

Bill Number: F-06-09-03 Referred to Executive Committee

Final Vote: Withdrawn Committee Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

Authors: Jonathan Lane Student Body Secretary: Brooks Powell

Dean of Student Life: Dee Siscoe Student Senate Chair: Lulu Seikaly

---

**A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE SMU STUDENT SENATE  
STUDENT ORGANIZATION OUTREACH INITIATIVE**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40

WHEREAS the explicit purpose of the Southern Methodist University Student Senate is to represent the best interests of the Student Body in every way possible, and

OPTIMISTIC that legislation passed by the 92<sup>nd</sup> SMU Student Senate regarding the method by which student organizations are funded will allow the 93<sup>rd</sup> SMU Student Senate and those that follow to focus more on non-financial issues and concerns of the students, which should be our inherent principal aim as the sole student-run legislative body of Southern Methodist University, and

REALIZING that Senatorial Forum presents a unique opportunity for the Student Senate to address all issues relevant to that body or the constituencies that it represents, and that there is the opportunity to host a maximum of three (3) Senatorial Forums each meeting, and

AWARE that Southern Methodist University currently offers a great multitude of student groups with which students may become involved, and that these student groups are not only the principal beneficiaries of the Student Senate’s funds but as well visibly demonstrate the many diverse interests of the Student Body, and

REMEMBERING that the Diversity Committee of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Student Senate created an event known as “Having a Piece of the Pie,” wherein students affiliated with the Department of Multicultural Student Affairs and all subsidiary organizations addressed members of the Senate directly regarding their organizations’ needs (within the purview of the Student Senate’s capacities), and

NOTING that the Department of Multicultural Student Affairs is only one of many organizations whose non-financial needs should be addressed regularly, be it therefore

RESOLVED that the SMU Student Senate commence the Student Organization Outreach Initiative, created to fulfill the needs of the student groups on campus, which shall be designed as follows:

41 Two weeks prior to each meeting, the members of the Executive Committee shall  
42 discuss and decide upon an organization (such as Student Foundation, Program  
43 Council) or student-oriented department (such as the Office of New Student Programs,  
44 Department of Multicultural Student Affairs) whose non-financial needs it believes  
45 should be addressed. The Executive Committee shall make no judgment based on the  
46 classification or status of the organization, i.e. probationary, temporary, chartered, non-  
47 chartered, student-oriented departmental, or school-specific, but rather based on whose  
48 non-financial needs the Executive Committee feels should be addressed. As well, the  
49 members of the Executive Committee shall not only allow but encourage Student  
50 Senators to contact their affiliate organizations regarding any problems those  
51 organizations may be having, and present such a recommendation for a group to be  
52 invited at the Executive Committee meeting. Upon conclusion of this discussion, the  
53 President of the Student Body shall contact the executive members of the organization  
54 and formally invite the executive members of the organization to a meeting of the  
55 Student Senate to be two weeks from the Student Senate meeting following the  
56 Executive Committee meeting in which it was decided to invite that organization. The  
57 organization shall have no more than three (3) days to respond to this invitation, after  
58 which the invitation is nullified unless the expiration of the invitation is extended at the  
59 Student Body Officer meeting following the aforesaid Executive Committee meeting,  
60 in which case the invitation would apply to the same Student Senate meeting as  
61 previous; or at a different Executive Committee meeting, in which case the invitation  
62 may only be issued for a later meeting.

63 Should the invitation be declined or the organization fails to respond, the Student  
64 Body Officers shall discuss and decide upon an alternative organization or student-  
65 oriented department to be formally invited to the Student Senate meeting two meetings  
66 from the Student Senate meeting that immediately preceded the Student Body Officer  
67 meeting. This organization shall have until the Executive Committee meeting  
68 immediately following this second invitation to respond, after which the invitation is  
69 nullified. Should this invitation be declined or the organization fails to respond, no  
70 further invitations for the meeting in question shall be issued, and the meeting will  
71 forego the opportunity for an organization to address its needs to the Student Senate.  
72 Such lack of an organization to address at a meeting must be announced by the Student  
73 Body Vice-President in his/her executive report at the Student Senate meeting one  
74 week prior to the meeting of discussion.

75 Should the invitation by either of the organizations be accepted within the herein  
76 stated timeframe, the following process will ensue: At the meeting one week and one  
77 day from the Executive Committee meeting in which the invitation process was  
78 initiated, the Vice-President of the Student Body will announce during his/her  
79 executive report that the organization will be speaking at the Senatorial Forum of that  
80 meeting.

81 At the meeting attended by the invited organization, occurring one week and one  
82 day after the Executive Committee meeting in which the invitation process was  
83 initiated, the discussion with the organization shall occur as the first Senatorial Forum,  
84 and thus takes priority over all other proposed Senatorial Forums. The Vice-President  
85 of the Student Body will then address the executive members of the organization, allow  
86 them to briefly identify themselves and the purpose of their organization, and then

87 allow those members to address the Student Senate directly with the concerns they feel  
88 the Student Senate is best equipped to resolve. The head executive member of the  
89 organization in attendance shall be the primary member to address the Senate and shall  
90 therefore have the first commentary of the Senatorial Forum, followed immediately, if  
91 requested, by a maximum of two (2) additional executive members of the organization  
92 who wish to supplement the remarks of the head executive officer. Dialogue will  
93 follow and will unquestionably and unrestrainedly include input and debate from the  
94 members of the invited organization.

95 Since the members of the guest organization will have no inherent knowledge of  
96 Parliamentary Procedure, it is the responsibility of the Vice-President of the Student  
97 Body, as President of the Senate, and the Student Senate Parliamentarian, as the expert  
98 on all parliamentary procedure, to ensure that the organization is well informed prior to  
99 the meeting of the capacities of the Student Senate as an organization and is at least  
100 briefed on the Policies and Procedures, with special emphasis on the procedural  
101 mechanics of Senatorial Forum. As such, Policies and Procedures regarding Senatorial  
102 Forum shall be observed.

103 Due to the fact that certain needs made clear by the invited organizations may  
104 require the length of time provided by two or more Senatorial Forums, the Executive  
105 Committee and/or the Student Body Officers reserve the right to invite an organization  
106 back to address the Senate any number of times, and may invite an organization to the  
107 meeting immediately following a meeting in which that organization was the guest.

108 Accordingly, the Executive Committee, in reasonable observance of the volume  
109 of business, may vote (by simple majority) to forego the opportunity to have an  
110 organization address the Senate at the meeting in question; however, the Student Body  
111 President shall be tasked with ensuring that the opportunity to have an organization  
112 address the Senate is maximally utilized at all meetings that the Senate is reasonably  
113 able to provide such an opportunity.

114  
115  
116 Respectfully Submitted,

117  
118 Jonathan Lane  
119 Dedman I Senator