

A Bill To Amend the Code of Student Governance to include Title IX: Code of Professional Responsibility
B. #23

32nd STUDENT SENATE
1st Session
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A Bill To Amend the Code of Student Governance to include Title IX: Code of Professional Responsibility

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

April 21, 2011

Submitted by

Speaker Pro Tempore Gross, Clerk Baires, Chairman Short (Government and Academic Affairs), Chairwoman Kingsley-Burt (University Services), Chairman Cobb (University Relations), Chairwoman Cioffi (Finance), Chairwoman Sharma (Diversity), Chairwoman Grimesey (University Life), Chairman Foster (M.A.S.O.N)

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A Bill To Amend the Code of Student Governance to include Title IX

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

1) That the Code of Student Governance be amended to add Title IX: Code of Professional Responsibility

Title IX: Code of Professional Responsibility

Chapter 1: Establishment

§ 101 Establishment of Title IX

This Code of Professional Responsibility is a document designed to ~~influence~~ *guide* the behavior and character of members of this Organization. It will set forth the procedures to be used in specific ethical situations and delineate the procedures to determine whether a violation of this title occurred and, if so, what remedies should be imposed.

§ 102 Precedence

The Constitution of George Mason University's Student Government, and the Code of Student Government take precedence over this Code of Professional Responsibility.

§ 103 Purpose and Intention

The Code of Professional Responsibility establishes the expectations of Student Senate members in regards to leadership, academia, and behavior.

Chapter 2: Expectations of Student Government Members

§ 201 Servant Leadership

Members of Student Senate will dedicate themselves to serving the needs of the Student Body and the University.

- (1) Members of Student Senate will make decisions that will enhance the entire organization, the university, and their community rather than themselves
- (2) Members of Student Senate will practice fairness, integrity, and dependability in their roles within this organization.
- (3) Members of Student Senate will remain unbiased when addressing the needs, feedback, and suggestions from members of the organization and members of the university.

§ 202 Role Modeling

- (1) Members of Student Senate will demonstrate appropriate behavior as outlined in the University Judicial Code, The Student Code of Conduct and other University Policies.
- (2) Members of Student Senate will strive to set an example of appropriate behavior while interacting with students and other members of the University.

§ 203 Academic Achievement

- (1) Members of Student Senate will follow all academic rules outlined by the university, their respected colleges, and their professors.
- (2) Members of Student Senate must maintain a cumulative 2.25 GPA. If your GPA is anywhere between a 2.0-2.25 you will be put on a probationary period in which you will have one semester to raise you GPA above the 2.25 minimum. The rule does not apply if you are a first semester freshman or transfer student in which you do not have a GPA.

§ 204 Work Ethic

- (1) Members of Student Senate are willing to devote their time and energy to ensure a well working organization.
- (2) Members of Student Senate must attend all events deemed mandatory by the Speaker of the Senate.
- (3) Members of Student Senate must report once a month on an initiative that they are participating in and how they are contributing to the initiative.

§ 205 Teamwork and Cooperative Attitude

- (1) Members of Student Senate are mindful that they cannot be successful without the work, support, and dedication of all members of the organization.

- (2) Members of Student Senate will acknowledge the contributions of student Government as a whole and will not take sole credit for any personal initiative.
- (3) As a team and not individuals we will focus on using the word “we” not “I” when addressing the media about Student Government events.

§ 206 Professionalism

- (1) Members of Student Senate will demonstrate a respectful attitude towards others at all times.
- (2) Members of Student Senate will be mindful of their use of language while at a Student Government event and during Student Government meetings.
- (3) Members of Student Senate will dress in business casual attire, which is defined by the speaker, when attending Thursday Senate Meetings, unless otherwise specified by the Speaker of the Senate. Failure to do so will lead to the Speaker asking you to leave, which will count as an unexcused absence.

§ 207 Upholding this Code

Members of Student Senate will uphold this code of professional responsibility. Each responsibility is of equal precedence.

Chapter 3: Enforcement

§ 301 Statement

Upon joining Student Senate members must sign a statement reading, “I, as a member of Student Government, will uphold the Code of Professional Responsibility.” All members must sign this pledge annually. The Student Government Advisor will keep this on file and ensure each member has signed the statement. These statements are public record.

§ 302 Personal Exclusion

Any member choosing not to sign a statement is excusing themselves from their role in this organization. Furthermore if at anytime a member feels they cannot uphold this code they may excuse themselves from their role in this organization by submitting a letter of resignation to the head of their respective branch of Student Government.

§ 303 Presiding Member

The presiding member of any meeting has the right to excuse any member for unproductive, inappropriate, or disruptive behavior. The presiding member has the right to interpret what constitutes such behavior.

§ 304 Filing a Violations of the Senate Code of Professional Responsibility

Any member of the Student Senate who suspects a violation of this code shall report in writing to the Speaker.

§ 305 Meetings on Violations

The Speaker will meet with the student suspected of a violation one-on-one if the Speaker deems it appropriate. The goals of the meeting are to address the referenced numbered

responsibility and discuss ways to assist the member in upholding this code. The Speaker will determine whether this code has been violated, if so the member will accumulate a strike. Any filed violations after the first strike will result in a meeting with the Student Government Advisor. Upon accumulating a third strike; by the decision of the advisor, the member of student government will be placed on probation from Student Government for one week, making their membership temporarily inactive. They must re-sign the pledge before returning to Student Government. The accumulation of a fourth strike, by unanimous decision of the Leadership team, will result in a resolution being submitted by Leadership with articles of impeachment. If not removed by the senate then all consecutive strikes will be treated the same. Any and all violations that could accumulate a strike must be reported within one week of the incident.

§ 306 Probation

Any member of Student Senate on probation will serve as an in-active member of the organization. They cannot fulfill their roles, vote, and must sit in the gallery if they wish to attend the Senate Meeting.

§ 307 Vacancy

In the event the Speaker or any member of the senate leadership is in question of violating this code they may not vote on the decision regarding them. In the event of removal of a member of Student Senate, the proper steps must be taken as outlined in the Code of Student Governance to fill the position.

§ 308 Confidentiality

No member of Student Senate shall make public his filing to the Speaker. The Student Government Advisor cannot release the name of the individual filing. The meetings are not open to any other individuals then are specified in § 305. The results of the meetings and notice of strikes are not to be made public to anyone other than the individual in question. The Student Government Advisor may only release necessary information that is in violation of University rules, is a matter of criminality, or proposes a threat to an individual or their health.

§ 309 Conflict of Interest

- (1) If the Speaker files a grievance the Speaker shall excuse himself, and the Speaker-Pro Tempore shall hold the first strike meeting as stated in § 305.*
- (2) If a member of the Leadership Council has filed the grievance then they shall excuse themselves when/if the grievance moves to the 4th strike as stated in § 305.*