



# The Student Senate

Texas A&M University

S.B. 64-38

The Student Senate  
64th Session  
Texas A&M University

**Introduced By:** Senator Scott Bowen, Engineering  
Senator Cole Young, Engineering

**Action Taken** Passed  
November 16, 2011

**Certified By:** Tanner Wilson  
Tanner Wilson  
Speaker of the Senate

**Senate Vacancy Special Election Bill**  
***Special Designation: Senate By-Law Bill***

*"A bill to change the Senate vacancy process so that all open seats are filled by special elections."*

**Whereas(1):** There must be a process in place for filling Senate seats as they are vacated by the Senators elected at the beginning of the session; and,

**Whereas(2):** The current process is an application process overseen by the Speaker Pro Tempore; and,

**Whereas(3):** The Student Senate acts as the elected representative body for the students of Texas A&M; and,

**Whereas(4):** Senators have a greater claim to legitimate representation if they are elected; and,

**Whereas(5):** The Senate By-Laws would have to be amended to allow for vacancies to be filled by election instead of an application process.

**Therefore**

**Let it be**

**Enacted(1):** That Article IX, Section II of the Senate By-Laws shall be struck and replaced as follows:



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Further Certified By: Tanner Wilson  
Tanner Wilson  
Speaker of the Senate

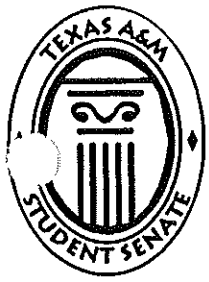
### SECTION II. Senate Vacancy Procedures

(a) Definitions

- (i) “Fall election” shall refer to the student body election that takes place during the fall semester of a given session.
- (ii) “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.
- (iv) “Outgoing session” shall refer to the session of the Student Senate that has held office at the beginning of the spring semester.
- (v) “Incoming session” shall refer to the session of the Student Senate that is elected in the spring student body elections.
- (vi) “Election Commission” shall refer to the program under the direction of the Executive Branch that is charged with overseeing student body elections.
- (vii) “Election Regulations” shall refer to any statutes entered into the Student Government Association Code that impact or govern student body elections.

(b) The process for filling seats during the fall semester shall be as follows:

- (i) 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.
- (ii) 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.
  - (a) 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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- (c) The process for filling seats during the spring semester shall be as follows:
  - (i) The Speaker Pro Tempore of the outgoing session shall determine which Senate seats are vacant immediately following the certification of the spring election results.
  - (ii) All vacant spots in each caucus shall then be filled automatically by the Senate candidates who do not already serve in the Senate and who are not otherwise ineligible to serve in the Senate's outgoing session, in a descending order of priority based on how many votes they received during the spring elections. If the seats cannot be filled in this manner, or if any seats in the outgoing session are vacated after election results are certified, they shall remain vacant for the remainder of that session.
- (d) Any Senator wishing to switch constituencies must follow the above vacancy procedure, if the switch is not granted the Senator retains their original seat (in the outgoing session, if applicable).

Let it be  
Further

Enacted(2): That these changes shall take effect on January 1, 2012 in order to be in operation prior to the 64<sup>th</sup> Session spring Senate vacancy fill.