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**S.B 2016-2017. 02**

**Date of First Reading: April 18, 2016**

**A Bill –**

A bill entitled “Senate Committee Structure Simplification Act” which amends the Student Government Code to reorganize how committees are formed, abolishes all current standing committees, and clarifies remaining select committee responsibilities.

**WHEREAS:** We take great pride in the productivity of Student Government and the responsibilities and duties therein; and

**WHEREAS:** We desire for our Student Government to operate in the most effective and efficient manner to ensure productivity; and

**WHEREAS:** This bill has been compiled and is authorized by the Student Government Constitution Article III, Section 10 (b), (j); therefore

**BE IT ENACTED:** That the text in the Student Government Code Title VI, Chapter 200, Article V, Sections 1-7 be amended by striking out all related sections and subsections and replacing it:

* + - * 1. **DEFINITION.** A committee reviews legislation specific to its jurisdiction, investigates student concerns, does research on behalf of its members to help create new legislation, makes recommendations on how to improve campus life, or performs Senate administrative functions as necessary.
        2. **STANDING COMMITTEES.** The Senate may authorize, disband, or reauthorize standing committees through Simple Senate Resolution.
        3. **SELECT COMMITTEES.** Senate Select Committees may meet on an as needed basis as business warrants and must be granted all necessary powers to execute their charge herein:

The Senate Select Committee on Selections and Appointments will oversee the selection of senators to fill vacant senate seats and follow procedures to ensure fair nomination of qualified applications.

The committee will establish a Senate Application each year and publish the application in the event of Senate vacancy. The application will be open to any eligible student so that interested persons can apply to fill the seat.

The committee may establish a reasonable screening process for applicants.

The Committee must review all applicants, determine which of them meets the committee’s criteria for nomination, and forward approved names to the Senate Pro-Tempore.

The Senate Pro-Tempore will make nominations via formal memorandum from the list of committee-approved candidates and transmit this memorandum to the Cabinet or Senate.

The Cabinet has the option to review the list of accepted candidates and either deny or ascent to the list; the President may waive this review, resulting in automatic transmittal of the approved candidates to the Senate.

The Senate Pro-Tempore will ensure that the final candidate list is transmitted to the Senate.

The Senate will have final say on who of the recommended candidates is confirmed to the Senate by a way of majority vote.

The Senate Pro-Tempore is responsible for the execution of this subsection.

The Conference Committee shall meet on an as needed basis to discuss, review, plan for, and follow up on pieces of legislation that have or will be brought to the Senate floor. The committee will work alongside the Student Services Commission to ensure communication and effective organization within Student Government.

The committee shall be assembled by the Vice President and the Senate Pro Tempore.

The committee shall include Senators who have shown interest in the topic(s) which are to be discussed. There is no limit to the number of Senators in the committee.

The committee will meet at a time and place chosen by the Vice President and Senate Pro Tempore.

The committee can also invite members of the House to collaborate on efforts being taken. The House leader shall be in charge of gathering members from the House to join meetings set by the Vice President and Senate Pro Tempore.

All meetings shall be classified as Senate Conference Meetings, must have an agenda, and will be chaired by the Vice President, Senate Pro Tempore, and if present, the House Leader.

Chairs of the meeting shall assign a member to take minutes at these meetings, and all minutes shall include any action plans the committee has drafted. All minutes shall then be forwarded to the Student Services Director.

These meetings shall be considered closed meetings, unless otherwise decided by the chairs of the meeting.

**BE IT ENACTED:** That upon passage this bill be forwarded to the Student Body President Andrew Homann for action.