

**B F2020.06**

**An Amendment to the Fourth and Seventh Chapter of Bylaws to Improve Internal Nominations Practices**

*A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government*

September 23, 2020

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**Whereas**, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”;<sup>1</sup> and,

**Whereas**, LSA SG utilizes its Bylaws to structure and facilitate official business, and recognizes the need for amendments to the Bylaws to improve its function; and,

**Whereas**, LSA SG holds two internal elections annually; and,

**Whereas**, nominations for the positions elected in these elections ought, according to the current bylaws, be taken during “Matters Arising”; and,

**Whereas**, it is the opinion of the Counsel that internal nominations would be more appropriately received during the “Appointments, Elections, and Nominations” portion of the agenda; and,

**Be it therefore resolved**, that the bylaws be updated according to the language in Appendix A; and,

**Be it finally resolved**, that this change takes immediate effect.

Appendix A:

**Chapter 4  
Government Officers  
The Executive Officers**

4.01.01 **Vice President.** The Vice President shall perform the following duties:

(a) **Office Space.** The Vice President shall be responsible for managing the Government’s office. The Vice President shall work with interested members to improve the appearance and functionality of the office.

(b) **Steering Committee.** The Vice President shall preside at Steering Committee meetings.

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<sup>1</sup> The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

(c) **Internal Elections.** The Vice President shall compile a list of nominations during *the Appointments, Elections, and Nominations period* ~~matters arising at~~ of the general meeting one week, and/or immediately before the Internal Elections (refer to Chapter 7).

## Chapter 7

### Internal Elections and Transition

7.00.00 **Purpose.** This chapter shall contain the standard method for electing Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Government committees, subcommittees, and task forces (except Steering Committee *Chair*, the Academic Affairs Committee Chair, the Student Life Committee, the Internal Review Committee Chair, the External Relations and Communications Committee Chair, *the Fundraising Committee Chair*, and the Student Life *Committee Chair*~~Relations-Officer~~). This chapter is meant to clarify the rules specified in Robert's Rules of Order on nominations and elections. Furthermore this Chapter details the procedure for transitioning the institutional memory of old leadership to new leadership of the Government.

7.00.01 **Nominations and Candidates.** Nominations shall be accepted during *the Appointments, Elections, and Nominations period* ~~Matters Arising~~ (refer to Chapter 2) at the General meetings one week, and/or immediately before the internal elections. The Vice President shall be responsible for compiling the nominations (refer to Chapter 4). Someone eligible to serve in such a capacity may be nominated as candidates for Chair or Vice-Chair of a committee, subcommittee, task force. Any LSA ~~s~~Student present for the nominations portion of the meeting may nominate themselves. Persons nominated shall only be candidates if they accept the nomination. Nominations must be accepted in person. Nominations may be reopened by a majority vote before candidate questions have begun and by a two-thirds vote thereafter.

7.00.02 **Etiquette.** Barring extremely unusual and emergency circumstances, the use of electronic devices (except by the Secretary) during Internal Elections by ~~any and all~~ members of the Government shall be ~~heavily~~ restricted. This is to ensure that candidates are evaluated on the merit of their speeches and accomplishments and on the merit of arguments given in favor of or against the candidates. This procedure shall be defined further by the Chair.

7.00.03 **Speeches.** After nominations close, each present candidate running for that position shall have the opportunity to speak for up to two minutes. Candidates shall speak in the order in which they were nominated.

7.00.04 **Questions.** Immediately after a speech for a particular candidate, Government members may ask the candidates questions. Each candidate shall have up to thirty seconds to address each question. There shall be no more than three questions asked overall. The Chair has the ability to rule a question is dilatory if they deem it irrelevant. If only one candidate has been nominated there ~~shall may~~ be no questions, ~~unless should~~ a Government member *motion to end the question period and proceed to discussion on the candidate*~~objects~~. *Questions should be confined to the candidates' qualifications, their knowledge and plans for the position, and their related experiences. Candidates may also be asked to continue their introductory speech, should it exceed the time limit. This will count as one of the three questions that may be asked of a candidate.*

7.00.05 **Discussion.** Immediately after all candidates for the particular position have been asked questions, there shall be a discussion period of three minutes per candidate in the election, with the option to extend by simple majority vote. The Chair shall recognize speakers in a manner to ensure as many viewpoints are heard as possible, with each speaker being able to speak for up to thirty seconds. Furthermore, anyone who attends Internal Elections is permitted to speak about and run for positions

during the elections.

7.00.06 **Voting.** The vote shall be taken by secret ballot at a General meeting. Voting is restricted to *members of the Government with voting rights, excluding the Counsel and the Chair*~~*elected and appointed members of the Government.*~~ If only one candidate has been nominated for a particular position, no vote shall be taken and the candidate shall be automatically elected by acclamation unless a Government member objects. The counting of the votes will follow the guidelines of Instant Runoff voting as follows: Voters rank choices in order of preference on *the* ballot, and the votes are assigned to the top-ranked candidate on each ballot. If no candidate has a majority, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and those ballots are transferred to the voters' highest-ranked remaining candidate. This process is repeated until a candidate has a majority. The Chair and Counsel shall count the votes.

7.00.07 **Suspension of Rules.** These rules may be suspended or modified by a two-thirds vote of the Government.

7.00.08 **Speaking Privileges.** Executive board members, elected representatives, appointed representatives, associate representatives, and constituents shall have speaking rights during internal elections.