

Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Constitutional Clarity and Reform

June 30, 2014 3:30 PM

Lone Star Room - Texas Union

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
 - a. Brian, Eden, Stephanie, Frank, Faith, Vance are present. Guy is absent. Vance is joining by Skype.
- III. Approval of the Minutes from June 19, 2014
 - a. No objections. Minutes are approved unanimously.
- IV. By-Laws Reforms
 - a. Apportionment - Stephanie
 - i. Stephanie has made changes and distributes documentation with proposed changes. We will have general discussion before voting.
 - ii. Brian likes article one, it is sufficiently broad, but provides more context than the previous version.
 - iii. Stephanie mentions a potential desire to amend the constitution to align with the updated by-laws.
 - iv. Faith has a concern regarding Section 2. GPAC representatives are not elected until more than two weeks after the start of the semester. The language seems a little strong. Stephanie notes the vacancy section as a possible solution to this problem.
 - v. Faith thinks 1.4.1 doesn't make sense. Stephanie explains that this section allows that a large constituency to add additional members. Frank suggests a change to the language: "Additional seats can be allocated to a constituency with the goal of seeking an approximately equal proportion of students to representatives."
 - vi. Brian and Frank have concerns about when annual reapportionment occurs. Brian suggests one month before the end of session.
 - vii. Stephanie discusses changes to Article 3
 1. There is discussion regarding deletion of section 2.1.
 2. Section 3 of article 2 will be deleted, as it is redundant with the constitution. All other sections will be moved under Membership director responsibilities.
 3. Brian thinks we should add something under article 2 under affiliation that details that graduate student members may be affiliated with multiple departments but only represent one to the GSA.
 4. Stephanie was concerned that we took out too much text regarding member responsibilities. Article 3 re-writes address this problem.

5. We need to amend the constitution at a later date to update the line of succession for GSA departmental representatives. We need text to detail that the alternate rep should take over if the primary rep is unable to serve.

b. Appointment of Ex-Officio Officers-Frank

- i. Frank does not have language prepared for the appointment of ex-officio officers.
- ii. We will discuss this during edits.

V. The Bylaws of the Graduate Student Assembly

a. Edits Continue

- i. We begin with SP1.
- ii. SP1: Stephanie explains the grammatical change. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- iii. SP2: Article 2 changes as previously discussed. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- iv. SP3: Changes as previously discussed. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- v. SP4: Changes as previously discussed. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- vi. SP5: Changes as previously discussed. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- vii. SP6: Changes as previously discussed. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- viii. SP7: Article 3 minus section 4. Changes as previously discussed. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- ix. BMW9: This change is to remove unnecessary language and clarify the section. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- x. BMW10: Brian explains his change. Frank suggests changing language to “constituency.” No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- xi. BMW12: Striking this section. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- xii. BMW13: Striking this section. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- xiii. BMW14: Changing from five days to seventy-two hours. Frank suggests a change to the language so as not to repeat directions for regular and special meetings. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- xiv. FS2: Change “elected” members to “voting” members. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- xv. Motion to consider FS3, 4, and 5 as one. Motion is seconded and passes unanimously.
- xvi. FS3-5: Remove “normally.” No objections. Changes are approved unanimously.

- xvii. BMW15: Brian explains his rationale. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- xxviii. VR9: Vance explains his rationale. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- xix. BMW16: Frank suggests that we strike this whole section. Brian approves the change. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- xx. BMW17: Brian explains his rationale. Faith suggests a change in language. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- xxi. BMW18: Frank suggests striking the section. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- xxii. BMW19: Brian clarifies his proposed change. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- xxiii. ED6: Eden clarifies proposed change and makes amendments to the language. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- xxiv. BMW20: Strike this section. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- xxv. BMW21: Strike this section. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- xxvi. BMW22: Change “members” to “voting members.” No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- xxvii. BMW23: Brian explains change. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- xxviii. BMW24: Brian wants to strike the last part of the first sentence. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- xxix. BMW25: Brian asks the group’s opinion on his change. The group objects to the change. Change is not approved.
- xxx. FS6: Strike the proposed sentence. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- xxxi. FS7: Faith notes that 1.4.1 is all one sentence. No objections to the proposed change. Change is approved unanimously.
- xxxii. FM4: Changing the title to Legislative Affairs Director. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- xxxiii. FS8: Faith explains her change. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- xxxiv. BMW26: Brian explains his change. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- xxxv. VR4: To create the Invest in Texas committee. Vance explains that we have a commitment to the other two student government organizations to include language regarding the Invest in Texas members. Brian suggests that we put this information in a new comment and vote on it later. Vance withdraws this change.

- xxxvi. BMW33: This comment addresses the concerns from the previous comment by adding language to the Legislative Affairs section. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- xxxvii. FM1: Add a section that mentions the electing of a vice-chair. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
- xxxviii. BMW27: Brian amends the language of his proposed change. He proposes to replace section 4 with the proposed language. No objections to the amended change. Change is approved unanimously.
- xxxix. BMW28. We should pay the membership director. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
 - xl. SP8: Removing the end of the officer compensation sentence. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
 - xli. BMW34: Brian inserts a comment to change the language of the “adjustments” section. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
 - xl.ii. FM3: Frank explains the rationale for his change. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
 - xl.iii. BMW29: Brian explains change. Frank wants to reword the whole section to make it more concise. Brian amends his change. No objections to the amended change. Change is approved unanimously.
 - xl.iv. FM5: Frank adds a change to delete 1.3 and most of 1.2. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
 - xl.v. BMW30: Is taking the exact language from the constitution and amending it to fit the by-laws. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.
 - xl.vi. BMW31: Striking these sections. No objections. Change is approved unanimously.

VI. Assignments for Next Meeting

a. Internal Rules of Order AND Election Code

- i. We need to have these done by two weeks from today. Brian meets with Dean Lily and we would like to give her all of our amended documents.

VII. Select Date for Next meeting

- a. July 14th at 3:30. Room TBD.

VIII. Adjourn