# STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

First Reading: 10/25/22
Second Reading: 11/1/22
Pass:
Fail:
Other:

Bill 15-22-F. A Bill to Amend the Constitution of the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University.

PURPOSE:      For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to amend its Constitution to maintain the integrity of certain senator positions and make changes to election procedures.

WHEREAS:      Section 3.8 currently reads

"3.8.1. All but the three (3) freshman senators, one (1) graduate senator, one (1) International senator, and one (1) Gatton Academy senator shall be elected in the spring election.
3.8.2. If the freshman, graduate, International or Gatton Academy senator position(s) will not be filled in the fall election, they shall change to at-large positions in the same fall election.", and

WHEREAS:      Section 3.9 currently reads

"3.9.1. Vacancies in the Senate after the fall elections shall be filled by an appointment from the President and approval by the majority of the Senate.", and

WHEREAS:      The purpose of having graduate, International, Gatton Academy, First-Generation, Transfer/nontraditional, Intercultural Student Engagement Center, and college-specific senator positions is to ensure representation of students of these respective groups, and

WHEREAS:      The process for replacing senators outlined in sections 3.8 and 3.9 of the Constitution does not respect this basic purpose for these senator positions, and

WHEREAS:      The transfer/nontraditional senator and First-Generation senator should be elected in the fall election to match with the start of a new academic year, during which most students transfer, and

WHEREAS:   The International Student Engagement Center is incorrectly named and is in reality Intercultural Student Engagement Center, requiring the name of the International Student Engagement Center senator position to be changed to Intercultural Student Engagement Center (ISEC) in all references, and

WHEREAS:   The Constitution currently contains no statement supporting the authority of the election codes, and

WHEREAS:   Section 3.8 shall now read:

"3.8.1. The senior, junior, sophomore, college-specific, senator at-large, and Intercultural Student Engagement Center (ISEC) student senators shall be elected in the spring election.
3.8.2. The freshman, graduate, International, Gatton Academy, First-Generation, and Transfer/nontraditional student senators shall be elected in the fall election.
3.8.3. The spring and fall elections shall adhere to the election codes as set by Judicial Council and approved by the majority of the Senate.", and

WHEREAS:   Section 3.9 shall now read

"3.9.1. Any senate position which is not filled in the spring or fall elections or any senate position where a senator resigns or is impeached shall be considered vacant.
3.9.2. If the Gatton Academy senator position is vacant, then the President shall have two routine senate meetings to appoint a Gatton Academy student or a Gatton Academy alumnus/alumna currently attending WKU to the Gatton Academy position. If the President is not able to make this appointment within the time allotted, then this position shall become a senator at-large position.
3.9.3. If the ISEC or any of the five college-specific senator positions is vacant, then the President shall appoint a student from the respective body to the position. This position shall become a senator at-large position at the discretion of the President upon a majority vote of the Senate.
3.9.4. Any other senate vacancies shall turn into senator at-large positions upon the vacancy.
3.9.5. All vacant positions shall be filled with an appointment by the President upon a majority vote of the Senate."

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University will amend its Constitution.

AUTHORS:    Ethan Huffaker, Senator At-Large
            Neel Patel, Gatton Academy Senator
            Salvador Leon, International Senator

SPONSORS:   Legislative Operations Committee

CONTACTS:   ethan.huffaker854@topper.wku.edu