

Bill Number: S-07-01-02 Final Vote: _____

Authors: Ben Hatch, et al. Student Body Secretary: Brooks Powell

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

**A RESOLUTION TO AMEND
THE STUDENT SENATE BY-LAWS**

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3
4 WHEREAS Student Senate’s committees have been referred to as “the
5 backbone of the Senate,” and
6
7 AWARE that Senate’s committees have encountered serious operational,
8 logistical and structural problems over the last number of years,
9 and
10
11 NOTING the Research & Recommendations Ad Hoc Committee was
12 charged with overseeing the revision of Student Senate’s By-Laws
13 as they pertain to the Student Senate’s committees, and
14
15 AWARE that the Research & Recommendations Ad Hoc Committee has put
16 over 70 hours into research and discussion of all issues germane to
17 the Student Senate’s committee structure, and has prepared a
18 recommendation to fulfill our stated charge,
19
20 BE IT THEREFORE
21 RESOLVED that Articles V, VI, VII and VIII of the Student Senate By-Laws be
22 stricken, and
23
24 BE IT FURTHER
25 RESOLVED that Articles V, VI and VII of the Student Senate By-Laws be
26 written to read as follows:
27

**ARTICLE V.
STANDING COMMITTEES**

31 Section 1. Purpose
32 Standing Committees exist to provide recommendations to the Student Senate and to
33 provide services thereunto. There shall be Internal Standing Committees that shall
34 provide recommendations to the Student Senate, and have a defined number of members.
35 In the event that the minimum number of members cannot be reached, the committee will
36 be assigned membership that conforms as closely as possible to the values prescribed in
37 this section. The recommendations of Internal Standing Committees may be debated on
38 the floor only after a voting member files a complaint against such a recommendation.
39 External Standing Committees may provide recommendations or services to the Student
40 Senate, and shall not have a defined number of members.

41
42 Section 2. Programming

1 Programming shall be defined as a planned, coordinated group of activities, procedures,
2 etc., with the specific intention to educate or entertain. Committees may program only
3 with the explicit approval of the Student Senate.
4

5 Section 3. Committee By-Laws

6 Standing Committees shall revise their By-Laws at the beginning of each year and shall
7 submit them to the Executive Committee for approval. These By-Laws must be
8 maintained and enforced throughout the year and available for public inspection.
9

10 Section 4. Internal Standing Committees

11 1. Executive Committee

12 a. The Executive Committee shall serve as the planning and decision-making
13 body of the Student Senate. It shall review prior to presentation to the Senate all
14 appointments of the Student Body President and dismissals of Senate committee
15 members. It shall be the primary body to hear and decide on member absences
16 from Senate meetings. The committee will be responsible for studying and
17 critiquing the logistics and structure of the Student Senate.

18 b. The members of the Executive Committee shall be the Student Body
19 Officers and the Student Senate Officers, as well as the Student Senate Advisor,
20 who shall serve as a ex-officio, non-voting member. The Student Body President
21 shall preside over meetings, voting only in case of a tie. In the event that the
22 President is absent, the Vice President shall preside.
23

24 2. Finance Committee

25 a. The Finance Committee shall review all requests for funding from either
26 the Senate Fund or the Chartered Organizations' Fund and make
27 recommendations to the entire Student Senate. The committee is also responsible
28 for reviewing Fully Chartered Organization's requests for annual budgets and
29 than making recommendations to the full Senate. The committee shall oversee
30 the expenditure of student activity fees by chartered organizations to insure all
31 appropriated spending is within its designated line item;

32 b. The Finance Committee shall have two associate chairs. The associate
33 chairs will be appointed by the panel that selects committee chairs. The members
34 of the Finance Committee shall be nine Student Senators (if possible, one senator
35 from each school, one representing Special Interests, and one First Year senator)
36 and six general members. They shall be interviewed by a panel who shall consist
37 of only the following members: The Finance Chair, the Associate Chair of the
38 Senate Fund, the Associate Chair of the Chartered Organizations Funds, the
39 Student Body Vice-President (or his/her designee), the Membership Chair, and
40 the Advisor, who shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member.
41

42 3. Membership Committee

43 a. The Membership Committee shall recommend appointments to the
44 Student Body President. This committee shall also conduct all Student Body and
45 Student Senate elections and others upon the request of the Student Body
46 President. The committee shall record the results of all validated and invalidated

1 Student Body elections and polls to the Election Results File and Student Senate
2 Public Information File. The committee shall revise an enforceable Student
3 Senate Election Code.

4 b. The Membership Committee shall also be tasked, in concert with the
5 Executive Committee, with research and preparation of the fall training retreat.
6 The Membership Committee Chair shall, throughout the course of the year, work
7 with the Student Body Vice-President and the Parliamentarian in training newly
8 appointed Senators, Chairs, Student Body Officers, and/or Student Senate
9 Officers.

10 c. The members of the Membership Committee shall contain at least five
11 Student Senators (appointed by the Chief of Staff). All members of the
12 Membership Committee shall be student senators.

13
14 4. Organizations Committee

15 a. The Organizations Committee shall make recommendations to the Senate
16 concerning the sanctioning of student organizations and shall review student
17 organizations on campus. The Organizations Committee will submit to the Senate
18 a complete report on all chartered organizations on campus once a semester. The
19 Committee will serve as a promotional body for student involvement in chartered
20 organizations. In addition, the committee shall be responsible for execution of the
21 Mandatory Organizations Meeting and shall maintain a record of active members
22 for all student organizations on Access.SMU.edu.

23 b. The Organizations Committee shall have at least two senators, appointed
24 by the Chief of Staff, and three general members, appointed by the Membership
25 Committee.

26
27 Section 5. External Standing Committees

28 1. The Communications Committee

29 The Communications Committee shall provide channels of
30 communication for the Senate and its committees as well as promote a greater
31 awareness of the Student Senate for the student body. Senate committees shall
32 request advertising via the online Internal Request Form and the Communications
33 Committee shall be responsible for all needed design, printing, and distribution of
34 the advertisement as well as any associated costs. As well, the Ad Director and
35 the Student Senate Webmaster shall serve on the committee.

36
37 2. The Scholarship Committee

38 The Scholarship Committee shall accept applications and interview so as
39 to recommend to the Senate recipients for Student Senate scholarships and shall
40 screen applicants for other scholarships as necessary. As well, the committee will
41 be charged with a development initiative in order to establish new scholarships to
42 provide to the members of the Students' Association, and as such shall work
43 intimately with the Office of Development & External Affairs.

44
45 3. The Student Concerns Committee

1 The Student Concerns Committee shall review all interests directly
2 relevant to the members of the Students' Association, including but not limited to
3 University policy regarding environmental issues, improvement of the level of the
4 University's academic curriculum, and the diversity of the University community.
5 Two Vice Chairs shall assist the chair in addressing the concerns of SMU
6 students, and shall be active only when an issue of significant concern (such as
7 those aforementioned) is presented. These Vice Chairs will be appointed by the
8 panel that selects committee chairs. The Vice Chairs will be selected from among
9 the applicants for the position of Student Senate Student Concerns Committee
10 Chair if possible.

11
12 Section 6. Meetings

- 13 1. Standing Committees shall meet at least once per week.
14 2. Committee chairs shall meet with the Chief of Staff as the Chief of Staff deems
15 necessary.

16
17 Section 7. Quorum

18 One-half plus one of the current voting members shall constitute a quorum, unless
19 otherwise stated in the committee's By-Laws.

20
21 Section 8. Absences

- 22 1. At the beginning of each semester, the committee Chairs will meet with the Chief
23 of Staff and will schedule the number of mandatory committee meetings which will be
24 held and also establish the absence policy the committee will use during the semester.
25 2. A member shall be recorded absent upon missing more than half of a mandatory
26 meeting as calculated by the committee Chair.
27 3. The committee will establish a method of excusing committee member absences.
28 The Executive Committee will handle unexcused absences from committees. Removal
29 from a committee due to absences will result in the member's removal from Senate.
30 Only the most recent absence may be excused.
31 4. The committee Chair shall be responsible for reporting committee member
32 unexcused absences to the Student Body Secretary.
33 5. In the event a committee member is removed, the Membership Committee Chair
34 will fill the vacant position.
35 6. In the event that the committee member removed is the Ad Director or
36 Webmaster from the Communications Committee, that individual will forfeit their
37 position in the Student Senate.

38
39 Section 9. Records

40 All committee records shall be available for public inspection, except for
41 confidential materials submitted to the Student Senate Scholarship Committee.

42
43 Section 10. Organization

- 44 1. The Chair of the committee shall call meetings, set the agenda for each meeting,
45 and correspond with the Senate on behalf of the committee.

1 2. The committee Chair shall select officers as needed. The committee Chair shall
2 have minutes recorded at each meeting, submit a copy of each meeting's minutes to the
3 Chief of Staff, and keep a record of all committee projects.

4 3. Unless otherwise stated in the committee's By-Laws, the committee shall have at
5 least one Senator on its membership.

6
7 Section 11. Voting

8 1. Unless otherwise stated in the committee's By-Laws, all committee members
9 shall have full voting privileges, except the Chair, who shall vote only in the case of a tie.

10 2. Voting by proxy and absentee voting shall not be allowed.

11
12 Section 12. Budget

13 The committee Chair will submit a budget prior to the announced deadline to the
14 Finance Committee Chair. The Student Body Vice President shall submit a
15 comprehensive budget for all standing committees for presentation to the Finance
16 Committee.

17
18 Section 13. Parliamentary Authority

19 Unless otherwise stated in the Student Body Constitution, Student Senate By-
20 Laws, Student Senate Policies & Procedures, or each committee's By-Laws, Robert's
21 Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall be the authority in committee procedure.

22
23 Section 14. Committee Chair Selection

24 1. Prior to February 1, the Student Body President, Vice-President, Secretary and
25 outgoing Finance, Membership or Organizations Chair (depending on the committee
26 chair appointment in question) shall select the incoming Finance Chair, Membership
27 Chair and Organizations Chair to begin a training period at the onset of the Spring
28 semester. Chairs shall take office as soon as they are inaugurated.

29 a. The Finance Chair may not be a Student Senator during his/her term as
30 chair.

31 2. Applications for other chair positions will be opened within one week after the
32 general Spring election. They will be closed two weeks later.

33 3. The interview, deliberation and decision-making process shall be conducted by
34 the Student Body President – Elect, the Vice-President – Elect, the Secretary – Elect, the
35 outgoing Chief of Staff, the newly selected Membership Chair, the Senate advisor, and
36 the outgoing chair for the committee in question.

37 4. Voting members will be the Student Body President – Elect, Vice President –
38 Elect, the Secretary – Elect, the outgoing Chief of Staff, and the Membership Chair.

39 a. In addition to selecting all Committee Chairs (except for the Membership and
40 Finance Chairs) this committee will also select the Finance Co-Chair of the Senate
41 Fund and the Finance Associate-Chair of the Chartered Organizations' Fund.

42 5. Individuals that are selected to be chairs will be required to meet with the chair
43 they are replacing once a week. If possible, they must attend all committee meetings of
44 the committee they will be leading until they are inaugurated. If either of these
45 requirements cannot be filled, either because of chair vacancy, negligence, or time
46 conflicts, the Chief of Staff will meet weekly with the incoming chair until inauguration.

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2 **ARTICLE VI**
3 **ACTING COMMITTEES**

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5 The Student Senate may call the following acting committees, whose By-Laws must be
6 approved by the Student Senate. Acting Committees must meet at least once per
7 semester.

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9 Section 1. The Investments Acting Committee

10 The Investments Committee shall be responsible for overseeing the Student
11 Senate investment fund. The chair shall be appointed by the Student Body President.

12
13 Section 2. The Code of Conduct Revision Committee

14 The Code of Conduct committee shall be responsible for reviewing and
15 considering all proposed changes and revisions to the Student Code of Conduct. The
16 Student Body Secretary shall chair the committee when called. In addition to the chair,
17 the membership of the committee shall include the Student Body President, two Student
18 Senators (to be nominated and elected by the Student Senate), the Student Senate
19 Organizations Chair, the Student Senate Student Concerns Chair, a student representative
20 of behalf of all social Greek life organizations on campus, a staff representative on behalf
21 of Resident Life and Student Housing, the Director of Student Activities, and a staff
22 member charged with overseeing judicial affairs.

23
24 **ARTICLE VII**
25 **AD HOC COMMITTEES**

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27 Section 1. Establishment of Ad-Hoc committees

- 28
29 1. The Senate can establish ad-hoc committees by a majority vote.

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31 Section 2. Institutionalized Ad-Hoc Committees

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33 1. To address changing needs, Senate is encouraged to bear in mind
34 the following ad-hoc committees:
35 a. Election Appeals Board – Summoned when a candidate in
36 an election wishes to appeal a decision of the Membership
37 Committee based on an error in the enforcement of the
38 procedures of a hearing based on a violation of the Election
39 Code. The Election Appeals Board shall be comprised of
40 five student senators and three committee chairs elected by
41 the Student Senate. The Student Senate Parliamentarian
42 shall chair the committee.
43 b. Entertainment Fund – Allocates the entertainment fund
44 when monies from the fund are requested.

- c. Research & Recommendations – Review the operations of the Student Senate, recommending changes to Senate’s structure and documents as needed.
- d. Rules Tribunal – Will rule on disputes concerning the interpretation of the Student Senate By-Laws and Policies and Procedures. Its membership shall include the Student Senate Speaker, Student Senate Parliamentarian, and two Student Senators elected by the full Student Senate. The Student Senate Advisor shall serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member. Any member of the Rules Tribunal that has a conflict of interest regarding the interpretation of any of the above documents shall recuse themselves, and a substitute member shall be elected by the Student Senate. Interpretations of the Rules Tribunal may be contested only on the basis of improper participation on the Rules Tribunal by a member. All challenges under this provision shall be taken up by the full Student Senate who may affirm, amend, or reject the interpretation submitted by the Rules Tribunal.

, and

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED

that all subsequent articles be renumbered accordingly, and

BE IT FURTHER
RESOLVED

that this legislation shall go into effect at the inauguration of the 94th Student Senate.

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin D. Hatch
Dedman II Senator

Jonathan Lane
Dedman I Senator

Reed Hanson
Engineering Senator

Trent Calvo
Assoc. Chair of the Senate Fund

Jaclyn Durr
Senate Parliamentarian

Michael Goodman
Meadows Senator

John Jose
First Year Senator

Bethany Peters
Meadows Senator