

**A Bill to amend the Code of Student Governance
B. #49**

32nd STUDENT SENATE
2nd Session
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**IN THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**

April 19, 2012

Submitted by Chairman Short (Government & Academic Affairs Committee)

Bill #49

A Bill to amend the Code of Student Governance

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

1) That Title III: Subtitle I: Chapter 1: § 105 be amended to the following:

§ 105 Presidential Powers and Duties

- (1) To appoint Secretaries and Undersecretaries to positions within the Executive Departments;
- (2) To appoint members to University Committees as appropriate and available;
- (3) The Student Body President shall have the power to appoint personal advisors. The advisors are internal advisors and may act within the Executive Branch.
- (4) To meet with the Assistant Director of Student Activities for Student Governance;
- (5) To perform other duties required by the Student Body Constitution or statute.
- (6) *To serve as the Student Representative to the George Mason University Board of Visitors***

2) That Title II: Subtitle II: Chapter 4: § 401 be amended to the following:

§ 401 Process for Introduction of Legislation

Members having bills or resolutions shall present them ~~via the Senate listserv~~ **the Clerk via** in accordance with the Legislative Drafting Manual of the Student Senate, at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at which they are to be read. At which point, the Clerk must send the legislation via the Senate ~~listserv~~ **mailing list**, at least 12 hours prior to the meeting. Any bill or resolution introduced in the Senate must list the names of sponsors and any co-sponsors.

- (1) The Clerk shall assign each Bill or Resolution a number in the order in which they are presented, and a title.
- (2) Upon receipt of such legislation the Speaker shall schedule a reading for each Bill or Resolution. It shall be distinctly announced or set out at each reading on the Agenda, whether it is the first or second reading.
- (3) Senators shall have the ability to submit new legislation during open session.
- (4) All agendas, bills, and resolutions for meetings are to be sent through email prior to Senate meetings and are to be projected during the meetings. Hard copies are only to be printed for the Leadership of the Student Senate (Speaker, Speaker Pro- Tempore, and Chairpersons).

3) That Title II: Subtitle III: Chapter 8: § 804 be amended to the following:

§ 804 Duties of the Clerk

The Clerk of the Student Senate shall be the Keeper of Rolls of the Student Government. In this capacity, the Clerk shall cause all of the acts and resolutions of the Student Senate and resolutions proposing amendments to the Student Body Constitution to be enrolled on substantial paper, of uniform size, by such permanent and substantial method or methods as he or she deems proper. After the Speaker of the Student Senate signs such legislation, the Clerk shall cause the same to be bound in durable style. The Clerk shall have custody of the acts, resolutions, records, and papers of the Student Senate, and, when required, shall furnish a copy of any or any part of any of them, which copy, being certified by him shall be evidence for any purpose for which the original would be received, and with as much effect. The Clerk is also responsible for posting all legislation, once it has been signed, on *a webpage linked to by* the Student Government website. Along with the posting of all passed legislation, the Clerk must also post the *Senate minutes, including the* official vote of the passed legislation ~~on the Student Government website.~~

4) That Title V: Chapter 1: § 102.1 be amended to the following:

§ 102.1 Budgeting

- (1) ~~By the first meeting in September of the Student Senate, the President will present a fiscal year budget resolution divided into two categories nondiscretionary and discretionary. Nondiscretionary spending will be comprised of spending for recurring annual Student Government events. The resolution will be referred to the Finance Committee.~~
- (2) ~~The Finance Committee will review the budget resolution and allot a dollar amount for each item of nondiscretionary spending based on the cost of each item the previous year. The costs of the items may be indexed for inflation of up to 3% per year. Indexing is up to the discretion of the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Speaker.~~
- (3) ~~After the Senate has approved the resolution, it shall be in order to submit a bill appropriating nondiscretionary funds for first reading. When the Finance Committee considers this bill, each committee may submit a request for additional funding for a particular event that they oversee. This bill shall include line items unless extenuating circumstances prohibit the foresight of them.~~

- ~~(4) By the second meeting of the second session of the Student Senate, it shall be in order to submit a bill amending the amount of appropriated nondiscretionary funds for events in the Spring Semester for first reading.~~
- ~~(5) Each session will be divided into 3 four week periods. In each period of the two sessions, at least 15% of remaining discretionary funds must be spent until such time that all but 25% of discretionary funds have been allocated. All spending requests must be proposed prior to the beginning of the four week period.~~
- ~~(6) Prior to the final four week period of the session, the Finance Committee must submit a report to the full Senate budgeting out the remaining discretionary funds.~~
- ~~(7) 25% of discretionary funds will be left unallocated for miscellaneous purposes or emergency spending.~~

- (1) *Each fiscal year is to be divided into 4 seven-week quarters. Each quarter will be appropriated 25% of the year's budget, with remaining unspent funds in each quarter rolling over into the following quarter.*

A) In cases where over 25% of the Budget is needed for a quarter the Finance Chair, at his discretion, may pull money from other quarters.

- (2) *Before the beginning of each quarter, the Finance Committee must submit a report to the full Senate.*

5) That Title: V: Chapter 1: Section § 106 be amended to the following:

§ 106 Required Expense Detail

- (1) Any requests for the allocation of funds shall be accompanied by a line item description of all expenses thereunto pertaining. No blanket or general allocations shall be made, and allocations shall only be made for concrete and specific costs. Any line item exceeding \$200 shall be broken down into its constituent expenses. Any individual line item which cannot be further dissembled and shall exceed \$200 may be included only upon the testimony of the requesting party as to the nature and necessity of such an item. This line item request must be included in the bill of financial allocation.

- (2) *In cases where it is impossible to break down in a line item format on a funding bill that exceeds \$200, then the author may seek an exemption through the Speaker, Finance Chair, and the President for the bill not to be line itemed. The Speaker, the Finance Chair and the President can give approval for a bill not to be lined item by signing a form that states the following: "We hereby give approval for the following bill not to lined item and only list an overall amount that is to be allocated to the purpose of the allocation."*

A) The bill shall have the form mentioned above in § 106 subsection 2 and a receipt stapled to the bill upon its passage to show what the money was spent on for recording-keeping.

6) That Title II: Subtitle III: Chapter 17: § 1704 be stricken from the Code:

~~§ 1704 Senate Leadership Committee~~

~~The Speaker of the Senate, The Speaker Pro Tempore, the Clerk, and all Committee Chairmen shall form the Leadership Committee of the Student Senate. The Leadership committee shall meet on a weekly basis or at the discretion of the Speaker.~~

7) That Title II: Subtitle: III: Chapter 6: § 604 be added to the Code:

~~§ 604 Term limits for the Office of Speaker~~

~~No person shall be able to serve as Speaker for more than two consecutive terms.~~

8) That Title III: Subtitle II: **Chapter 9: Office of the Attorney General** be added to the Code:

§ 901 Establishment

The Office of the Attorney General is established as an executive departmental office of the Student Government of George Mason University.

§902 Purpose

The purpose of the Office of the Attorney General is:

(1) External Purposes:

- A) To help establish and enforce a University Student Bill of Rights.*
- B) To strengthen the relationship between the students and the University Judicial system.*
- C) To increase students awareness of the University's policies on Student Conduct and Drugs & Alcohol.*
- D) To increase ties with the local judicial system and George Mason University.*
- E) To increase awareness of students' legal rights on and off campus.*
- F) To establish working relations with other offices on campus such as the Office of Student Conduct and the Office of Academic Integrity.*

(2) Internal Purposes:

- A) To serve as Student Government's Prosecutor or Defense in all EDC Grievances that pertain to any legislation, impeachment, or any other grievances that do not deal with disputes between the two branches of Student Government.*

§903 Attorney General of the Student Government of George Mason University

The Student Body President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Student Senate, an Attorney General of the Student Government to be the head of the Office of the Attorney General. The Attorney General shall hold office at the pleasure of the Student Body President, however the Attorney General cannot be removed from Office if the President has been issued Articles of Impeachment against him. The Attorney General shall be responsible for discharging all duties pertaining to the legal rights of the students, the advertisement of University policies on student conduct, drugs and alcohol, and the representation of Student Government in any internal legal matters.

§904 Oath of Office

Before entering upon the discharge of his duties, the Attorney General shall take an oath to faithfully execute the duties of his office, as prescribed by Article IV of the Student Body Constitution.

§905 Duties of the Attorney General

The Attorney General is responsible for the proper execution and administration of all statutes and regulations administered by the Office of the Attorney General and for the control, direction, and management of the Office. The Attorney General is also responsible for updating his respective section of the Student Government website on a weekly basis.

§906 Senate Confirmation

For aforementioned position, the appointee must be voted on and approved by the Senate. This vote shall be taken as a roll-call vote administered by the clerk using an alphabetical list of senators present. The vote count, with senators' names attached, shall be considered public record.

- 9) That Title: II: Subtitle III: Chapter 9 be rewritten to Chapter 10:

~~Chapter 9~~ **Chapter 10: Student Parking Appeals Board**

§ 901 1001 Establishment

The Student Parking Appeals Board is established as a standing administrative body of the University, incorporated by the Student Government of George Mason University.

§ 902 1002 Authority

The Board shall derive its administrative authority from University Administrative Policy 51, and shall derive its judicial powers from the University Judicial Code.

§ 903 1003 Jurisdiction

The Board shall have jurisdiction to hear all appeals from the University Appeals Officer, or such other University official designated with the authority to hear appeals of citations for violations of parking regulations established in University Administrative Policy 61.

§ 904 1004 Responsibilities

The purpose of the Student Parking Appeals Board is:

- (1) The Board shall be responsible for hearing all appeals under its jurisdiction, as established in §803, made by members of the Student Body of George Mason University, provided those persons shall have not previously waved their right to an appeal;
- (2) The Board shall be responsible for hearing all appeals in a timely manner;
- (3) The Board shall conduct its hearings publicly, and appellants shall be accorded fair treatment without prejudice as to their liability;
- (4) The Board shall be responsible for the dissemination of information regarding appeals

procedures, the times and locations of its hearings, contact with its members, and publication of its rulings.

§ 905 1005 Membership

The Board shall consist of at least three Members, one of whom shall be a Chairman designated to head the Board.

§ 906 1006 Appointment and Term

- (1) The Student Body President shall appoint a Chairman of the Board, and four Members with the advice and consent of members present of the Senate;
- (2) The Members of the Board shall hold office at the pleasure of the Student Body President and Student Senate for a term to begin on August 31 of each year, and to end on September 1 of the following year;
- (3) The Student Body President shall have the power to fill all vacancies that may occur during the recess of the Student Senate, by granting commission that shall expire at the end of the Senate's next session.

§ 907 1007 Powers of the Chairman

The Chairman of the Board shall have the following duties and powers:

- (1) The power to preside over the hearing sessions of the Board and to see to it that the rules and regulations of the Board are properly executed;
- (2) The power to appoint one or more Vice-Chairmen to fulfill or assist in the duties of office should the Chairman be unable to do so;
- (3) The power to represent the Board in an official capacity to the University administration, to the other branches of Student Government, and to the public.

§ 908 1008 Vacancy in the Office of the Chairman of the Board

- (1) Whenever the Chairman of the Board is unable to perform the duties of office, or the office is vacant, the powers of the office shall devolve upon the Vice-Chairman so designated by the Chairman to act during said absence;
- (2) Whenever the Chairman of the Board shall have not designated a Vice-Chairman, the Student Body President shall have the authority to appoint a Member of the Board to act as Chairman, until such time as the office has been filled.

§ 909 1009 Qualifications for Office

- (1) Members shall be qualified electors of George Mason University, meaning that they must be an enrolled student at George Mason University;
- (2) Members shall be qualified to continue in office provided they are considered in good academic standing with the University Registrar.

§ 910 1010 Vacancies

If a Member shall have resigned, graduated, or been removed from office prior to the completion of his or her term, the Student Body President fill the vacancy.

§ 911 1011 Removal from Office

The Members of the Board shall be removed from office at the discretion of the

Student Body President, or by way of Impeachment for and conviction of, malfeasance, corruption, neglect of duty, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.

§ 912 1012 Powers

- (1) The Board shall have the power to hear all appeals under its jurisdiction, established in §703, and to appropriately adjudicate such appeals;
- (2) The Board shall have the power to uphold, amend, or overturn all appeals brought before it.

§ 913 1013 Appeals Procedures

- (1) Pursuant to University Administrative Policy 51, any student whose parking citation shall have been upheld by the University Appeals Officer, or other designated official, may file an appeal with the Board for its consideration;
- (2) While the citation is under review by the Board, the liability of the appellant shall be held in abeyance, until a final judgment is rendered by the Board;
- (3) Any appellant who wishes to retract their appeal may do so, and will be held liable for the terms of the previously upheld citation.

§ 914 1014 Hearing Process

- (1) Appeals brought before the Board shall be heard by a panel of no less than three members, over which the Chairman, or a designated Vice-Chairman, shall preside;
- (2) Appellants will be granted an opportunity to present their grounds for overturning or amending a citation;
- (3) The Board shall, following the presentation of the appellant, deliberate as to the merits of the appeal and promptly issue a ruling as to the discharge of an appeal;
- (4) The ruling of the Board is deemed to be final, and no further appeal is possible or permitted.

Passed the Student Senate: _____

Attest:

Speaker: Tommy Lee

Clerk: Elizabeth Baires

President: Allyson Bowers