chip Gordon, College of Architecture

Action Taken **FAILED**

Certified By:


Christopher Russo
Speaker of the Senate

The Vacancy Application Procedures Bill *Special Designation: Senate By-Law Bill*

"A bill to add procedures for a vacancy application for Student Senate seats."

Whereas(1): The 66th Session of the Student Senate experienced a high volume of vacancies after the new fall election vacancy procedures were enacted; and,

Whereas(2): This resulted in approximately 25 vacant seats, which made it difficult to accurately represent the student body and protect the welfare of Texas A&M students; and,

Whereas(3): Before the 65th Session of the Student Senate, vacancy applications were used by Student Senate to fill vacant seats throughout the fall and spring semester.

Therefore

Let it be

Enacted(1): The Student Senate bylaws are amended as follows:

Section I: Senate Vacancy Procedures

(a) Definitions

- (1) "Fall election" shall refer to the student body election that takes place during the fall semester of a given session.




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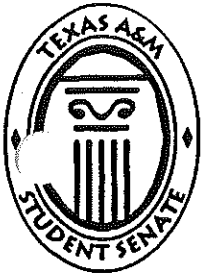
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Further Certified By:


Christopher Russo
Speaker of the Senate

- (2) *"Spring election" shall refer to the student body election of the spring semester at which the Student Body President and the next session of the Student Senate are elected.*
- (3) *"Outgoing session" shall refer to the session of the Student Senate that has held office at the beginning of the spring semester.*
- (4) *"Incoming session" shall refer to the session of the Student Senate that is elected in the spring student body elections.*
- (5) *"Election Commission" shall refer to the program under the direction of the Executive Branch that is charged with overseeing student body elections.*
- (6) *"Election Regulations" shall refer to any statutes entered into the Student Government Association Code that impact or govern student body elections.*
- (7) *"Next Runner-up" shall refer to the candidate which received the next highest percentage of the vote after the final winner of a seat in a caucus from the Fall Elections.*
- (b) The process for filling seats during the fall semester shall be as follows:
 - (1) *The Speaker Pro-Tempore shall announce any Senate vacancies during the fall semester at the second meeting of the fall semester, to be filled during the fall elections.*
 - (2) *The elections shall be conducted according to the election regulations and the newly elected Senators shall be seated and sworn in at the meeting immediately following certification of the results. A number of Senators equal to the number of vacant seats in each caucus shall be elected from that caucus in these elections. No sitting Senator may participate in a vacancy election in his or her own caucus, nor shall any sitting Senator be removed from the Senate as a result of this process.*
 - (i) In the event that additional seats become vacant after the announcement of vacancies in caucuses that are already being filled during the fall election, the Speaker Pro Tempore may declare those seats vacant and fill them during the election as well. This declaration must take place more than twenty-four (24) hours before voting opens. No seats may be opened in caucuses that did not already have one seat to be filled by the election.

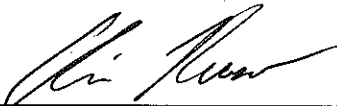


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- (ii) The newly elected Speaker Pro-Tempore shall be charged with notifying the next runner-up of his or her receipt of a Senate seat in their respective caucus, and the time and place of the next Senate meeting where he or she shall be sworn in.
 - (iii) The next runner-up shall have 5 class days to accept or reject the office of Student Senator in writing to the newly elected Speaker Pro-Tempore.
 - (iv) Should the candidate reject the office of Student Senator, no such candidate exists, there exists a tie between more candidates in a caucus than positions vacated in that caucus, or the vacancy arises after the official start of the new Senate Session, the seat shall be filled according to the vacancy application guidelines.
- (c) *Vacancy Application Guidelines: In the event that a vacancy is declared in a caucus after the fall election results are certified, the Student Senate will use a vacancy application process:*
- (1) *The Speaker Pro-Tempore shall announce Senatorial vacancies at Senate meetings at any time during the semester in the following circumstances:*
 - (i) If the caucus has no Senators
 - (ii) or if the Speaker Pro-Tempore deems necessary
 - (2) *Applications shall be accepted for seven (7) days following the announcement of the vacancy*
 - (3) *The Internal Affairs Committee shall review the applications for appointments and select those who will be interviewed.*

Let it be
Further

Enacted(2): That this vacancy procedure goes into effect for the 67th Session of the Student Senate.