A bill to be entitled “Standing Rules Update Act” which makes various updates to the Standing Rules and Regulation of the Senate.

WHEREAS: The Senate strives to establish processes which are clear to its members and available to its constituents; and

WHEREAS: When outdate processes prevent the easy and transparent transaction of business the Senate fails to achieve its core values of Advocacy, Service, and Democracy; and

WHEREAS: Continuous process improvement is a cornerstone of an organization focused on learning and adapting to new expectations; and

WHEREAS: The Student Government Constitution Article III, Section 10(f)(g), and (j) empowers the Senate to “(f) Establish rules for the operations and business of the Student Government, (g) Ensure a way to fill vacant Senate seats, (j) To legislate all statutes which shall be necessary and proper for execution of all powers granted to all components of Student Government as prescribed in this constitution.”; NOW, THEREFORE

BE IT ENACTED: That the Student Government Code Title 6, Chapter 200 be amended as follows:

CHAPTER 200 - STANDING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE SENATE

ARTICLE I. AUTHORIZATION OF STANDING RULES
§1 SCOPE AND PURPOSE. The Senate shall establish a Standing Rules and Regulations of the Senate or Standing Rules, for short, which shall be authorized herein by this chapter. The Standing Rules shall be confined to the internal rules and operations of the Senate and shall never regulate or infringe on the other branches of government.

§2 PROCEDURAL PRECEDENT. The rules in this chapter may not conflict or presume to have any bearing on any statute or provision of law outside the chapter. The Standing Rules must prevail in the event of a conflict with Robert’s Rules of Order. General rules not embraced by this chapter must be conducted in accordance with the latest version of Roberts Rules of Order.

ARTICLE II. SENATE ORGANIZATION

§1 MEMBERSHIP. Senate Membership and appointment of the Senate shall be established by and set forth in the Student Government Constitution.

§1 THE CHAIRPERSON. The Chairperson of the Senate shall be the Vice President. Should the Senate decide that the Vice President is not performing his duties correctly, they may temporarily relieve him of his duties through passage of a Simple Senate Resolution to that effect. The Senate passes a simple resolution installing the Senate Pro-Tempore as Chairperson. The Senate Pro-Tempore must temporarily act as Chairperson if the Vice President is unable to perform his duties. The Vice President has the discretion to temporarily delegate the duty of Chairperson to the Senate Pro-Tempore. The Chairperson shall preside over all formal meetings of the Senate. Qualifications, powers, and duties shall be established and set forth in the Student Government Constitution. The Chairperson shall:

(a)(1) Have no vote in the Senate except in the event of a tie or when the vote is by secret ballot herein;

(a)(2) With the consent of the Senate, set the chambers agenda.

(a)(3) Maintain order at all times.

(a)(4) Be thoroughly versed in parliamentary procedure.

(a)(5) Not debate from the Chair except in the case of a procedural motion or appeal.
(h)(e) At no time decide on a question involving the constitutionality of a piece of legislation.

(i)(f) Follow the order of business as prescribed by the agenda unless the rules are suspended.

(j)(g) Remain impartial at all times while conducting meetings.

(k)(h) Make clear to all Senators the issue in question.

(l)(i) Execute all powers and duties found in the Student Government Constitution, the Senate Standing Rules, and ensure that Senate functions in compliance with all University policies and the rules and regulations of the Texas State University System Board of Regents.

(m)(j) Appoint Senate Nominate Permanent Committee Chairpersons Chairs with two-thirds approval of the Senate.

(n)(k) Remove the Chairperson and/or members of any committees for not fulfilling the responsibilities taken while under oath.

(o)(l) Be the only person authorized to recognize individuals wishing to speak during a Senate meeting and doing so in a fair and impartial manner.

(p)(m) Not recognize anyone except Senators, the President, the Student Government Advisors, Cabinet members, and Ex officio members.

(q) Recognize qualified persons wishing to speak in a fair and impartial manner.

$\S\S$ 2 THE SENATE PRO-TEMPORE. The Senate Pro-Tempore is the second highest ranking member of the Senate. The Senate Pro-Tempore shall be elected by a majority of the Senate, no later than the first second meeting of the a new Senate session each year of the Senate or any specially called meeting for that purpose, using the procedures found in Roberts the Standing Rules of Order. In the event the Senate Pro-Tempore is installed by the Senate as Chairperson, The Pro-Tempore shall have powers specific to their office which shall include:

(a) Be a Senator.

(b) Chair the Nominations and Appointments Committee.

(c) Assume the duties of Chairperson in the absence of the Vice President.

(d) Preside as Chairperson when the Senate is moved into Committee of the Whole.
Meet with the Chair of all committees as deemed necessary by the Vice President.

Be a Student Senator.

Assist the Vice-President in the managing and scheduling of the Student Government Senate’s legislative business.

§3 **SENATE CLERK.** The Senate Clerk must be appointed or removed by the Chairperson and must assume the duties of Senate secretary. The Clerk must also:

(a) Keep a permanent record of all Senate proceedings in the form of minutes that are to be posted within one week after the meeting.

(b) Keep a record of all tardy, unexcused absences, and excused absences.

(c) Keep an accurate and up-to-date Senate roster.

(d) Be an ex officio member of the Senate.

(e) Be responsible for maintaining the Senate voting record.

(f) Have no authority to author, debate, or sponsor legislation.

§4 **THE PARLIAMENTARIAN.** The Senate Parliamentarian must be a Senator elected to serve as Parliamentarian by the second meeting of a new session. The Parliamentarian will have final say in all matters of procedural conflict on the Senate floor. They must:

(a) Assist the Chairperson in enforcing the Standing Rules.

(b) Have a thorough knowledge of the Senate and Parliamentary procedures including the most up to date edition of Robert’s Rules of Order and the Standing Rules.

(c) Point out errors in procedure to the Chairperson and Senators.

(d) Issue warnings and call to order any Senator found to violate Senate Standing Rules and Roberts Rules of Order.

(e) Record all questions of order and other questions of procedure for future reference.

(f) Keep time during periods of limited debate and/or speech.

(g) Remove from the Senate chamber, any Senator twice deemed out of order.

(h) Act as Sergeant at Arms.

**ARTICLE III. GENERAL PROCEDURES**

( ) **OPEN MEETINGS.** Chair the Select Committee on Selection and Appointments.
§1 All Senate meetings must be open to the public. Should a sensitive matter require a closed meeting, this rule may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the Senators present.

§2 INSTALLATION OF THE SENATE. Installation of a Senator may be conducted at the first meeting of the new Senate by the newly installed President, Vice President, or Senate Pro Tempore and as needed once the Select Committee on Selections, Nominations and Appointments Committee has nominated and the Senate has confirmed new Senators to fill vacant seats.

§3 MEETING ATTENDANCE. Senators shall be required to attend all Senate and committee meetings. The absence policy shall be strictly enforced in accordance with the rules established in this document.

§4 SENATE CLERK. The Senate Clerk shall be nominated by the Vice President and shall assume the duties of Senate secretary. He shall also:

(a) Keep a permanent record of all Senate proceedings in the form of minutes that are to be posted within one week after the meeting.
(b) Keep a record of all absences and excuses.
(c) Keep an accurate and up-to-date Senate roster.

§5 THE PARLIAMENTARIAN. The Senate Parliamentarian shall be nominated by the Vice-President and shall have final say in all matters of procedural conflict on the Senate floor. He shall:

(a) Have a thorough knowledge of the Senate and Parliamentary procedures including the most up to date edition of Robert's Rules of Order and the Standing Rules. He shall also
(b) Point out errors in procedure to the Chairperson of the Senate.
ARTICLE II. LEGISLATIVE AND SENATE PROCEDURES

§3 QUORUM. The Senate must require a quorum of two-thirds the total voting membership as apportioned by the Constitution to conduct any business.

§4 FORFEITURE OF OFFICE. A Senator must automatically forfeit their membership in the Senate if the Senator ceases to be enrolled in the college which they represent are no longer a student, or are no longer constitutionally eligible to serve in their office.

§5 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE. The Chairperson or Senator they designate must lead the chamber in a pledge of allegiance to the United States of America and the State of Texas.

§6 MEETING ATTENDANCE. Senators must be required to attend all Senate and committee meetings. The absence policy must be strictly enforced in accordance with the rules established in this chapter.

§7 ORDERS OF BUSINESS. The Order of Business shall be determined by the agenda. The and the agenda shall be determined submitted to the Senate by the Chairperson of the Senate and confirmed by the Senate, prior to any business being conducted. The general order of business may be as such in Appendix XX.

§8 SPECIAL ORDER. “The National Anthem (the Star Spangled Banner) must be played at the beginning of each meeting, following the ‘Call to Order.’ The Senate Chairperson may work with the Chief of Staff to determine how best to play the National Anthem for the Senate Meeting.

§8 GUEST SPEAKERS. A guest speaker must be on the posted agenda in order to address the Senate. for a period not to exceed fifteen (15) minutes. A guest speaker shall not be
allowed to speak during the Old Business or New Business sections of the agenda. A guest speaker shall be limited to no more than fifteen minutes of speaking time.

§25(a) All persons requesting time on the agenda shall be given fair and impartial consideration.

(a)(b) The order of speakers for Senate meetings with multiple speakers must be determined by the Chairperson of the Senate.

§26 PUBLIC FORUM. Students may be allowed to address the Senate under the rules for guest speakers if adequate notice is given to the Chairperson of the Senate prior to the start of the meeting. Otherwise, students may address the Senate during the Public Forum for a maximum of two (2) minutes. Public Forum must be limited to two (10) students for a maximum of four (4) minutes of speaking each meeting.

§27 DEBATE AND DECORUM. Members of the Senate must conduct themselves in an orderly fashion at all times while in the Senate chamber. Excessive unruliness shall be defined as any premeditated or persistent distraction which disrupts the normal business of the meeting and is deemed as disorderly. The Chairperson of the Senate and the Parliamentarian of the Senate have the authority to decide what action is disorderly. Other rules of debate and decorum that must be enforced by the Chairperson include:

(a) During debate, all Senators shall confine their remarks to the subject at hand or they shall be ruled out of order.

(b) Any Senator who has the floor shall not be interrupted by another Senator or officer for any purpose except as provided in Robert's Rules in cases of Points of Order or unless the Senator consents to yield the floor to that Senator or officer—another Senator. In this case, once the Senator for which time has been yielded is done talking the floor must return to the original speaker.

(c) All rules of debate and decorum shall be enforced by the Parliamentarian and Chairperson.

(d) All Senators ruled out of order shall automatically lose the floor. Any Senator ruled out of order two times may be asked to leave the Senate Chambers by the Chairperson or Parliamentarian.
Except in the cases of conflict with the Standing Rules, Robert’s Rules of Order shall prevail in matters of procedure unless a suspension of the rules has been passed.

§11 VOTING. Senators must be present in the Senate chamber in order to vote.

§12 ROLL CALL VOTE. All final votes on legislation must be taken by roll call vote in order to promote transparency to the public about the positions supported by Senators.

§13 ABSTENTION. Members not wishing to vote may abstain.

§14 UNDECIDED. Undecided Senators may pass and then cast their vote at the conclusion of voting before the final vote is announced.

§15 TIE VOTES. A tie vote is considered failed a vote unless the tie is broken by the Vice President.

(a) §16 DRESS CODE. Proper attire is required at Senate meetings in order to vote. Proper attire at a minimum should be business casual for both male and female members. Wardrobe selections should be those that both preserve and respect the honor the dignity of the meeting, Senate as an institution and pride of position for Senators in attendance. Wardrobe selection should may include, but is not limited to, a collared shirt, or sweater, with button up long-sleeved shirt, suite jacket, tie, and slacks for male members, and either slacks, or skirt, with or a dress for female members, as appropriate. Complimentary footwear should be worn. Proper Questions of proper attire in question will be determined by addressed to the Chairperson for final decision.

§20§17 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE. A Committee of the Whole shallmust be formed by a motion "to consider the question in the Committee of the Whole" and must pass with a two-thirds vote of the Senate. The Committee of the Whole could be used to discuss an internal matter or topic of a complex nature so that the standing debate procedure is suspended to foster a more natural discussion. The Committee of the Whole must:

(a) Be a committee composed of the entire Senate.

(b) Be formed when the assembly decides that a particular question can best be discussed with the more liberal Senate rules.

(c) Be chaired by the Senate Pro Tempore.

(d) Move to "rise and report" when the necessary business is completed.
The Committee of the Whole will cease to exist upon passage of this motion, which requires a two-thirds vote of the Committee of the Whole.

Not have its business recorded in the official Senate minutes. However, the Committee of the Whole Senate Pro-Tempore will submit a report that is to be entered into the minutes.

Be used to consider disciplinary matters within the Senate, excluding any impeachment hearings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION. Executive Session shall be used to consider all disciplinary matters, less than impeachment.

(a) Be called by the Chairperson of the Senate.

(b) Follow the guidelines for executive session as outlined in Robert's Rules of Order.

(c) Be placed on the posted agenda and shall follow guidelines for placing legislation on prior to the agenda. meeting with 72 hours’ notice in order to be valid.

(d) Only have Student Government members and advisors in attendance.

VOTING. Senators must be present in the Senate chamber in order to vote.

ABSTENTION. Members not wishing to vote may abstain. Members wishing to abstain shall not be counted when determining the number needed to obtain a majority.

UNDECIDED. Undecided Senators may pass and then cast their vote at the conclusion of voting before the final vote is announced.

TIE VOTES. A tie vote is considered a lost vote unless the tie is broken by the Chairperson.

DIVISION OF THE HOUSE. At the desire of any Senator present, a division of the house can be called as prescribed in Robert's Rules of Order.

ROLL CALL. All final votes on legislation shall be taken by roll call vote.

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS. The Senate shall have ex officio members including

thirteen (13) non-voting ex officio seats. Two (2) to be filled by members of the Freshmen Council, two (2) to be filled by Texas State transfer students, six (6) seats three (3) seats for the Graduate House, one (1) to be filled by a Representative from the Residence Hall Association, and one (1) to be filled by a student who represents the interests of students from the Round Rock campus, and one (1) to be filled by the Chief Justice. Each of the freshmen and transfer ex officio members must have fewer than thirty (30) Texas State credit
hours. Other ex officio members may be commissioned in accordance with the Constitution and Student Government Code. All ex officio members of the Senate shall:

(a) The ex-officio Senators from the Graduate House, the Freshmen Council, and the Residence Hall Association will be determined internally within each of their respective organization or government branches. These organizations or government branches will then notify the Vice President of the selected ex-officio Senator.

(b) The Transfer and Round-Rock ex officio Senators will apply through the Selection and Appointments Committee and be confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate.

(c) Serve as advisors to the Senate, President, and Vice-President in freshmen, transfer, graduate student or other special issues.

(d) Have ex officio members have a voice in all debate and discussion and will be encouraged to actively participate in all Senate matters.

(e) Have ex officio members have no official vote in Senate matters or committees.

(f) May ex officio may be exempt from committee participation by the Select Committee on Selection and Appointments or the President Senate Pro-Tempore.

(g) May ex officio may author legislation so long as it has support by three full Senators.

(h) May ex officio may sponsor legislation, so long as it has a second sponsor by a full Senator.

(i) Take ex officio take an oath of office and comply with all Student Government Rules and Regulations.

(j) The Transfer and Freshman ex officio members will apply through the Select Committee on Selection and Appointments and be confirmed by a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate.

(k) The Chief Justices shall not sponsor or author legislation.

§ 20 SUSPENSION OF RULES. The Rules contained in this chapter may be suspended by a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate in specific instances, which shall expire upon the conclusion of the meeting in which the rule was suspended.

ARTICLE IV. SPECIAL PROCEDURES
§1 APPEALING A DECISION. Decisions of the Chair may be overridden by a majority vote of those Senators present.

§2 JUDICIAL PROTECTION. The Chairperson must at no time decide on a question involving the constitutionality of a piece of legislation or other issues of actions of the Senate.

§3 RECONSIDERATION. A motion to reconsider may be made and seconded only by Senators who vote on the prevailing side in the original vote. A motion to reconsider is debatable if the item to be reconsidered is debatable. A motion to reconsider requires a majority vote for passage. Upon passage of a motion to reconsider, the legislation may be debated and amended. Upon termination of debate on the legislation, a new vote must be taken.

§4 DIVISION OF THE HOUSE. At the desire of any Senator present, and upon passage of a motion therein, a division of the house into non-binding affirmative or negative, or abstain voting blocs can be called to ascertain the current disposition of the Senators on any motion placed before them prior to taking an official final vote. Abstentions will be prohibited for the purposes of this polling.

§5 SPECIAL ELECTIONS, LEGISLATION. Special elections must be elections which fill vacancies for convention delegates, selection of the Outstanding Senator Award, superlative awards and other elections of the Senate.

§6 ELECTION OF SENATE PRO-TEMPORE AND PARLIAMENTARIAN. All elections of the Senate Pro-Tempore and Parliamentarian must be presided over by the Chairperson.

(a) The presiding officer must be aided by the Clerk.
(b) All introductions, speeches, questions, and discussions must immediately proceed balloting.
(c) All elections must be by a secret ballot,
(d) Winners must be determined by a majority vote,
(e) In the event of a tie the Vice President must break the tie. If no candidate attains a majority vote then the candidates with the two highest vote totals will be placed on a secret ballot for a run-off election to occur immediately.
This procedure must be used in the event of a special election when a vacancy occurs in the Office of Pro-Tempore or Parliamentarian.

§7 REMOVAL OF THE SENATE PRO-TEMPORE AND PARLIAMENTARIAN. The Senate Pro-Tempore or Parliamentarian will be removed from office upon the passage of a Vote of No Confidence Resolution by a majority vote of their peers. The passage of a Vote of No Confidence Resolution expresses the view of the Senate that the officer no longer has the confidence of their peers and that the Senate believes the person cannot be effective in the performance of their duties. A Vote of No Confidence may be due to conduct unbecoming of their office, dereliction of duty, violation of the Constitution or laws of Student Government, crisis, scandal or other situation; which in the view of their peers, markedly restricts the Senate Pro-Tempore or Parliamentarians ability to function as a legitimate representative of the Senate.

(a) A Resolution on a Vote of No Confidence must never be submitted as emergency legislation and must always be read twice to the Senate.

(b) On the first reading, the Resolution shall only be read to the Senate. On the second reading, debate, discussion and a vote shall occur on the Resolution.

(c) Vote of No Confidence Resolutions must provide, in detail, the justification for the removal.

(d) Passage of a Vote of No Confidence will result in the removal from their officer position, though they may retain their position as a Senator. This section does not prohibit the issuance of further charges or proceedings including but not limited to Articles of Impeachment.

ARTICLE III. CODING LEGISLATION. Each measure will receive a code determined by its type, and set by the Senate Clerk/Chairperson, the legislation shall must thereafter be referenced to, in any formal capacity, by this code. Senate Resolutions will be designated by the "SR"; Simple Senate Resolutions will be designated by the "SSR"; Senate Bills will be designated by the "SB"; and Constitutional Amendments will be designated by "CA"; Joint Resolutions will be designated by the “JR”. Following this there will be the last two (2) digits of the two (2)
years constituting the academic year in which the measure is introduced. Following these two
digits will be the number assigned by the Senate Clerk, Pro Tempore. Each measure will be
numbered successively, according to its type, beginning at the start of each school year.

Every resolution or bill shall carry:

(a) The name(s) of any author(s).

(b) The name(s) of sponsor(s).

(c) A title, in accordance with the naming convention found in S.G.C. VI §100.2(2),(3),(4) and Appendix I, II, III. Each piece of legislation passed by the Senate shall carry:

(1) The date it was first introduced by or read to the Senate.

(2) A place for the date on which the legislation passed the Senate.

(3) A place to indicate committee assignment should the legislation be sent to a committee.

(4) Any amendments approved by the Senate.

§2 SUBMITTING LEGISLATION REQUIREMENTS FOR LEGISLATION. To be eligible for placement on the Senate agenda, all legislation to be placed on the agenda must conform to the following procedures:

(a) The legislation must be submitted to the Senate Clerk, Chairperson, no later than 5:00 PM on the Wednesday preceding the Senate meeting, so that it may be coded and formatted for presentation. Thereafter, legislation to be placed on the agenda shall require special permission of the Chairman of the Senate, Chairperson and shall not be accepted at all after 2:00 PM on Monday or Friday.

§3(b) The legislation must include a Senator who is Lead Author, responsible for answering questions about and managing the legislation, and; with the exception of Simple Senate Resolutions, at a minimum of four (4) Senators to serve as co-sponsors to be placed on the agenda.

(c) The Vice President will format and code legislation must be submitted to in accordance with S.G.C. VI §100.2(2),(3),(4) and Appendix I, II, III.

(d) The Vice President may change the Chairman’s name on a bill if it does not fit the Senate for his/her signature naming convention established by 3:00 PM of statute.
The Vice President may either reject or reformat legislation which is not in compliance with the legislative writing standard.

§3 PATH OF LEGISLATION. All legislation shall have a first reading under New Business during formal meetings with quorum present. At this time the Chairperson of the Senate may assign the legislation to the appropriate committee(s) to consider the proposed legislation and so that the committee may report back to the Senate at the next formal meeting.

$4$ SECOND READING AND DEBATE PROCEDURE. At the next formal meeting, following the meeting in which legislation was first read and after the proposed legislation has received Committee attention, legislation shall have a second reading under Old Business. At this time, amendments to the legislation may be proposed and voted on. A motion for Adoption must occur after

§5 COMMITTEE REPORT. After the second reading under Old Business, It may then be moved, but before debate and discussion, the chair of any relevant committee having been referred the legislation may rise and seconded for adoption. At this time report on the committee’s disposition toward the legislation.

§6 ADOPTION. A majority of the Senate must agree to continue to debate and discussion prior to proceeding any further with the legislation. The motion must pass by a majority. If it fails to attain a majority the legislation will be tabled indefinitely.

§7 DEBATE AND DISCUSSION. After the committee report, debate may occur and amendments to the legislation may be proposed and voted on.

§8 All amendments must be pertinent to the legislation being considered. Upon termination of debate, if the bill has not been taken from the floor, a vote shall be taken to determine passage or failure of the legislation. AMENDMENTS. All amendments must be submitted in writing to the Chairperson and be pertinent to the legislation in order to being considered. Motions, Resolutions, and associated amendments may only be carried to three levels at any given time.

§9 VOTING. Upon termination of debate, if the bill has not been taken from the floor, a vote must be taken to determine passage or failure of the legislation.
LIMITATIONS ORIGINAL INTENT. No legislation may be amended so as to change the original purpose.

§10 LIMITING SCOPE OF RESOLUTIONS. No legislation, except bills, may embrace more than one subject.

§§11 LIMITING SCOPE OF RESOLUTIONS. No legislation, except bills, must embrace more than one subject.

§12 EMERGENCY STATUS. A piece of legislation may be granted emergency status by a two-thirds vote of the Senate or by declaration of the Chairperson of the Senate. A piece of legislation successfully granted emergency status will not require a second reading. A senator wishing to make a piece of legislation emergency must give proper justification as to why the legislation needs to be made emergency. Each piece of legislation successfully granted emergency status must contain all necessary legislation coding in order to be immediately considered. If the senator wishing to make the legislation emergency grants the legislation to be considered for emergency status, it is the senator’s responsibility to provide no fewer than one copy of proposed legislation for every two members of the current Senate, to be available at the commencement of all Senate committee meetings.

§13 PATH OF PASSED LEGISLATION. Upon passage of a piece of legislation, except for the case in which the piece is vetoed by the President, the Vice President will forward the piece to the Student Government Advisor within five business days. The advisor will then review the piece and forward it to the Vice President for Student Affairs for distribution to the appropriate University division Vice Presidents.

§§14 DEFEATED LEGISLATION. Once legislation has been considered and defeated no legislation containing the same principle subject matter must be considered again during the same semester it was presented. However, the original legislation may be reconsidered once.
ARTICLE IV. ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE

§1 DEFINITION. PERMANENT COMMITTEES. Permanent Committees shall must be constituted each year and shall must make recommendations on their specific area of oversight. The following permanent committees are established, and their purposes are set herein:

§2(a) STUDENT SERVICES COMMITTEE. The Student Services Committee shall must review all legislation concerning services to student at Texas State including but not limited to: counseling, dining, housing, and transportation. The Committee shall must recommend action upon all potential student service issues concerning the students of Texas State to the Senate.

§2(b) ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. The Academic Affairs Committee shall must review all legislation concerning academic issues including but not limited to course descriptions, course availability, new courses, curriculum, syllabus, the Honor Code, and advising. The Committee shall must recommend action upon all potential academic issues effecting students to the Senate.

§2 AD-HOC, TEMPORARY, AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES. Ad-hoc, temporary, and special committees are created by the Senate by a motion or legislation when the need arises for a committee of a temporary nature. The following provisions apply to these temporary committees:

(a) The committee chair must be nominated from among the Senate and be confirmed by a majority vote of the members.

(b) Membership of the committee must be proposed by the committee chair and confirmed by the Senate.

(c) Will be dissolved upon a motion of the Senate, end of the Senate session or the completion of the temporary assignment.

§4 PRIDE AND TRADITIONS COMMITTEE.

§5 HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE.

§6 SELECT COMMITTEES. Senate Select Committees shall meet on an as needed basis as business warrants and shall be outlined, with their charge, herein.
§7 SELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS. The Senate Select Committee on Selections and Appointment shall review all applicants to fill vacant Senate seats. The Pro Tempore shall make recommendation via formal memorandum to the Cabinet on whom the committee sees fit to serve as Senator.

§8 COMMITTEE CHAIRS. Committee Chairs shall outline the purpose of the committee and coordinate the committees function. They shall also:

(a) Determine the time, place, and frequency of meetings and notify members according to guidelines established by the Chairperson of the Senate.

(b) Give periodic reports of the committees’ findings to the Senate according to deadlines established by the Senate or the Senate Chairperson of the Senate.

(c) Be responsible for the recording of all committee member's absences and minutes of the committee meetings and shall forward them to the Senate Clerk.

(d) Be Student Senators.

(e) Meet with the Chairperson of the Senate and the Senate Pro-Tempore as deemed necessary by the Chairperson of the Senate.

(f) Appoint a Co-Chairperson with two-thirds approval of the committee.

§11 VICE CHAIR. Committee Vice Chair shall be an assistant to the Chairperson and preside at meetings when the Chairperson is absent. The Vice Chair shall also:

(a) Assist the Chairperson.

(b) Keep record of attendance of members.

(c) Maintain a record of excuses for absences by committee members.

(d) Keep the Chairperson informed of attendance violations.

(e) Enforce absence policy as outlined in Article VI of this document.
§12—SECRETARY. Committee Secretary shall take minutes and attendance at each meeting and submit them to the Senate Clerk every Monday.

§13 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP. Committee Members shall must be appointed and/or removed by the Chairperson of the Senate at his/her discretion and shall must attend all committee meetings scheduled by the Committee Chair. Committee members shall also study, research, revise, and propose legislation.

§14 LIMITS ON NUMBER OF COMMITTEES. Senate members may serve on no more than two (2) standing Senate committees and two temporary, select, ad-hoc, or special committees at one time.

§15 LIMITS ON NUMBER OF COMMISSIONS. Senate members may serve on no more than one (1) commission at any one time.

§16 POWERS OF COMMITTEES. Amendments to any bill or resolution shall must require a full vote of the Senate to be adopted. Committees shall must have legislative review power over all legislation submitted to their committee.

§17 MEETING TIME AND PLACE. Committees will meet every week or on a regular basis as determined by the Committee Chair.

§18 MEMBERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEES. Senate Committee Chairpersons may form sub-committees to address special project and issues that are being undertaken by their respective Senate Committees.

() Senate sub-committees may contain persons who are not members of the Senate upon approval of the Chairperson of the Senate.

() Each Senate sub-committee non-Senate members shall be allowed to fully participate in the discussion within the sub-committee, and shall attend all meetings, and shall act in an advisory capacity.

() Senate sub-committee non-Senate members shall not have an official vote on the sub-committee.

§19 AD-HOC, TEMPORARY, AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES. Ad hoc, temporary, and special committees are created by the Senate by a motion or legislation when the need arises for a committee of a temporary nature. The following provisions apply to these temporary committees.
Be appointed by the Chairperson of the Senate with two-thirds approval of the Senate.
Chair shall be nominated by the Senate Chairperson and confirmed by the committee members by a majority vote.
Vill be dissolved upon a motion of the Senate, end of the Senate session or the completion of the temporary assignment.

ARTICLE XIII. SPECIAL PROVISIONS

§0 LEVELS OF AMENDMENTS. A motion may be carried to only three levels at one given time.

§0 APPEALING A DECISION. Decisions of the Chair may be overridden by the majority vote of those Senators present.

§0 JUDICIAL PROTECTION. The Chairperson of the Senate shall at no time decide on a question involving the constitutionality of a piece of legislation or other issues of actions of the Senate.

§0 OPEN MEETINGS. All Senate meetings shall be open to the public. Should a sensitive matter require a closed meeting, this rule may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of those Senators present.

§01 ORIGINAL INTENT. No legislation may be amended so as to change the original purpose.

§01 LIMITING SCOPE OF RESOLUTIONS. No legislation, except bills, shall embrace more than one subject.

§01 DEFEATED LEGISLATION. Once legislation has been considered and defeated no legislation containing the same principle subject matter shall be considered again during the same semester it was presented. However, the original legislation may be reconsidered once.

§01 RECONSIDERATION. A motion to reconsider may be made and seconded only by Senators who vote on the prevailing side in the original vote. A motion to reconsider is debatable if the item to be reconsidered is debatable. A motion to reconsider requires a majority vote for passage. Upon passage of a motion to reconsider, the legislation may be debated and amended. Upon termination of debate on the legislation, a new vote shall be taken.
§0 — SPECIAL ELECTIONS. Special elections shall be elections which fill vacancies for

convention delegates, selection of the Outstanding Senator Award, superlative awards and

other elections of Senate Officers.

§0 — SPECIAL ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS. All special elections of the Pro Tempore or

Committee Chairperson shall be presided over by the Chairperson of the Senate unless the

Chairperson is a candidate, whereby the Senate Pro Tempore shall preside over the election.

Thereafter, any Senator who is not a candidate shall preside over the meeting as soon as

his/her candidacy has ended.

( ) The Chairperson shall be aided by those Senators the chair selects who are not

candidates.

( ) All special elections shall be by a secret ballot.

( ) Winners shall be determined by a plurality vote.

( ) All introductions, speeches, questions, and discussions shall immediately proceed

balloting.

( ) In the event of a tie, the run-off will be immediately broken by way of a secret ballot

until the tie is broken.

ARTICLE XXIX — ARTICLE VII ABSENCE POLICY

Amended by: S.B 2014-2015.05 “Senate Attendance Policy Act”

§1 AUTHORITY. Authority and responsibility for this policy shall must rest with the Senate

Chairperson with oversight and assistance from the Supreme Court Chief

Justice, Parliamentarian.

§2 UNIVERSAL APPLICATION. The rules and limitations on absences found in this Article

are applicable to the General Meeting of the Senate each Monday and any committee

meetings, including and any properly called required events.

§3 UNEXCUSED ABSENCE LIMIT. When a Senator acquires an unexcused absence they

must be given a written warning by the Chairperson or designee. This notification must

inform the Senator that they have one more unexcused absence before the Chairperson will

ask for their resignation. If a Senator receives a second unexcused absence they will qualify

for Impeachment.
Any four (4) absences from committee meetings each semester must qualify a Senator for impeachment.

After a Senator has received a second absence the Chairperson must inform the Senator as such and ask for the Senator's resignation in writing.

Should the Senator refuse to resign or is not contactable, the Chairperson may caucus with as many Senators as they deem appropriate so that they may work to develop Articles of Impeachment. Should the Chairperson fail to do this it must be the responsibility of Parliamentarian to do so.

§34. EXCUSED ABSENCES. Each Senator is allowed a limited number of absences from Senate or Committee per semester so long as the absence meets, exceeding these limits will result in an unexcused absence. Excused absences are permitted in accordance with certain criteria which include:

(a) One (1) excused absence for sickness. A sickness absence must be reported to the Chairperson, in writing, by email, by 4:00 p.m. on Monday prior to the start of the Senate meeting in order for the excused absence to be considered to be valid.

(b) One (1) excused absences for an academic related activity which is set to occur at the same time as the Senate meeting. An academic related absences must be reported to the Chairperson in email by the Sunday at 5:00 p.m. prior to the expected absence in order for the excused absence to be considered valid.

(1) An event which qualifies as an “academic related activity” is defined as an officially sanctioned academic event worth course credit.

(2) If the Chairperson has reasonable cause to suspect that the academic event being used to justify an excused absence does not fit the definition as provided he shall be empowered to require documentation from the Senator proving it meets the definition.

(c) One (1) excused absences for university, student organization, work or other kind of conference or event. An excuse for university, student organization, work or other kind of conference or event must be submitted to the Chairperson in email by Thursday at 5:00 p.m. prior to the expected absences in order for the excused absence to be considered valid.
Two (2) documented illnesses will be excused so long as documentation from a medical service provider is presented to the Chairperson any reasonable time prior to the missed meeting, or within 72 hours after the absence in order for the excused absence to be considered valid.

(1) If a Senator is to be absent for more than two (2) meetings because of documented illness they must send a written request for a temporary leave of absence which will excuse up to four (4) additional missed meetings due to documented illness. Upon the expiration of a total of six (6) missed meetings due to documented illness the Chairperson must ask for the Senators resignation.

A reasonable number of excused absences, as defined by the Chairperson, will be allowed for bereavement in the event of a death in the family, so long as there is no probable cause for Chairperson to suspect abuse of this policy. Upon the expiration of a total of six (6) missed meetings due to bereavement the Chairpersons must ask for the Senators resignation.

Should the Chairperson or other officer record an absence as unexcused and the Senator feels his/their excuse is justified, the Senator may appeal to the Supreme Court Senate to amend the decision. An appeal will be filed with the Supreme Court Chief Justice in writing or other format as he prescribes.

§4§5 RECORD KEEPING. The Senate Clerk shall keep a continuous record for the Senate and Committee meetings of those present, absent, early leave, and tardy.

(a) Each committee chairperson shall keep an attendance record and report it to the clerk every Monday.

§5§6 ABSENCES. Any Senator not reporting as present during roll call shall be considered absent. Any Senator more than 30 minutes late will be considered absent and not allowed to speak or vote tardy.

§6§7 EARLY LEAVE. Any Senator who wishes to permanently leave the meeting during regular business shall make a request to the Chairperson that they be removed from the roll. The time the Senator left will be recorded in the minutes. A Senator who is granted leave will be
marked as tardy if they leave and the meeting continues for a time greater than the amount of
time they were present.

§7 TARDY. A Senator who enters the meeting after roll call shall must request to be added to
the roll, the request will be marked in the minutes and a tardy recorded on the Senators
attendance record. Any two (2) recorded tardiness must constitute one (1) absences.

§8 REPORTING. The Chairperson shall must ensure that the Clerk keeps the attendance
record and will keep on file all excuses reported to him him. The attendance record will be
transmitted to the Supreme Court Chief Justice and Senate Pro-Tempore and Parliamentarian
each Friday.

§0 ABSENCE LIMIT. When a Senator acquires an unexcused absence he shall be given a
written warning by the Chairperson or designee. This notification shall inform the Senator
that he has one more unexcused absences before referral to the Supreme Court Chief Justice,
and the possibility of impeachment. If a Senator receives a second absence they will qualify
for impeachment.

( ) Any four (4) absences from committee meetings each semester shall qualify a Senator
for impeachment.

( ) After a Senator has received a second absence the Chairperson shall forward their
name to the Supreme Court Chief Justice.

( ) Upon being informed of a violation of the two absence limit the Supreme Court Chief
Justice will ask for that Senator’s resignation, in writing. Should the Senator refuse to
resign or is not contactable, the Supreme Court Chief Justice may work with other
Senators to prepare Articles of Impeachment. Should the Supreme Court Chief Justice
fail to do this it shall be the responsibility of either the Senate Pro-Tempore or
Chairperson ensure it is done.

ARTICLE XXXIV. ARTICLE VIII. IMPEACHMENT TRIAL

§1 CHAIR IMPEACHED. Should the Chairperson of the Senate be impeached he, they
shall must relinquish the chair to the Chief Justice Senate Pro-Tempore. If the Senate Pro-
Tempore is acting as chair they shall must relinquish the chair to the Chief
§2 SENATOR IMPEACHED. Should a Senator be impeached they shall have no vote until all removal proceedings are completed.

§2

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