

**A Bill to amend the Code of Student Governance  
B. #11**

32<sup>nd</sup> STUDENT SENATE  
1<sup>st</sup> Session  
**B. #11**

A Bill to amend the Code of Student Governance

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

**October 13, 2011**

Submitted By Chairman Short (Government and Academic Affairs)

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**Bill #11**

A Bill to amend the Code of Student Governance

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

1) That Title II Subtitle II: Chapter 3 be amended to read:

**Chapter 3: Attendance Policy**

***§ 301 Absence from Service***

~~§ 301~~ No member shall be absent from Service to the Senate, unless the member is sick or under extreme circumstances unable to attend. Extreme circumstances include but are not limited to the following reasons: academic commitment, illness, family emergency, religious observance, and personal emergency.

***§ 302 Notification of Absences***

~~§ 302~~ Prior to the start of Senate or Committee meeting, the absent member shall inform the appropriate Senate member of their absence. Upon failure to do so, the absence will be considered unexcused.

***§ 303 Accumulation of Two Unexcused Absences***

~~§ 303~~ When the member has accrued two unexcused absences in a semester, the clerk shall notify the member of their status.

***§ 304 Removal from Senate***

~~§ 304~~ Upon the third unexcused absence of the semester, the clerk will notify the member of their removal from the position of Student Senator.

2) That Title II Subtitle II: Chapter 4 be amended to read:

**§ 403 Bills or Resolutions in Committee**

After being referred to a committee by the Speaker, the Bill or Resolution shall be under consideration by said committee, at said committee's next meeting. At which time the committee shall determine the fate of said legislation, being defined by the question, "Does said legislation pass committee?"

(1) To make any amendment(s), other than clerical, to said legislation, a majority vote of said committee's members present is required

(2) A ~~two-thirds vote~~ **majority** of said committee's members present shall determine the fate of said legislation.

(3) After the fate of said legislation has been determined, the result shall be transmitted to the Clerk in accordance with §401.

(4) All amendments passed must be clear and distinguished from the original legislation.

3) That Title III Subtitle II: Chapter 3 subsection §303.2 be eliminated:

~~**§ 303.2 Undersecretary of University Life for Diversity and Multicultural Affairs**~~

~~The Student Body President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Student Senate, an Undersecretary of University Life for Diversity and Multicultural affairs of the Student Government to be the head of the Office of Diversity and Multicultural affairs. The Undersecretary shall hold office at the pleasure of the Student Body President. The Undersecretary shall be responsible for discharging all duties pertaining to the promotion of diversity, multicultural interests and activities. The Undersecretary of University Life for Diversity and Multicultural Affairs shall act as a liaison between the Equity Office, all multicultural organizations, and any other pertinent offices.~~

4) That Title III Subtitle II: Chapter 3 subsections §303.3 and §303.4 be amended to read:

**§ 303.2 Undersecretary of University Life for Greek Affairs and Program Board**

~~**§ 303.3 Undersecretary of University Life for Greek Affairs and Program Board**~~

The Student Body President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Student Senate, an Undersecretary of University Life for Greek Affairs and Program Board of the Student Government to be the head of the Office of Greek Affairs and Program Board. The Undersecretary shall hold office at the pleasure of the Student Body President. The Undersecretary shall be responsible for discharging all duties pertaining to establishing and maintaining strong relationships with the Four Greek Councils, those being Pan-Hellenic Council, Inter Fraternity Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council, and Multicultural Greek Council, as well as act as a liaison between the Greek System and Student Government. The Undersecretary of University Life for Greek Affairs and Program Board shall also act as a liaison between Program Board and Student Government.

**§ 303.3 Undersecretary of University Life for Student Organizations**

**§ 303.4 Undersecretary of University Life for Student Organizations**

The Student Body President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Student Senate, an Undersecretary of University Life for Student Organizations of the Student Government to be the head of the Office of the Student Organization Affairs. The Undersecretary shall hold office at the pleasure of the Student Body President. The Undersecretary shall be responsible for discharging all duties pertaining to establishing and maintaining strong relationships with all Student Organizations and Student Government.

5) That Title III Subtitle II be amended to add Chapter 8: Department of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs:

***Chapter 8: Department of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs***

**§ 801 Establishment of Department of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs**

*The Department of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs is established as an executive department of the Student Government of George Mason University.*

**§ 802 Purpose**

*The purpose of the Department of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs is:*

*(1) To promote the diversification of the Student Body;*

*(2) To promote and work with multicultural student organizations to establish an open and understanding community at Mason that accepts all cultures, sexual orientations, religions, genders, disabilities, age and socioeconomic statuses.*

*(3) To establish working relations with other offices on campus such as Office of International Programs and Services, Office of Diversity Programs and Services, Multicultural Research and Resource Center, Office of Disability Services, the English Language Institute, Women and Gender Studies, the Equity Office, and the office of LGBTQ.*

**§ 803 Secretary of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs**

*The Student Body President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Student Senate, a Secretary of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs of the Student Government to be the head of the Office of Diversity and Multicultural affairs. The Secretary shall hold office at the pleasure of the Student Body President. The Secretary shall be responsible for discharging all duties pertaining to the promotion of diversity, multicultural interests and activities. The Secretary of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs shall act as a liaison between the Equity Office, the Office of Diversity Programs and Services, the Office of Disability Services, the English Language Institute, and the Office of Women and Gender Studies, and any other pertinent offices and organizations.*

**§ 803.1 Undersecretary of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs for Cultural Affairs**

*The Student Body President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Student Senate, an Undersecretary of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs for Cultural Affairs of the Student Government. The undersecretary shall hold office at the pleasure of*

*the Student Body President. The undersecretary shall be responsible for discharging all duties pertaining to the promotion of cultural diversity, multicultural interests and activities. The Undersecretary of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs for Cultural Affairs shall act as a liaison between the all-multicultural organizations, and the International Week Committee, and any other pertinent offices and organizations.*

**§ 804 Oath of Office**

*Before entering upon the discharge of his or her duties, the Secretary and all Undersecretaries of University Services shall take an oath to faithfully execute the duties of his or her office, as prescribed by Article IV of the Student Body Constitution.*

**§ 805 Duties of the Secretary**

*The Secretary of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs is responsible for the proper execution and administration of all statutes and regulations administered by the Department of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs and for the control, direction, and management of the Department. The Secretary is also responsible for updating his respective section of the Student Government website on a weekly basis.*

**§ 806 Collaboration**

*All members of the Department of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs will collaborate on all projects with the Diversity and Multicultural Affairs Committee of the Student Senate.*

**§ 807 Senate Confirmation**

*For every aforementioned secretary and undersecretary 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.*

6) That Title III Subtitle III: Chapter 8 be amended to read:

**SUBTITLE III: BOARDS AND OTHER AGENCIES**

**~~Chapter 8: Student Parking Appeals Board~~**

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

**§ 901 Establishment**

**~~§ 801 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 Authority**

**~~§ 802 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 Jurisdiction***

**~~§ 803 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 Responsibilities***

**~~§ 804 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 Membership***

**~~§ 805 Membership~~**

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

***§ 906 Appointment and Term***

**~~§ 806 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 Powers of the Chairman***

**~~§ 807 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 Vacancy in the Office of the Chairman of the Board***

**~~§ 808 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 Qualifications for Office***

**~~§ 809 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 Vacancies***

**~~§ 810 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 Removal from Office***

**~~§ 811 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.

***§ 812 Powers***

**~~§ 812 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 Appeals Procedures***

**~~§ 813 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 Hearing Process***

**§ 814 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:

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Speaker: Tommy Lee

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Clerk: Elizabeth Baires

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President: Allyson Bowers