Resolution: G.B 14 (F) 5  Sponsor(s): Rules and Administration Committee

The Graduate Student Assembly
The University of Texas at Austin

Approval of Changes to the Constitution of the Graduate Student Assembly

Summary: A bill approving the changes to the Constitution of the Graduate Student Assembly

1 WHEREAS The current Constitution has internal contradictions between articles and sections; and,

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3 WHEREAS The Constitution needs improvement to facilitate the efficient operation of the Assembly; and,

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5 WHEREAS The Constitutional Reform Committee was tasked with reviewing and updating the Constitution; and,

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7 WHEREAS The Constitutional Reform Committee has dutifully reviewed and updated the Constitution to meet the above stated goals; now,

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9 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art V Sec 2 be deleted; and,

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11 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art II, Sec 3 be deleted; and,

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13 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art II, Sec 5 be deleted; and,

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15 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art II, Sec 6 be deleted; and

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17 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art II, Sec 7 be amended to "Graduate Student Involvement."; and,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art II, Sec 7.1 be amended to read "Involvement. Graduate Students are encouraged to voice their interests and concerns via elected Voting Members."; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art II. Sec 7.2 be deleted; and,

"The candidate who receives a majority of the vote in the runoff election shall be certified the winner of the election. Should the runoff also result in a tie vote, the Assembly shall decide the election by majority vote of voting members present. Should the second runoff vote result in a tie, the current President shall cast the tie-breaking vote by way of coin flip, with respective candidates assigned sides of said coin ex ante." be deleted from Art III, Sec. 5; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art III, Sec. 9 be amended such that "elective" is replaced with "elected."; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art IV Sec 1.3.2 be amended such that "For internal affairs" is deleted from the text; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art IV Sec 2.2., be amended such that "absolute" is deleted from the text; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art III, Sec. 3 be deleted; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art III, Sec. 1 be amended to read "General Provisions. General elections for executive officers shall be held on two consecutive weekdays as dictated by the Common Election Code. General elections for departmental and alternate representatives shall be held by the second week of the fall semester. The Election Code shall govern the Election Process"; and,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT
That Art III, Sec. 6 be deleted; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT
Art V, Sec 2. read "Section 2. Regular Legislative Session. The Assembly shall be considered "in session" after the Vice-President has called the first, regular meeting of the fall semester until the adjournment of the last regular meeting in the spring session."; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT
Art V, Sec 2.1 read "2.1 Special Session. The President may call the Assembly into special session when the Assembly is not in regular session. The Assembly may also request a special session with a petition signed by 10% of the voting membership. All requests for a special session must be delivered to the Vice-President, who shall inform the membership, at least seventy-two (72) hours before the requested meeting time."; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT
Art V Sec 3 be deleted; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT
Art V Sec 4 be amended to read "Executive Reports. The Assembly shall review the actions taken by the Executive Committee when the Assembly was not in session and at each regular meeting."; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT
Art V, Sec 5 be amended to read "Responsibilities of Voting Members. Voting Members of the Assembly shall faithfully represent the interests of their constituents rather their own personal interests."; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT
Art V, Sec 6 be deleted; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT
Art V, Sec 7 be deleted; and,
THEREFORE BE IT
RESOLVED THAT

Art VI be deleted; and,

Art VII Sec 1 be amended to read " Members of the Executive Committee may be impeached and removed from office for failure to fulfill the duties and responsibilities mandated in the Constitution, Bylaws, or Rules of Order of the Graduate Student Assembly."; and,

Art VII. Sec 1.2.1 be deleted; and,

Art VII Sec 2.1 be amended to read "A recall motion of a voting member of the Assembly requires a written petition of a majority of the graduate students from the affected field of study, verified by a member of the Executive Committee"; and,

Art VII. Sec 2.2.1 be deleted; and,

Art VII, Sec 1.2 be amended to read " In the event of impeachment, removal hearings shall take place in the next meeting of the Assembly as the first order of business. A member of the Rules and Administration committee shall preside at such hearings."; and,

Art VII. Sec 3 be amended to read "A three-fourths (3/4) majority of the total voting membership of the Graduate Student Assembly shall be necessary to remove an elected officer, appointed individual, or voting member of the Assembly."; and,

Art VII. Sec 4 be amended to read "Removal due to Excessive Absences. Officers and voting members of the assembly shall make every effort to attend all meetings while the assembly is in session, and
excessive, unexcused absence may considered a cause for removal from office."; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Art IX Sec 1 be amended to read "This constitution shall be considered the highest authority in the proceedings of the Graduate Student Assembly. The Bylaws shall be considered the next highest authority. The Rules of Order as well as Election Code shall be considered after the Bylaws and Constitution."; and,

Art IX Sec 2. and 2.3 be deleted; and

Art IX Sec. become Art IX Sec 1.1; and,

Art IX Sec 2.1. be amended to read "The amendment shall be transmitted to the University of Texas at Austin Graduate School Dean and the University of Texas at Austin Vice President for Student Affairs within five days of passage."; and,

Art III, Sec 8. be amended to read "Any voting member, officer, director, or appointed member of the Graduate Student Assembly may resign at any time through written declaration"; and,

Art IV, Sec 3.3 be amended such that the interim president retains his or her "original position" in the Graduate student Assembly.; and,

Art IV, Sec 4.2 be amended to read "The Executive Committee shall have the authority to act on behalf of the Assembly when the Assembly is not in session. Other duties of the Executive Committee shall be specified in the Bylaws."; and,

Art V Sec 9 be deleted; and,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art IV, Sec 3.3 be amended to such that the Interim president is "charged to call" a special election.; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art IV, Sec 5 be amended to read "An officer of the Graduate Student Assembly shall not serve as an election representative or officer in any other university-wide student governance organization."; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art IX Sec 2.1 be amended to read "Section 2.1. Constitution. The Graduate Student Assembly may amend the Constitution by an affirmative roll call vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the total voting membership of the Assembly, followed by a two-thirds (2/3) approval of the Executive Committee. Section 2.1.1. The full text of all proposed amendments shall be provided in a notice to the Assembly and the public at least ten days before the first reading. The second reading must at least ten days after the first reading."; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art IX Sec 2.1.1. be amended to read "The amendment shall be transmitted to the Dean of the Graduate School and the Vice President for Student Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin."; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art IV. Sec 1 be amended to read "The executive power of the Graduate Student Assembly shall be vested in the President of the Graduate Student Assembly, the Vice-President, the Financial Director, the Programs Director, the Communications Director, the Administrative Director, the Academic Affairs Director, the Legislative Affairs Director, the Student Affairs Director, and the Membership Director."; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art IV, Sec 4.1 be amended to read "The Executive Committee shall be responsible for coordinating the executive functions of the Graduate Student Assembly."; and,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art II Sec 4.1 be titled "Voting Members"; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art II Sec 4.1.1 be added reading "Departmental Representatives shall be considered the primary voting members of the Graduate Student Assembly"; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art II Sec 4.1.2 be added reading "Alternate Representatives shall have voting rights only in the absence of the primary voting representative for their field of study."; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art II Sec 4.2 be deleted; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art V, Sec 5.2 be deleted; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art VII Sec 3 be deleted; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art VII Sec 4.1 be amended to read "Departments with members removed under this section will be notified by the administrative director within one (1) week of dismissal."; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT All articles and section of the Constitution be renumbered consistent with the changes made in this bill; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT This legislation be filed with the Office of the Dean of Students; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The relevant departments across the University of Texas at Austin be notified of these changes.