

**A Bill to Amend the Student Government Constitution of George Mason University
B. #48**

32nd STUDENT SENATE
2nd Session
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A Bill to Amend the Student Government Constitution of George Mason University

**IN THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**

April 19, 2012

Submitted By Chairman Short (Government and Academic Affairs), Senator Salter,
Senator Abbruscato, Senator Wickrema

Bill #48

A Bill to Amend the Student Government Constitution of George Mason University

Be it enacted by the Student Senate of George Mason University,

That if passed by the Student Senate of George Mason University the following changes to the Student Body Constitution shall be placed on the Fall Election Ballot as a referendum. Each amendment in the referendum shall be voted on separately. Any changes that occur by passing of these amendments in the referendum shall take effect, unless stated otherwise, with the beginning of the 33rd Student Senate Spring Session. Furthermore all documents (including the Constitution) that are affected by the approved changes in the Constitution shall be amended through clerical amendments.

The proposed amendments are as follows:

- 1) That the Constitution be organized with subsections under its Section Headings.

For example:

Section 1. George Mason is nice during the Seasons

- 1.1 George Mason is really nice in the summer.
- 1.2 George Mason is nice in the fall.
- 1.3 George Mason is nice in the winter.
- 1.4 George Mason is nice in the spring.

- 2) That Article II: Section II be amended to read the following:

Section 2. Composition, Qualifications, and Term

The Student Senate of George Mason University shall be composed of students, chosen by the students; and each senator shall have one vote. Any person may be

elected to the Senate, who, at the time of the election ***has attained a cumulative GPA no lower than 2.5*** ~~meets the minimum requirements to be involved in Student Activities~~, and is enrolled as either an undergraduate or graduate student at George Mason University.

The terms of the Senators shall expire ~~at noon on the first Monday of May, from whence the terms of their successors shall begin.~~ ***in the timeframe of 4:30pm on the last Thursday of April.***

Each Senator shall be a representative of the Student Body of George Mason University, with the exclusion of the Law school.

- 3) That Article II: Section III be amended to read the following:

Section 3. Officers

The student senate shall choose a Speaker who shall preside, a Speaker Pro-Tempore, and a Clerk.

The members of ***the Student Senate shall choose the Chairman(s) of the standing committee(s).*** ~~each respective committee shall choose the Chairperson of that Committee.~~

- 4) That Article II: Section V be amended to read the following:

Section 5. Member Restrictions

No senator, while holding office, shall be appointed to the Election & Disputer Commission or the Executive Branch of the Student Government; and no person holding office under the Elections & Disputes Commission or the Executive Branch of the Student Government, shall be a member of the Student Senate.

No candidate for elected office may run for more than one position in Student Government at the same time.

- 5) That Article II: Section VI be amended to read the following:

Section 6. Bills and Statues

Every bill which shall have passed the Student Senate, shall, before it become a Statute, be presented to the Student body President of George Mason University; if the President approves, the bill shall be signed, but if not, the bill shall be returned with any objections to the Senate which shall enter the objections at large in their journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such reconsideration two thirds of the body shall agree to pass the bill, it shall become a statue. But in all such cases the votes of the Student Senate shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the person voting for and against the bill shall be entered into the journal. ~~upon request.~~

- 6) That Article III: Section I be amended to read the following:

Section 1. Establishment, Qualifications, and Terms

The Executive Power shall be vested in a Student Body President and Vice President of George Mason University, who shall be chosen by the registered students of George Mason University for the same term.

No person except a *full-time* student of George Mason University shall be eligible to hold the Office of Student Body President; neither shall any person be eligible to that Office who shall not have attained the age of eighteen years, be in good academic and University standing *with a cumulative GPA no lower than 2.5*, and have attended George Mason University for one year.

No person constitutionally ineligible to the Office of Student Body President shall be eligible to that of the Student Body Vice President of George Mason University.

The terms of the Student Body President and the Vice President shall commence at noon on the Saturday following the first Monday of May, next succeeding the election, and ending one year thereafter immediately upon the inauguration of their successors.

- 7) That Article III: Section II be amended to read the following:

Section 2. Election

All persons seeking the Office of Student Body President shall designate a nominee for Student Body Vice President, and the names of said nominees shall appear jointly on one ballot, and each registered student shall cast a single vote applicable to both offices.

All ballots shall be tabulated and transmitted to the Chairperson of the Election and Disputes Commission who shall, in the presence of the Election and Disputes Commission, open all certificates and affirm the results. The persons having the greatest number of votes for Student Body President and Student Body Vice President shall be elected to said offices.

- 9) That Article III: Section III be stricken from the Constitution and rewritten as follows:

Section 3. Disability, Vacancy, Succession

~~*In case of the removal of the President from office, or, in the case of death, resignation, or inability to discharge the power and duties of said Office, the Student Body Vice President shall assume the power, duties, and title of the said Office. Due to disability should there be neither a Student Body President nor a Student Body Vice President, the Student Senate shall appoint an Acting Student Body President until the disability be removed, either in the Student Body President or the Student Body Vice President. Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Student Body Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a two thirds vote of the Student Senate.*~~

In case of the removal of the President from office, or, in the case of death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of said Office, the Student Body Vice President shall assume the powers, duties, and title of said Office. In case of the removal of both the President and Vice President from office, or in case of death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers of said Offices, the officer of the Student Government who is highest on the following list shall become the Acting Student Body President—upon resignation from their previous office—and shall uphold the powers, duties, and title of the Office of the President: Speaker of the Senate, Speaker Pro-Tempore of the Senate, then to the Chairman in order of the longest to the newest standing committees as laid out in the Code of Student Governance.

Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of the Student Body Vice President, the President shall nominate a Vice President who shall take office upon confirmation by a two-thirds vote of the Student Senate.

10) That Article IV: Section I be amended to read the following:

Section 1. Establishment, Qualifications, and Terms

The Elections & Disputes Commission shall have sole power over holding official elections of the Student Government of George Mason University, and preside as an independent adjudicator when and should disputes arise between the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch. The Elections & Disputes Commission is established as an independent body from the Student Government of George Mason University, and except for elections, can be summoned by either chamber of Student Government if there is ever a dispute between the Legislative and the Executive Branches. ~~The Commissioners, shall be registered full-time students of George Mason University and shall hold their Offices during good academic and university standing, until the date of their respective graduation, resignation, or remove from their Office.~~

The Commissioners shall be registered students of George Mason University and shall hold their offices during good University standing, in addition to maintaining a cumulative GPA no lower than 2.5. Commissioners shall hold their office until the date of their respective graduation, resignation, or removal from office.

11) That Article IV: Section II be amended to read the following:

Section 2. Composition

That the Elections & Disputes Commissioners shall be appointed by the Student Body President and confirmed by a two thirds majority ~~of the Student Senate vote of Senators Present. The Commission shall be comprised of no less than five Commissioners, of which there will be one Chief Commissioner, and at least four Associate Commissioners. The Commission shall be comprised of no fewer than three Commissioners, of which there will be on Chief Commissioner, and at least two Associate Commissioners.~~

The Election & Disputes Commission shall elect of its own members, in a manner of their own choosing, a chairman who shall run meetings, render rulings, and represent the Elections and Disputes Commission generally, Once elected chair, said individual will remain chair for the remained of their tenure on the Elections & Disputes Commission.

12) That Article IV: Section III be amended to read the following:

Section 3. Responsibilities

The Elections & Disputes Commission shall conduct two regularly scheduled elections each year.

- ~~The EDC shall conduct an election in the spring which determines the President and Vice President and seats for Senate.~~
- **The EDC shall conduct an election within the Spring Semester, which determines the President and Vice President and thirty seats for senate.**
- ~~The EDC will conduct an election within the fall semester, in which only freshman may run to fill the remaining ten seats of the Senate.~~
- **The EDC shall conduct an election within the Fall Semester, which determines the remaining ten Senate seats. Only freshman and first-semester transfer students shall be eligible to run for Senate during this election.**

The Elections & Disputes Commission shall conduct any emergency elections as conditions may dictate.

- The EDC shall hold an emergency election to fill the Senate if membership drops below 21 members.

The Elections & Disputes Commission shall have the power to settle disputes between the Legislative and Executive Branch.

13) That Article IV: Section IV be amended to read the following:

Section 4. Limitations

~~Members of the Elections & Disputes Commission may not participate in the execution or planning of any Student Government function or event not directly related to the responsibilities stated in this article.~~

~~No member of the Elections & Disputes Commission, active or resigned, may serve in either an elected or appointed position in Student Government during the calendar year in which they have served as a Commissioner.~~

Members of the Election and Disputes Commission may not aid in the execution or planning of any Student Government function or event not directly related to the responsibilities stated in this article. This section explicitly does not prohibit commissioners from attending Student Government sponsored functions or events.

No member of the Elections & Disputes Commission may simultaneously hold any other office within Student Government. Upon resignation or removal from office, former Election and Disputes Commission members are not eligible to hold another office within Student Government for a period of one calendar year.

14) That Article VI: Section II be amended to read the following:

Section 2. Penalties and Punishment

Should the ~~accused Official be found responsible for the offense(s) by the Elections and Disputes Commission~~ **Elections and Disputes Commission find the accused Officer responsible for the offense(s)**, the Elections and Disputes Commission shall impose any punishment not exceeding removal from office and exclusion from the Student Government of George Mason University. ~~This article, regardless of the previous articles lays out a final, simple and efficient form in which impeachments will be conducted from now on.~~

15) That Article VIII: Section II be amended to read the following:

Section 2. Student Government

Any member of the Student Government may submit a bill to amend this Constitution. ~~The Senate will publicize, through appropriate media sources, at least two consecutive weeks before any open hearings, or debate, for the proposed amendment(s).~~

~~The Senate shall have the power to establish procedures for the open hearing, or debate, and allow adequate time for any student to speak on the bill.~~

After a bill is composed to amend this Constitution, the Senate must hold at least one open public hearing in which students will be given adequate time to speak and give input into the proposed changes. This public hearing must be publicized, through appropriate media sources, at least two consecutive weeks before the hearing is held. The Senate shall have the power to establish procedures for the open hearing. After holding the public hearing the bill may be submitted for first reading to the Senate.

Two-thirds of the Senate must be present in order to vote on the proposed amendment(s), and four-fifths of those present must approve in order to pass the bill.

Upon signature of the Student Body President, or Legislative Override, the bill shall be forwarded to the Commissioner of the Elections & Dispute Commission. The Commissioner shall place the proposed amendment on the referendum at the next appropriate election.

A majority of the students voting on the proposed amendment shall be required to amend the Constitution.

Passed the Student Senate: _____

Attest:

Speaker: Tommy Lee

Clerk: Elizabeth Baires

President: Allyson Bowers