

The Graduate Student Assembly
The University of Texas at Austin

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

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 Art V Sec 2 be deleted; and,
RESOLVED THAT

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11 THEREFORE BE IT Art II, Sec 3 be deleted; and,
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13 THEREFORE BE IT Art II, Sec 5 be deleted; and,
RESOLVED THAT

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15 THEREFORE BE IT Art II, Sec 6 be deleted; and
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17 THEREFORE BE IT Art II, Sec 7 be amended to "Graduate Student
RESOLVED THAT Involvement."; and,

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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,

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,

Art III, Sec. 9 be amended such that "elective" is replaced with "elected."; and,

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

Art IV Sec 2.2., be amended such that "absolute" is deleted from the text; and,

Art III, Sec. 3 be deleted; and,

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,

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42 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT That Art III, Sec. 6 be deleted; and

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44 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,

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48 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,

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

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55 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,

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59 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,

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

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

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65 THEREFORE BE IT Art VI be deleted; and,
 RESOLVED THAT

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

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71 THEREFORE BE IT Art VII. Sec 1.2.1 be deleted; and,
 RESOLVED THAT

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

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77 THEREFORE BE IT Art VII. Sec 2.2.1 be deleted; and,
 RESOLVED THAT

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

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

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87 THEREFORE BE IT Art VII. Sec 4 be amended to read "Removal due to
 RESOLVED THAT Excessive Absences. Officers and voting members of
 the assembly shall make every effort to attend all
 meetings while the assembly is in session, and

87 excessive, unexcused absence may considered a cause
for removal from office."; and,

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

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93 THEREFORE BE IT Art IX Sec 2.2 and 2.3 be deleted; and
RESOLVED THAT

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95 THEREFORE BE IT Art IX Sec 4. become Art IX Sec 1.1; and,
RESOLVED THAT

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

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

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

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

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

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Art IV, Sec 3.3 be amended to such that the Interim president is "charged to call" a special election.; and,

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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,

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RESOLVED THAT
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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,

121 THEREFORE BE IT
RESOLVED THAT
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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,

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RESOLVED THAT
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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,

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RESOLVED THAT
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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,

133 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Art II Sec 4.1 be titled "Voting Members"; and,

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135 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,

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137 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,

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

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

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

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146 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,

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

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

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

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