

B W2021.06

An Amendment to the Second, Fourth, and Seventh Chapters of the Bylaws Creating the Position of Speaker

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

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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”;¹ 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 reflect current practices; and,

Whereas, the current nature of our body is for the President to “preside at all General Meetings of the Government”; and,

Whereas, this practice inhibits the President (and often the Vice President) from contributing their voices on matters of great import; and,

Whereas, the President and Vice President are both duly elected by the students of the College of LSA to act as their voice and the leaders, a calling often relegated to the backburner when those same officers are called upon to lead Government meetings; and,

Whereas, a Speaker, elected using a similar method as a committee chair, would be tasked with running the weekly general meetings in accordance with the Bylaws and Robert’s Rules of Order; and,

Whereas, the Secretary would maintain their duties of calling the roll of members and taking the meeting minutes.

Be it therefore resolved, that the Bylaws be amended in accordance with the language in Appendix A; and,

Be it further resolved, that the office of Speaker of the Government be duly elected by the General Assembly following nominations heard at the meeting this amendment is adopted, and at the subsequent regular meeting of the Government; and,

Be it further resolved, that a constitutional amendment, presented concurrently with this amendment to the Bylaws, address the novel role of Speaker within the Constitution of LSA SG; and,

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

Be it further resolved, that the Government empowers the Speaker to function in their office, and in the manner designated by the Bylaws as amended in Appendix A, through their fiat as provided in Article V, Section G of the Constitution; and,

Be it further resolved, that LSA SG understands the impact that a new office has on the body as a whole, and understands that further change may need to be made in order for the position to fit well within the structure of the Government; and,

Be it finally resolved, that these changes take immediate effect.

Appendix A

2.00.14 **Moving the Chair.** The **President Speaker** may give up the chair on a motion if s/he wishes to participate in debate. The chair shall be moved to the first person on the following list who relinquishes his/her right to participate in debate on the motion:

- (a) **President**
 - (b) **Vice President**
 - (c) **Treasurer**
 - (d) **Counsel**
 - (e) **Academic Relations Officer**
 - (f) **External Relations Officer**
 - (g) **Student Life Relations Officer**
 - (h) **Secretary**
- ~~(a) Vice President~~
~~(b) Treasurer~~
~~(c) Counsel~~
~~(d) Academic Relations Officer~~
~~(e) External Relations Officer~~
~~(f) Student Life Relations Officer~~
~~(g) Secretary~~

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4.01.00 **President.** The President shall perform the following duties:

- (a) ~~**Meetings.** The President shall preside at General meetings of the Government. At the President's option or in the President's absence the Chair shall be moved as outlined in Chapter 2.~~ **Representative.** The President (or their designee) shall represent the Government at meetings of the University Council, and shall be the main representative voice of the students of the College of LSA.
- (b) **Information.** The President shall collect and disseminate information to the Government regarding the activities of the College.
- (c) **Spokesperson.** The President shall be the chief spokesperson for the Government except when and in such cases that the Government shall designate another spokesperson.
- (d) **Oversight and Coordination of Activities.** The President shall oversee and coordinate all Government activities except when the Steering Committee or the Government decides otherwise or when the Constitution or the Bylaws specify otherwise.

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5.01.03. **Vacancy.** The Secretary shall declare:

- (a) The seat of any executive officer vacant when that member has exceeded four (4) unexcused absences in a given semester.
- (b) The seat of any committee/subcommittee/task force chair or Vice-Chair vacant when that member

has exceeded four (4) unexcused absences.

- (c) The seat of any elected, appointed representative vacant when that member has exceeded four (4) unexcused absences.
- (d) The seat of any associate representative vacant when that member has exceeded eight (8) unexcused absences.
- (e) *The seat of the Speaker of the Government vacant when that member has met or exceeded two (2) unexcused absences from a Regular or Special General Meeting.*

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Speaker of the Government

5.03.00 Purpose. *The purpose of this section is to provide the guidelines by which the Speaker of the Government (hereafter Speaker) shall operate.*

5.03.01 Election. *The Speaker shall be elected for a one-semester term in a manner identical to committee chairs and vice-chairs as provided in Chapter 7 of the Bylaws. In the event that the Speaker vacates their position through resignation, graduation, removal, or other reasons, the government shall be empowered to elect a new Speaker to serve for the unexpired term. The term of the Speaker shall expire at the subsequent internal election of the government, even if they have not served a full semester.*

5.03.02 Qualifications. *Only representatives with a minimum of one full semester (counting only fall and winter semesters) of LSA SG experience may be elected to serve as Speaker. The Speaker should have a thorough understanding of the governing documents of LSA SG, as well as Robert's Rules of Order. They must have an unbiased character, and must yield the chair in accordance with 2.00.14 at any time they may have a bias regarding a piece of government business.*

5.03.03 Attendance Requirements. *The Speaker shall meet the minimum attendance requirements prescribed to the representative position they held at the time of their election, with the exception that they may not miss any General Meetings without a valid excuse submitted to the Secretary. The Secretary may declare this position vacant if the minimum attendance requirements are not met.*

5.03.04 Duties. *The Speaker shall chair the General and Special Meetings of the Government. They shall waive their right to vote whenever serving as speaker, apart from on matters where their vote will impact the result, or when the manner of voting is secret. The Speaker shall be assisted in their duties by the Counsel, who shall advise them in matters of parliamentary procedures, the Secretary, who shall record the minutes during meetings, and the Vice President, who shall prepare the agenda.*

5.03.05 Associate Representatives as Speaker. *Associate Representatives may serve as Speaker, so long as they meet all other requirements laid out in 5.03.02 and 5.03.03. They shall gain voting rights only in situations described in 5.03.04.*

Special Provisions

~~5.034.00 Incompatible Bodies.~~ ~~*No elected representative or executive board member of the Government shall also be an elected representative or executive officer of the Central Student Government.*~~ ~~No representative or member of the Executive Board~~ ~~*member of the Government*~~ shall also be a member of the ~~*Central*~~ LSA Student Judiciary.

~~5.034.01 Formal Consideration for Removal of Office.~~ Any person in an elected or appointed position may be removed from office due to inappropriate actions that jeopardize governmental affairs. After a

motion has been made, in which the nature of the accusation has been precisely stated, the Government may by two-thirds vote to conduct a trial to consider the formal removal of an elected or appointed member of the Government. This trial will take place one week following the motion for formal consideration for removal of office to give all parties time to prepare for discussion. During the week of consideration, the elected or appointed member is suspended from any actions related to his or her involvement in LSA SG. The trial shall be chaired by the President to maintain order. The member may be removed with a two-thirds vote of the Government. The Government shall consider each case individually. No accused party shall have the ability to participate in the trial of another individual accused of related offenses. The accused member may appeal his or her case within a week of the decision to the Steering Committee. In the case of an appeal, the Appointments Committee may not make any recommendations to replace the member. To be reinstated back into his or her office, a two-thirds vote by the Government in favor of reinstatement is required.

5.034.02 Removal from Office through the loss of LSA affiliation. Any associate representative who is accepted into and enrolled in another College and thus has lost their enrollment in the College of LSA may continue to serve in their position(s) provided they declare an LSA minor within six weeks of their enrollment in another College or within six weeks of the beginning of the school year (whichever one is later). Any executive officer, elected or appointed representative who loses enrollment in LSA must declare an LSA major within six weeks of their loss of enrollment or within six weeks of the beginning of the school year (whichever one is later). If it proves impossible for the member to get an advising appointment to declare a minor or major, then the Steering Committee may by two-thirds vote choose to extend the declaration time period. Any member who disenrolled from the College must appear before the Steering Committee to inform the committee of whether or not they intend to declare an LSA major or minor. Failure to comply with these conditions will result in the removal of office effective immediately. The Secretary will declare his or her positions vacant.

5.034.03 Removal from Office by Recall. Any member of the body may be removed by recall initiated by the student body as described in the LSA Constitution, Article VIII Section E3.

5.034.04 Removal from Office with Regards to Direct Constituency. Any improper use of the Direct Constituency System shall automatically be considered justification for removal of any person on LSA SG, immediately initiating procedures laid out in 5.03.01.

5.034.05 Removal from Office through Resignation. Any member of the government may resign from their position by submitting a letter or e-mail to the President, who then is empowered to acknowledge their resignation on behalf of the government. In the case of the President resigning, the Executive Board is empowered to receive and acknowledge their resignation on behalf of the government.

5.034.06 Compensation. No member or appointee of the government may receive compensation from an outside organization for their work in LSA SG. Compensation is defined as payments in return for work completed in LSA SG by members acting in their capacity as a member or appointee of the government. This excludes compensatory funds disbursed to LSA SG members for LSA SG-related expenses, and compensation of LSA SG members by external organizations for non-LSA SG purposes (e.g. scholarships, Resident Advisor housing allowance, salaries earned for non-LSA SG work).

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7.00.00 **Purpose.** This chapter shall contain the standard method for electing *the Speaker of the Government*, 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). 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.